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## My Father's House by Bill Lockwood

The time frame is just hours before the cross. In the upper room where He observed with His disciples the Last Supper (John 13), Jesus gives the disciples the foreboding statement, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in Him ... and *immediately* shall He glorify Him" (13:31-32). In tender tones Jesus tells the disciples "where I go, you cannot come" – but you shall "follow me afterwards" (33, 36).

Jesus assured them that He was going to "My Father's House" (14:2) wherein there are many rooms. These He would prepare for tm. At some point He "would come again" and "receive" them unto Himself (14:3). At that point followers of Christ will enjoy intimate rest.

This promise has been one of great comfort to all generations of Christians, many of which have suffered great tragedy and loss. To all the faithful who labor in the yoke of the weaknesses of this life and its transitory promises, Jesus promises rest (Hebrews 3:9). He bids us to "continue to believe in Him" (14:1) when our hearts are troubled. The wording of this passage actually means, "Stop allowing your heart to be agitated – *let your faith rest in me as well as the Father.*" He will prepare a room for us in His Father's mansion.

Unfortunately, many have misunderstood the wonderful comfort of these verses. *Some* suppose that Jesus' coming ("I will come again and receive you unto myself") is the promise of His coming on the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles (Acts 2). Jesus had indeed promised, even in this context, the coming of the Holy Spirit (John 14:16-17). He had even stated this coming of the Spirit was "I come unto you" (14:18). But is that the extent of His coming in v. 1-3? Absolutely not! There is a difference between "I come unto you" (v. 18) and "I will come again and receive you unto myself that where I am ye may be also." The words "receive you unto myself" literally mean, "*take you.*" This refers to His Second Coming.

*Others* seem to think that the "coming" of Christ in v. 3 is the same as that mentioned in 14:22-23 where our Lord promised that if a person "keep my word" – "we [Father and Son] will come and make Our abode with Him." There is indeed a "coming of the Lord" at conversion, but that again does not satisfy the "coming" mentioned in v. 3.

The only legitimate understanding of 14:1-3 is the fellowship of the Lord in a heavenly home when He comes again the second time (Hebrews 9:27-28). At *that* time He will "take us unto himself" that where He is we may be also.