

Countryside

Bible
Church

21705 South State Highway J

Peculiar, Missouri 64078

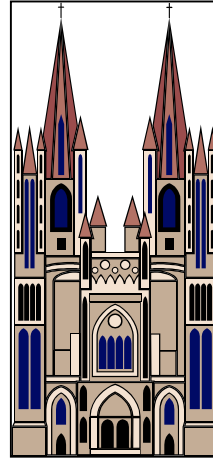
779-4445

Don Ward, Pastor

Cell Phone 529-2940

I Will Come Again

“Something to Think About” Series by Don ward



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.

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. John 14:2-3

Is Jesus saying that He is going into heaven to fix up one of God's big houses (inside His bigger house) for us to live in and then coming back when we die to take us there?

Or is Jesus saying that He is going to heaven and then coming a second time for all the faithful at the end of the age?

Actually, Jesus is saying neither.

Among other difficulties, the first scenario requires Jesus to come many times (every time someone dies) while the bible teaches that Jesus will come only a second time (Heb. 9:29).

The second is true but not the subject here. The words “*come again*” do not convey the strong sense of “*return*” which Jesus used to depict His second coming (Lk. 19:12). John's “*again*”, “has the idea of oscillatory repetition, once more, furthermore or on the

other hand" –Strong's. It is never used in relation to Jesus' second coming. The meaning is more, "If I go . . . on the other hand, I will come and receive you unto myself".

John 14:2-3 is part of a continuing theme throughout chapters 14-16, the theme of Jesus' abiding presence. While Jesus is preparing the disciples for His physical absence He is introducing them to a new kind of presence. While He is leaving them physically He will be coming to them spiritually. He said,

I will not leave you comfortless: (Literally, "orphans" NIV) I will come to you. John 14:18.

Through the promised Spirit, both Father and Son are with us.

Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. John 14:23

In this way, although Jesus would leave them physically, He would not be forsaking them. (Heb. 13:5)

It is an intimate relationship with the Father and with the Son on a new level. The spiritual proximity is so close we can even approach God's throne.

Seeing then that we have a great high priest that is passed into the heaven s . . . Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. (Heb. 4:14, 16)

It was a difficult concept for the apostles (and us) to grasp. Jesus explained the gift of the Spirit coming to them in several ways; as the spirit of truth, as the comforter and as the abiding presence of the Father and the Son.

What is Jesus doing in heaven? He is our High Priest, representing us before the Father, and so is providing a place for us in God's household. (The word "prepare" in Jn.14:2 can also mean "provide" and the word "house" can also mean "household").

For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: Hebrews 9:24

Jesus said, "*I will come again and receive you unto myself*".

Strong's concordance defines the word "*receive*" as, "to receive near, to associate ones self (in any familiar or intimate act or relation)". He will be closer than ever to His followers as He will abide in them. He can be close to each one regardless of the number or their location. Christians should practice His presence.

His physical absence has obvious drawbacks. Yet for now, it was actually beneficial that He leave (John 16:7).

Is there enough room for you in God's household? "*In my Father's house are many rooms*", NIV (Literally- places of abode). We sing, "There's room at the cross for you". And that is true. It is good to know there is plenty of room in God's house(hold) for whoever wants to come in.

Not only is there room, you are invited.

The theme is abiding. The Greek word for "abide/abode" is used 14 times in chapters 14-16. Hence, Jesus was not talking about His literal coming or our literal going but of a new relationship, power and presence that would now be available to his dear followers.

<http://www.mindspring.com/~anthonybuzzard/articles.htm> or <http://www.comingkingdom.org/ATCmag.html>