

# He Came to Prepare a Place for His Brethren

John 14:1-6

Ephesians 2:11-22; Hebrews 11:8-16



24 December 2023

## The Second NOT the First

- Hebrews 9:28; Romans 8:23-25; Philippians 3:20-21; Titus 2:11-14

## He Came . . .

### Man's Calendar

- Jesus was not born on 25 December!
- Christmas is an invention of man! God commands us to be **eagerly** watching for His **second Advent**.
- Consider what Christmas has become. Consider: "Joy to the World"!

### God's Calendar (Leviticus 23)

- God has a "calendar" and He is working out His eternal purpose according to His time line (calendar)! (Ephesians 1:11; 3:11)
- Gods' Feasts: Christ most likely came on Feast of Tabernacles - God with Us!
- (Galatians 4:4-5) "In the fullness of time" - AT GOD'S TIMING! According to God's eternal plan/purpose/counsel/will.
- (Acts 1:7-8) Christ's **second ADVENT** will be according to the Father's timing!

### Marriage Feast of the Lamb

- (Luke 12:35-48) Christ promised to come for those who are **eagerly watching** and **busy doing His Father's will!** (Matthew 7:21; 12:50)
- (Revelation 19:6-9) The feast is the marriage feast of the Lamb!

### Christ's Prescription for the Disciples' Heart Trouble in Troubled Times (John 14:1; 1 Thessalonians 4:18)

- **The trouble:** Their concern that he was going away and they could not follow. (John 13:33, 36)

- Christ's prescription for those who long and desire to be with Him:
  - ① Faith in GOD (His Word/Promises) and the Lord Jesus Christ who is GOD. (v. 1)
  - ② Assurance that the Father's house in heaven will be *our* eternal home.
  - ③ Know what Christ Himself has done and is doing to secure our place in heaven. (Hebrews 7:25; Philippians 1:6)
  - ④ He, Christ, has *promised* to come for us to escort us to a place **He** has prepared. (John 14:3; 12:26; Acts 1:11; 1 Thess 4:16-17; Heb 9:28)
  - ⑤ He has promised that we will live with Him forever. (John 14:3)
- Our King, Lord, and Saviour lives, loves us, and cares for us.
- We are pilgrims and strangers in the "wilderness" but our hope is a "city built by God". (Hebrews 11:10, 13-16, 22, 13-16; 1 Peter 2:11)

### My Father's House (John 14:1-2)

- The Father's House – a term only used by Jesus Christ. (John 2:16; Luke 15:25; John 14:2) NOTE the contrast in Matthew 23:38 — "**your**" house!
- The Father's house is heaven. Heaven in Scripture:
  - ★ A "homeland" (country), a city, a kingdom, a paradise. (Luke 19:12; Heb 11:10, 16; Rev 21; 2 Peter 1:11; Luke 23:43; Rev 2:7)
- Heaven is **home** for God's children - the family of God. (Hebrews 11:16)

### Many "Mansions" (John 14:2)

- Many rooms were **prefigured** in the Temple — (1 Kings 6:5, 6; Jer 35:1-4)
  - These rooms (in the Temple) were for the *priests*. (1 Peter 2:5, 9)
- The word **mansions** is literally "**abiding places**."
- These are contrasted with from the "**tents**" of our present wanderings.
  - We are pilgrims and strangers using "tents". (temporary dwellings). (See Hebrews 11:13; 1 Peter 2:11; 2 Cor. 5:1-4; 2 Peter 1:13-14)
  - These bodies are "fading away" – only "a vapor". (James 4:13-16; **1 Peter 1:24-25**; Isaiah 40:6-8; Psalm 102:11; 103:15-16)

### A Homeland (Hebrews 11:13-16)

- They died in faith (Hebrews 11:13-16)
- They persevered until the END! (Matthew 10:22; 24:13; Romans 2:7)
  - They **fought the good fight** of faith till the end. (2 Tim. 4:6-8; 1 Tim 6:12)
  - They **finished the race**. (Acts 20:24; 1 Cor. 9:24-27; Philippi 3:13-14; Hebrews 12:1-2)
- In order to "die in faith" one must "live in faith." To live by faith:
  - ① One must believe God. He must believe God's promises.
  - ② One must let God's Word/Spirit guide each of his steps. (Psalm 119:133)
    - The Word of God is a lamp unto our path and a light unto our feet. (Psalm 119:105; 18:28; 43:3; 32:8; 73:24; Prov. 6:23)

- ③ One must meditate often on God's Word. (Psalm 1:2-3; 119:97)
- ④ One must set his affections on things above and not on things below. (Col 3:2; Matt 16:23; Philip 1:23; Psalm 73:25-26; 1 John 2:15-17)
- They believed God's promises - His WORD. (Hebrews 11:13)
  - God had promised and that was enough. God does not lie. (Titus 1:2; Numbers 23:19; 1 Samuel 15:29; Isaiah 46:9-10)
  - How little they had compared to us today!! See Luke 12:48
  - God spoke and it must be! **BECAUSE GOD WOULD DO IT!**
  - They did not have the fulfillment of the promise but they had God's Word and that was enough!
- They **"SAW" the promises. (Hebrews 11:13)**
  - Their faith made the promises **"visible"** – it made them **REAL**.
  - Abraham (John 8:56); Moses (Heb 11:25-27) Job (Job 42:5)
- The promises **assured** them (Hebrews 11:13).
  - Their faith gave them confidence.
  - What they **"saw"** persuaded them!
- They made the promises their own (Hebrews 11:13).
  - They "embraced/greeted" the Word of God.
  - "to embrace" literally means "to receive joyfully."
- **They confessed!** (Hebrews 11:13-14)
  - Because their faith made God's Word REAL they had no problem in **openly declaring** their faith.
  - They declared **plainly** that they were **seeking** (had their eyes on) a homeland – literally – "one father's land".
- They confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims here on earth. (Hebrews 11:13; Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Peter 2:11-12; 1 John 3:3)

### **Christ Speaks Only Truth** (John 14:2, 6)

- Christ **never** deceived His disciples!
- Truth was Christ's only object – whether it was easy or hard.
  - His goal was to glorify GOD, not to please men. (Galatians 1:10)
- He came into the world to witness to **THE TRUTH**. (John 18:37)
- Every human being will stand before Him to be judged and He will judge according to TRUTH. (Psalm 96:13)

### **"I Go to Prepare a Place for You."** (John 14:2)

- GOD has **never taken His people to an unprepared place. He has always first prepared it for them.**
  - First, GOD **prepared** a garden, then HE PUT ADAM in the garden. (Genesis 2:8-15)
  - First, GOD **prepared** the Promised Land, then He brought His people to the Land. (Deuteronomy 6:10-11)

- Now Christ tells us that He is going to **prepare** another place for His special people - His brethren! (John 14:2)
- **But how long does it take to prepare a place?** *It only took seven days to create the universe – why so long in preparing a place in heaven?*
  - The Temple *prefigured* the Father's house!
  - It was built by stones prepared at a distant spot – a quarry. (1 Kings 5:17-18)
  - No hammer was heard at the Temple sight. (1 Kings 6:7)
  - **But** in heaven there is NO TEMPLE?? (Revelation 21:1-4, 22-27) - GOD and the LAMB are the TEMPLE!
  - **We** are *living, precious, chosen, shaped, stones* being built up. (1 Peter 2:4-10)
  - **We** (saints) are the TEMPLE! (Ephesians 2:19-22)
  - "If the **"place"** our Lord is preparing is this heavenly temple, a house made up of living stones (saints), then this **"house"** will not be completed until the last of His elect is brought to faith/repentance. Is this not what Peter told us in 2 Peter 3:1-9? See also Rom 9:22-24
- ★ Read again: Revelation 21:1-2!!! A Bride **prepared** for her Groom!!

## Understanding Christ's 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent in the Marriage Ceremony

(Matthew 9:15; 22:1-14; 25:1-13; Mark 2:19-20)

① **The Espousal Ceremony** ② **After the Espousal** ③ **The Bridegroom's Return**

### THE PROMISE: **"I Will Come Again"** (John 14:3)

- The promise is personal: **"I will come again for you!"**
  - The promise to His Bride, the Church: (Eph 5:23-27; 1 Thess 4:17)
  - The promise to the One He purchased! (Eph 1:14; 1 Cor 6:20; 7:20)
  - Coming Back for WHO? NOT EVERYONE! ONLY THOSE WHO . . .
    - Hebrews 9:28; Philippians 3:20-21; Luke 12:35-37
- Christ will **not** send for us, but come Himself to escort us to the place He has been preparing (Matthew 16:18) in His Father's home. (1 Thess 4:16-17)
- Christ's desire (as with any good bridegroom) is to be *with* His bride. (Zephaniah 3:17)
- **"Where I am, there you may also be"**
  - Promised: John 12:26 - Declared: John 14:3 - Prayed for John 17:24

## Christ's Coming Is Just As Important As His Death & Resurrection

- Hebrews 9:28; Luke 12:37; Philippians 3:20-21; Titus 2:11-14
- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 - Comfort one another with these words.

**THIS WILL BE CHRIST'S SECOND ADVENT!**