

Episode 2-01 - A Place Prepared

I. The purpose of the gospel of John is to produce believers in the fact that Jesus is the Christ, the One anointed by God to be the Savior of the world, and that Jesus is the Son of God, God represented in human form.

II. We continue to consider events leading up to the Lord's death. In John 14, the Lord speaks of His Father's House, which we discovered last time means the temple in Jerusalem (John 2:16.) But how can the disciples have a "place" prepared for them in the temple in Jerusalem?

III. How can anyone dwell in the Father's House in John 14:2?

A. David is meant to dwell in God's temple in the future. Psalm 23:6. Forever=for the *alam*, like Greek *aion*, which we have already discussed.

B. How can there be room for one to dwell in the temple? Remember, the temple was a campus, not a single building. Ezekiel 34:24. David is to be a prince under the LORD, Who will be their God (Jesus Christ will be the King.) Ezekiel 45:7-8. A section of the holy district of the temple will be reserved for David! But will there also be room for the 12 disciples in the temple?

IV. What are the "many mansions" in John 14:2?

A. English "mansion" = large, ornate house. Easy to imagine many houses in a mansion, but many mansions in a house?

B. "Mansions" = Greek *mone*. This Greek word occurs only twice in Scripture. The other time is John 14:23, translated "abode." Not a mansion, but a place where one carries out the business of life. Like a "home-office," where one dwells and works.

C. How many "home-offices" in the temple? Ezekiel 41:5-11. "Side chambers" in the temple wall. Even more in the next chapter. Ezekiel 42:3.

D. What were these for? Really "offices" for carrying out business? Ezekiel 42:13. They were for priests in carrying out holy tasks. But these are only the "north and south chambers." There are many others...many, as the Lord said in John 14:2. Some of these chambers will be reserved for the use of the Lord's disciples!

V. What does "I go to prepare a place for you" mean in John 14:2?

A. Christ was not going to heaven to start a big building project, but to the cross!

B. There were many ceremonial laws about entering the temple. Generally, dwelling there was reserved for the Levitical or Aaronic priests.

C. When Christ paid the penalty for sin for all men, the way would be cleared for all Israelites, of whatever tribe, to dwell in God's holy temple.

VI. How will He "come again and receive them unto Himself" in John 14:3?

A. The common interpretation: Christ is coming again to resurrect and rapture all believers off to heaven.

B. The disciples did not have to wait for the second coming. He came to them immediately after His resurrection!

C. John 20:19-22. Giving them His authority, making them His representatives on earth, IS "receiving them unto Himself."

D. True, they will be with Him where He is permanently only after His final return. But they were with Him for about 40 days after His resurrection.

VII. Conclusion: This passage, often quoted at funerals, is actually speaking to and of His disciples, who will have a place reserved for them in the temple of God in Jerusalem in the kingdom of God. Yet we can thank God that we have a place in His future plans as well!