

John 14:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

Jesus comforts disciples with future hope: 'In my Father's house are many mansions' (en te oikia tou patros mou monai pollai eisin). The word monai (mansions) derives from meno (to abide/remain), indicating not temporary lodging but permanent dwelling places. The abundance 'many' assures there is room for all believers. Jesus adds 'if it were not so, I would have told you' - an assertion of His complete truthfulness. The purpose clause 'I go to prepare a place for you' (poreuomai hetoimasai topon hymin) indicates Jesus' departure serves redemptive purpose. His ascension is not abandonment but preparation. The verb hetoimasai (to prepare) suggests Jesus actively makes ready dwelling places for His own. This verse transforms the Cross from tragedy to necessary transition - Jesus must depart to prepare the Father's house for believers' eventual arrival.

Historical Context

In first-century Jewish thought, 'Father's house' might refer to the Temple (as in Luke 2:49) or to heaven itself. Jesus uses familial language - not merely God's palace but Father's house, indicating intimate belonging. The promise of permanent dwelling counters disciples' impending experience of homelessness after Jesus' death. Throughout Israel's history, homelessness (exile, wilderness wandering) represented covenant curse, while dwelling in the land represented blessing. Jesus promises ultimate homecoming. Early Christians facing persecution and martyrdom found comfort that death meant going to prepared dwelling places. Medieval theology developed extensive speculation about heavenly mansions.

Reformation theology emphasized that preparation occurred through Christ's atoning work, not human merit. The verse remains powerful pastoral comfort to dying believers and grieving families.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What does the Father's house represent, and how does it fulfill Old Testament promises of rest and dwelling with God?
2. How does Jesus' preparation of dwelling places connect to His atoning work on the Cross?

Interlinear Text

ἐν τῇ οἰκίᾳ τοῦ πατρός μου μοναὶ πολλαί εἰσιν.
In G3588 house G3588 Father's G3962 my G3450 mansions G3438 many G4183 are G1526

εἰ δὲ μή εἰπον ἀν ὑμῖν πορεύομαι
G1487 so G3361 G2036 I would have told for you G5213 I go G4198

έτοιμάσαι τόπον ὑμῖν
to prepare a place for you

G2090 G5117 G5213

Additional Cross-References

John 13:36 (Parallel theme): 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.

2 Corinthians 5:1 (Parallel theme): For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Hebrews 13:14 (Parallel theme): For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.

Revelation 21:2 (Parallel theme): And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Revelation 3:12 (Parallel theme): Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

John 13:33 (Parallel theme): 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.

Hebrews 11:10 (Parallel theme): For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

John 16:4 (Parallel theme): But these things have I told you, that when the time shall come, ye may remember that I told you of them. And these things I said not unto you at the beginning, because I was with you.

John 17:24 (Parallel theme): 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.

Hebrews 6:20 (Parallel theme): Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.