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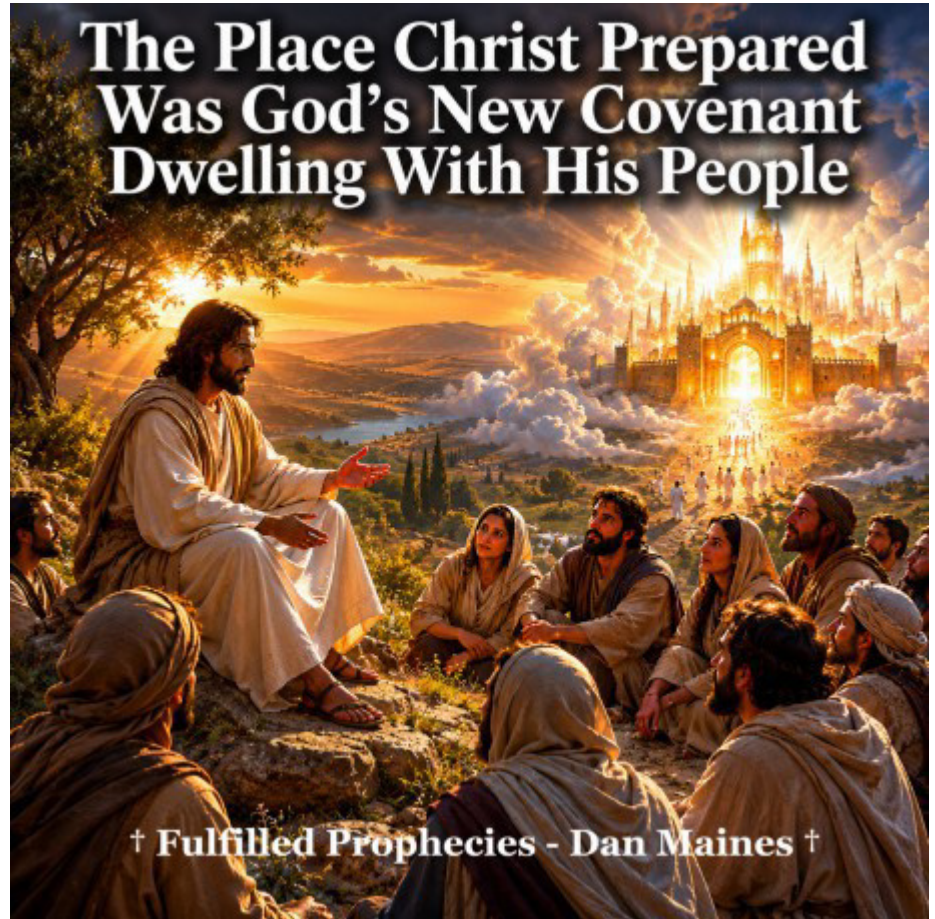
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**Mansion - The Place Christ Prepared Was God's New Covenant Dwelling With His People**



By Dan Maines

**The Place Christ Prepared Was God's New Covenant Dwelling With His People**

## Introduction

† One of the most misunderstood passages in the Bible is John 14:2-3. Many have been taught that Jesus went away to build heavenly mansions and that believers are still waiting for those homes to be completed.

† Yet the context never says Jesus was building houses in heaven. The context is about the Father's house, God's dwelling place, and the coming union of God with His people.

† The New Testament repeatedly teaches that believers became God's dwelling place, His temple, His house, and His habitation.

† The purpose of this study is to examine the Scriptures and allow them to explain what Christ prepared and how God came to dwell with His people under the New Covenant.

† The popular mansion interpretation comes from reading later traditions into the text rather than allowing John 14 to define its own meaning.

### **John 14:2-3**

In My Father's house are many rooms; if that were not so, I would have told you, because I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I am coming again and will take you to Myself, so that where I am, there you also will be.

† Jesus said He was going to prepare a place for His disciples.

† The preparation required His death, resurrection, ascension, priesthood, and the inauguration of the New Covenant.  
(Hebrews 9:11-12)

† The place could not be prepared until sin was removed and access to God was opened. (Hebrews 10:19-22)

† The entire context points to fellowship with Christ and the Father.

## **John 14:18-23**

"I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you. After a little while, the world no longer is going to see Me, but you are going to see Me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you are in Me, and I in you. The one who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and the one who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will reveal Myself to him." Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, what has happened that You are going to reveal Yourself to us and not to the world?" Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will follow My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our dwelling with him."

† Just a few verses later Jesus speaks of the Father and the Son making their abode with believers.

† The same Greek word family behind mansions in verse 2 appears as abode in verse 23.

† John 14:23 gives us the clearest explanation in the same chapter of what Jesus meant by dwelling with His people.

† The emphasis of the passage is God's presence with His people.

† Christ was preparing a people to become God's dwelling place. (1 Peter 2:5)

## **Hebrews 3:6**

but Christ was faithful as a Son over His house-whose house we are, if we hold firmly to our confidence and the boast of our

hope.

† Scripture identifies believers as Christ's house.

† God's people are presented as the dwelling place connected with Christ.

† This agrees with the dwelling-place promise Jesus gave in John 14.

### **1 Timothy 3:15**

but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one should act in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.

† Paul explicitly identifies the house of God as the church.

† The church is God's household under the New Covenant.

† This agrees with the dwelling-place promise Jesus gave in John 14.

### **Acts 7:48-49**

However, the Most High does not dwell in houses made by human hands; as the prophet says:

'HEAVEN IS MY THRONE,  
AND THE EARTH IS THE FOOTSTOOL OF MY FEET;  
WHAT KIND OF HOUSE WILL YOU BUILD FOR ME?' says the Lord,  
'OR WHAT PLACE IS THERE FOR MY REST?'

† God was never ultimately limited to physical structures.

† Stephen pointed beyond physical buildings to God's greater purpose.

† The New Testament repeatedly identifies God's people as His dwelling place.

### **Ephesians 2:19-22**

So then you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

† Paul directly identifies believers as the household of God.

† The church was being built into a holy temple.

† Believers were being built together as a habitation of God.

† This agrees with the dwelling-place promise Jesus gave in John 14.

† The New Testament presents God's people as His habitation.

### **1 Peter 2:5**

you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

† Peter describes believers as living stones.

† Living stones are built into a spiritual house.

† The New Testament consistently identifies believers as God's spiritual dwelling.

### **Hebrews 9:8**

The Holy Spirit is signifying this, that the way into the holy place has not yet been disclosed while the outer tabernacle is still standing,

† Under the Old Covenant the way into God's presence was not yet open.

† The old system still stood as a barrier.

† Christ opened the way into God's presence through His work.

† Hebrews presents access to God as something that was not yet available under the first covenant order.

### **Hebrews 10:19-20**

Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, through His flesh,

† Jesus opened a new and living way into the presence of God.

† Access to the Father was made possible through His sacrifice.

† This passage directly explains how Christ prepared the way for covenant fellowship with God.

† The focus is access to God rather than physical structures.

### **Revelation 3:12**

The one who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name.

† Overcomers are pictured as pillars in God's temple.

† The imagery continues the New Testament theme of God's people in relation to God's dwelling place.

† The New Testament repeatedly uses temple imagery for believers.

### **Revelation 21:2-3**

And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among the people, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them,

† The New Jerusalem is called a bride.

† The bride is identified elsewhere as God's covenant people. (Ephesians 5:25-32)

† The emphasis of the passage is God dwelling with men.

† Revelation 21:2-3 shows the result of God's covenant dwelling with His people.

## **Historical References**

† Irenaeus, Clement of Alexandria, and Eusebius give early witness that Christians understood God's true dwelling under the New Covenant as connected to His people, not merely physical buildings.

† Early Christian writers frequently described believers as God's temple and spiritual house.

## **How It Applies To Us Today**

† Through Christ we have access to the Father.

† We are part of God's household.

† We are part of God's spiritual temple.

† We have fellowship with God through Christ.

† We are citizens of the heavenly Jerusalem now. (Hebrews 12:22-24)

† Our relationship with God is a present reality.

## **Q & A Appendix**

**Q:** Did Jesus go to heaven to build mansions?

**A:** Jesus said He went to prepare a place for His disciples. The New Testament teaches that through His work believers became God's house, temple, and habitation. (Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Peter 2:5)

**Q:** What is the Father's house?

**A:** The New Testament identifies the house of God as God's household and the church of the living God. (1 Timothy 3:15; Hebrews 3:6)

**Q:** What are the many mansions?

**A:** John 14:23 shows the Father and the Son making their abode with believers. The passage emphasizes God's dwelling with His people. (John 14:23)

**Q:** If Jesus was talking about heavenly mansions, why does John 14:23 use the same word for God's dwelling with believers?

**A:** Because the context explains God's abiding presence with His people. John 14:23 provides important context for understanding the dwelling language in John 14. (John 14:2-3; John 14:23)

**Q:** Is the place Jesus went to prepare, the mansion, the Body of Christ?

**A:** John 14 does not directly use the phrase Body of Christ. What it does say is that Jesus would prepare a place and that the Father and Son would make their abode with believers. Other New Testament passages identify believers as God's

house, temple, habitation, and church. The conclusion is drawn from the combined testimony of these passages. (John 14:2-3, 23; Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Timothy 3:15; 1 Peter 2:5)

**Q:** What did Christ's work accomplish?

**A:** Christ opened access to the Father and established the New Covenant relationship between God and His people. (Hebrews 10:19-22)

**† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †**

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## Source Index

† John 14:2-3; John 14:18-23; Hebrews 3:6; 1 Timothy 3:15; Acts 7:48-49; Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Peter 2:5; Hebrews 9:8; Hebrews 10:19-20; Revelation 3:12; Revelation 21:2-3

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies; Clement of Alexandria, Stromata; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

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