

Revelation 3:14-22

I'm sure we've all had unwanted guests staying in our house. Mice, cockroaches, possums in the roof ... But how about actual people? I'm not talking about that strange uncle who comes to stay and won't leave, or that impoverished uni student who's some friend of a friend of distant cousin, who just wants to crash on the couch for a few days. I'm talking about people you don't know, and didn't invite in.

Well, how's this for a story ...

A member of a house share in London has claimed that they discovered their letting agent had secretly been living in their house for two days.¹ The unnamed tenant said that their letting agent had come over unannounced to "inspect" the property. They left him to get on with it and had assumed he exited the place a short while later. However they soon discovered a light had been left on in their spare room and the door was locked, so they messaged asking the letting agent to return and switch it off, as they didn't have a key.

The tenants claim they then received a reply from the man, telling them he was still in the house. The person wrote: "I texted asking him to come and turn the light off and he admitted that he was here in the house! After we confronted him, he proceeded to lie and say 'he'd informed us all that he was staying here for a few days'. None of us had any clue! He said he's planning on living here on a permanent basis and has signed a contract and paid deposit etc. Our landlords are our neighbours and they said that's not true." They continued: "The landlords said they think he should leave and hand over his keys. Thankfully, he did. However, he's locked the door to the spare room again and we suspect he has another set of keys..."

Imagine finding someone uninvited living in your house!

This made me reflect on our relationship with God.

On the one hand, we know that he is everywhere: he fills heaven and earth (Jeremiah 23:24); that his eyes are everywhere (Proverbs 15:3); and that there is nowhere we can go to escape his spirit (Psalm 139). So it follows that he's in our homes, our cars, our offices – everywhere.

And yet ... God doesn't impose himself on us. If we choose not to have a relationship with him, he sorrowfully respects that. And so he doesn't smash down the door to your house, or your heart, and march in. He doesn't sneak in when you're not looking and hide away in the spare room. He stands at the door and knocks. And it's only when you hear his voice and open the door that he comes in and shares fellowship with you, and in turn invites you into his home, to sit with him on his throne in glory.

¹See the full story here: <https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/weird-news/tenants-freaked-out-learn-letting-22207199>