

# The House of God

## Mansions - Now or Later

Countless songs have been written about the House of God and about our mansions in heaven. Songs like:

I'll have a mansion just over the hilltop.  
In that far land where we'll never grow old.  
And some day yonder, we'll nevermore wander,  
and walk the streets that are purest gold.

"Just build my mansion next door to Jesus"

I see a shiny crown awaiting over there,  
I see a mansion all prepared and decked with beauties rare.  
Shall that which intervene, deprive me of my right?  
Nay, on I'll go until I see that city of delight.

- I'm sure these songs were written to try to help us visualize heaven while here on earth, therefore, encouraging our hearts to fight the good fight of faith.
- But where did the idea of mansions in heaven come from? The only passage mentioning mansions in the Bible is found in John 14. Careful examination of these scriptures may enlighten our minds and lead to another conclusion; that we can obtain a mansion here and now!
- This study is intended to challenge us as bible students and is not intended to discredit the authors or beautiful songs written for our edification. Truly if there are mansions in heaven, I know of many good saints that are worthy of them in my opinion!

### Let's look at the scriptures:

Audience: The Disciples

Setting: "The Last Supper", Jesus had told that He was going away. He was headed to the cross to be crucified. One of the would betray Him. This caused them to be anxious. It was a very sad and depressing environment. The last thing on their minds was this worlds material goods, i.e. houses, lands, Mansions....

**John 13:1-3** Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that **he should depart out of this world** unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end. 2 And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's [son], to betray him; 3 Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that **he was come from God, and went to God;**

**John 13:31-38** Therefore, when he (Judas) was gone out, Jesus said, Now is the Son of man glorified, and God is glorified in him. 32 If God be glorified in him, God shall also glorify him in himself, and shall straightway glorify him. 33 Little children, yet a little while I am with you. Ye shall seek me: and as I said unto the Jews, **Whither I go, ye cannot come; so now I say to you.** 34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. 35 By this shall all [men] know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another. 36 Simon Peter said unto him, **Lord, whither goest thou?** Jesus answered him, **Whither I go, thou canst not follow me now; but thou shalt follow me afterwards.** 37 Peter said unto him, Lord, why **cannot** I follow thee now? **I will lay down my life for thy sake.** 38 Jesus answered him, Wilt thou lay down thy life for my sake? Verily, verily, I say unto thee, The cock shall not crow, till thou hast denied me thrice.

**Scripture Text John 14:1-6** Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 2 In my **Father's house are many mansions:** if it were not so, I would have told you. I go **to prepare a place for you.** 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.** 4 And whither I go ye know, and the **way** ye know. 5 Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? 6 Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way,** the truth, and the life: no man **cometh unto the Father,** but by me.

### **Jesus's going away**

Where was Jesus going?

- **Not to Heaven** - After Jesus rose from the grave he announced: John 20:17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for **I am not yet ascended to my Father:** but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.
- **To the cross, to die for our sins** - This explains why Jesus told his disciples that they could not follow him yet (John 13:36). Only the son of God could die for our sins.
- After Calvary, then his disciples could die out to sin, be converted, and take up their crosses daily
  - Luke 9:23 And he said to them all, If any man will **come after me,** let him deny himself, and **take up his cross daily,** and follow me.
- His disciples were "troubled" because of His going away
  - Surely, the thought of Jesus going to heaven would not trouble them.
  - However, the reality of Jesus dying on the cross would certainly be troubling for his followers.
  - After all, this was the Messiah, and He hadn't finished his work yet - with their limited understanding.

- But Jesus comforted them by telling them not to be troubled because He was going to prepare them a place in His Father's house. In fact, because of the preparation of Jesus, there would be many "mansions" in Father's house.

### **Father's House- The House of God**

Sample of present singing:

“Once again we come to the House of God to unite in songs of praise  
To extol with joy our redeemers name and to tell His wondrous ways.

To Thy House, O Lord, with rejoicing we come,  
For we know that we are Thine.  
We will worship Thee in the Bible way,  
As the evening light doth shine.”

- Definition of **House** - residence, but usually an abode, a family, home, household, a dwelling place, includes extensive dwellings, relatives, temple.
- The following scriptures will help to biblically define the Father's house:
  - 1 Peter 2:5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a **spiritual house**, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.
  - 1 Peter 4:17 For the time [is come] that judgment must **begin** at the house of God: and if [it] first [begin] at us, what shall the end [be] of them that obey not the gospel of God?
    - If the house of God is heaven, does judgment only start when we get there
  - Hebrews 3:1-6 Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus; 2 Who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house. 3 For this man was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honour than the house. 4 For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God. 5 And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after; 6 **But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we**, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.
  - Hebrews 10:19-22 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; 21 **And [having] an high priest over the house of God;** 22 Let us draw near

with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

- Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some [is]
- Does this assembling take place over in heaven? If so, lets dismiss. I'll see you over in heaven!
  
- 1 Timothy 3:15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the **house of God**, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.
  - Do we only behave ourselves in heaven?
  - Only we assemble ourselves?
  
- These scriptures teach that God's house, the house that was built by Him, is the church of the living God. It is made up of "lively stones" and is a spiritual house with Jesus being the chief cornerstone. It is not a building that we "come to".

## **Mansions**

- Greek: Mansions- mone {mon-ay'}
  
- **Definition of Mansion - a staying or residence**, place of abode, to stay in a given place, to stay in a given state, relationship or expectancy, to abide, to continue, to dwell in, to endure, to be present, to remain in, to stand with, to tarry.
  
- The use of the word "mansions" in verse 2, is the first place it's used in the Bible. It implies a special place of residency. Places for something to stay and take up its abode.
  
- Because of the occupant or resident, the dwelling places are not just "houses" but are likened to "mansions" in this scripture.
  - This is confirmed in the same chapter when this same word is used yet again.
  
  - John 14:19-23 Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also. 20 At that day ye shall know that I [am] in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you. 21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world? 23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our **abode** { mone } with him.

- On earth, a mansion is the best dwelling place there is to live in. Usually, they are in the best part of town and often surrounded by other mansions.
- In our scripture text, “many mansions” make up the Father's House.
- Since Father's House is the Church of the living God, what are the mansions or elaborate buildings and who is the resident of such great importance?

### **The Saints!!**

- “Many Mansions”
- Not just a few (groupism)
- Not divided off into sections
  - No guest houses for strangers
- The following scriptures will shed some light to this question:
  - 1 Corinthians 3:9 For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, **ye are God's building.**
  - 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 Know ye not that **ye are the temple of God**, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?
  - 17 If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which **temple ye are.**
  - 2 Corinthians 4:7 But **we have this treasure in earthen vessels**, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.
  - 2 Corinthians 4:10 Always bearing about **in the body** the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of **Jesus might be made manifest in our body.**
  - Romans 8:9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell **in** you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.
  - 2 Corinthians 6:16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for **ye are the temple of the living God**; as God hath said, **I will dwell in them**, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.
- It can be easily seen from the above scriptures that we, God's holy people, make up His building or house.
- It is the indwelling Holy Spirit abiding in our bodies, a treasure in earthen vessels, that makes mere dust of the earth into a mansion.
- Every Spirit filled child of God has his or her place in Father's House.
- Indeed there are "many mansions" in Father's house. A place has been prepared for everyone who will believe and follow after Christ.

### **The Preparation**

Greek: Prepare - hetoimazo {het-oy-mad'-zo}

- to make ready, prepare
- to make the necessary preparations, get everything ready
  
- He did not go to prepare heaven
  - Matthew 25:34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom **prepared for you from the foundation of the world:**
  
  - In the truest sense of the word, as can be seen from this scripture, the kingdom or heaven, **has already been prepared** for those who will someday make it in. This happened in the beginning; "from the very foundation of the world".

### **Prepare a place**

Greek: Place - topos {top'-os}

Def: Place, any portion or space marked off, as it were from surrounding space

- Same word as “room”
  - Luke 2:7 And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no **room** for them in the inn.
- Rooms are for meditation, (R&R) Rest and relaxation, security
- Not one room or two rooms, but many rooms in Father’s House!
  
- The preparation Jesus was making, as spoken of in the scripture text, was the preparation of a way, the way of salvation.
- Christ's dying on the cross prepared the way for lost mankind to be redeemed back to God.
- A way or a “room” into God's house or church was being made by the shedding of Christ's blood on Calvary’s cross.
- This was Christ's main mission on earth.
  - Luke 19:10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost
- If it were not so, He would have told them. After all, he was now leaving them. But, He was coming back!

### **Christ's return**

"I will come again" – The Day of Pentecost

John 14:15-27 If ye love me, keep my commandments. 16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you **another Comforter**, that he may abide with you for ever; 17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. 18 **I will not leave**

**you comfortless: I will come to you.** 19 Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also. 20 **At that day** ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and **I in you.** 21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. 22 Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world? 23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and **we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.** 24 He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me. 25 These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you. 26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. 27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. **Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.**

- Jesus was about to leave the disciples and go the cross. But He said "I will come again".
- Later in the same conversation, He told them the he would not leave them comfortless but would come back to them in the form of the Holy Spirit, the comforter.
- He would no longer dwell **with** them, but would now make his place of abode **in** them.
  - When Jesus was here in bodily form, the disciples had to stay close to His side for comfort.
  - But, after the way was prepared, Jesus now dwelt in their hearts by faith and was a constant companion with them continually!
  - Ephesians 3:17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith...
- Indeed this was a new and living way!
- Jesus closed out by repeating to them the same thing He started out saying
  - **Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.**

**The outpouring of the Holy Ghost** - Acts 2:1-17 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.<sup>2</sup> And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.<sup>3</sup> And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.<sup>4</sup> And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance...<sup>16</sup> But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;<sup>17</sup> And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams

- The day of Pentecost brought about a new dispensation - the Holy Ghost dispensation. God Himself dwelling in man!
- Jesus had said in versus 17, 20, & 23 of John 14 that the disciples knew of the comforter "for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you" .

- However, "At that day (the day of Pentecost) ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you" because they (the entire Godhead) would "come unto him, and make our abode with him".
- Just as Christ promised before going to the cross, He returned to dwell in the hearts of His people starting on the day of Pentecost.

### **Jesus' position with God**

John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; **that where I am, there ye may be also.**

- John 14:11 Believe me that **I am in the Father**, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake.
- John 14:20 At that day ye shall know that **I am in my Father**, and ye in me, and I in you.
- John 17:24 Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, **be with me where I am**; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

### **"I am in the Father"**

- In good standing with God.
- Jesus was doing the will of God and the works of God .
- He had the divine approval of God.
- He had all things in common with God.
- The will of God was perfected in Him.
- He was lead of God in all things.

Previous to Pentecost, some of Jesus most faithful followers consisted of men that had at one point:

- denied Him
  - cursed people
  - physically harmed people
  - fought among themselves
  - numerous other things that were not pleasing to God.
- These people, along with mankind as a whole, were in much need of a true conversion experience. An experience that would cause them to walk in God's statutes and worship Him in Spirit and in Truth!
  - They needed to be truly born again. Born into the family of God by the Spirit.
  - In God! Where Jesus was! With Jesus in His people, they were in turn "in God".
  - This is why Jesus said that he was going to prepare a way "that where I am, there ye may be also".
  - From Pentecost on through the end of time, God's people, through Christ's death, burial, and resurrection, could now be "in the Father".