

John 14:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

Jesus promises 'if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again' (ean poreytho kai hetoimaso topon hymin, palin erchomai). The conditional structure assumes the reality - when He goes and prepares, He will return. The verb erchomai (I come) is present tense, emphasizing certainty as if already occurring. The purpose clause explains: 'and receive you unto myself' (kai paralempisomai hymas pros emauton). The verb paralambano means to take alongside, to receive as companion. The ultimate goal follows: 'that where I am, there ye may be also' (hina hopou eimi ego kai hymeis etc). Jesus' purpose is not merely to prepare a place but to share His presence with believers eternally. The emphasis on location ('where I am') shows that heaven's glory consists primarily in Christ's presence, not in architectural splendor. Eternal life is fundamentally relational - being with Christ.

Historical Context

This promise of return has sustained Christian hope for two millennia. Early Christians expected imminent return (maranatha - 'Our Lord, come!' 1 Corinthians 16:22). As decades passed without Christ's return, theology developed to understand 'coming again' as both eschatological event (Second Coming) and present spiritual reality (Christ's presence through the Spirit). Some theologians see this verse referring primarily to Jesus' resurrection appearances or Pentecost indwelling. However, the context of 'Father's house' and 'where I am' suggests

ultimate eschatological fulfillment. Creeds affirm Christ 'will come again to judge the living and the dead.' Throughout church history, this promise motivated missionary zeal, ethical living, and endurance through persecution. The verse balances inaugurated eschatology (Christ is already present) with future consummation (Christ will return).

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. Does Jesus' promise to 'come again' refer primarily to His Second Coming, or to other manifestations of His presence?
2. How does the goal 'that where I am, there ye may be also' shape our understanding of heaven's essential nature?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἔτιν πορευθῶ καὶ ἔτοιμάσω ὑμῖν τόπον πάλιν
And if I go And prepare for you a place again
G2532 G1437 G4198 G2532 G2090 G5213 G5117 G3825

ἔρχομαι καὶ παραλήψομαι ὑμᾶς πρὸς ἐμαυτόν ἵνα ὅπου
I will come And receive you unto myself that where
G2064 G2532 G3880 G5209 G4314 G1683 G2443 G3699

εἰμὶ ἐγὼ καὶ ὑμεῖς ἥτε
am I And there ye may be
G1510 G1473 G2532 G5210 G5600

Additional Cross-References

John 12:26 (Parallel theme): If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.

2 Timothy 2:12 (Parallel theme): If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:

Acts 1:11 (Parallel theme): Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

Hebrews 9:28 (Parallel theme): So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

Romans 8:17 (Parallel theme): And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

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.

John 14:28 (Parallel theme): Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I.

Revelation 3:21 (Parallel theme): To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

Philippians 1:23 (Parallel theme): For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: