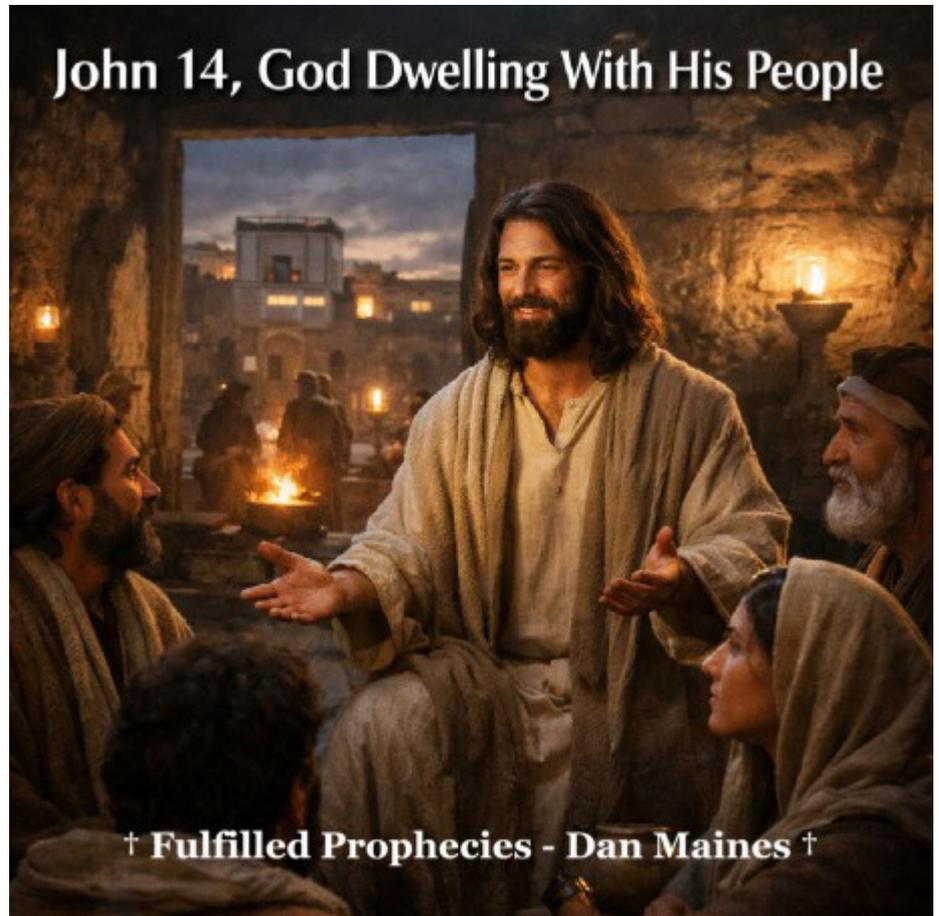


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John 14, God Dwelling With His People



By Dan Maines

John 14, God Dwelling With His People

Introduction

† John 14 isn't about people going to heaven, it's about Jesus coming to dwell with His people.

† Jesus is explaining covenant transition, not post death relocation.

† The focus of the chapter is presence, access, and indwelling under the New Covenant.

† This teaching was given on the eve of the cross, during the

final hours of the Old Covenant age.

† The audience is the first century disciples who were about to experience the passing of the old house and the establishment of the new.

John 14:2-3

In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.

† Jesus says He goes to prepare a place and then comes again to receive them to Himself.

† The movement is toward the disciples, not away from the earth.

† The language of house and dwelling places points to covenant space, not geography.

† The Father's house is covenantal, not cosmic.

† This house was transitioning from the Old Covenant system to the New Covenant reality.

John 14:23

Jesus answered and said to him, If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our dwelling with him.

† Just a few verses later Jesus explains what receiving them to Himself actually means.

† The Father and the Son come to the believer and make their dwelling with him.

† The direction is clear, God comes to man, not man going to heaven.

† This defines the meaning of the promise in verses 2 and 3.

† Jesus interprets His own words as indwelling, not relocation.

Hebrews 9:8-10

The Holy Spirit is signifying this, that the way into the holy place has not yet been disclosed while the outer tabernacle is still standing, which is a symbol for the present time. Accordingly both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make the worshiper perfect in conscience, since they relate only to food and drink and various washings, regulations for the body imposed until a time of reformation.

† The old dwelling system restricted access.

† The problem was never distance, it was covenant limitation.

† The transition Jesus spoke of was from the old house to the new.

† As long as the old tabernacle stood, full access wasn't realized.

† John 14 anticipates the removal of that barrier.

Hebrews 10:19-22

Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

† Access is opened through Christ, not relocation.

† Drawing near is covenant language, not spatial travel.

† The house of God is now entered through union with Christ.

† The veil language confirms covenant transition, not a future departure.

† John 14 and Hebrews are teaching the same reality.

John 4:24

God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

† God isn't confined to a physical location.

† Worship is no longer tied to place, but to covenant reality.

† This aligns perfectly with Jesus teaching in John 14.

† Spirit based worship requires indwelling, not distance.

Isaiah 66:1

Thus says the Lord, Heaven is My throne and the earth is My footstool. Where then is a house you could build for Me? And where is a place that I may rest?

† Throne and footstool are authority terms, not street addresses.

† Heaven and earth describe God's rule, not His containment.

† This language rules out the idea of God being locked in a location.

† The New Covenant reveals where God chooses to dwell.

1 Kings 8:27

But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain You, how much less this house which I have built!

† Solomon already knew God couldn't be confined.

† Even the highest heaven can't contain Him.

† This proves dwelling language is relational and covenantal.

† The temple was never about housing God, but about access to Him.

John 14:10

Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works.

- † Jesus reveals mutual indwelling.
- † Presence replaces distance.
- † This becomes the pattern for believers.
- † What existed in Christ is extended to His people.

Ephesians 2:21-22

In whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

- † Paul confirms believers are God's dwelling place.
- † The temple is now people, not stone.
- † This fulfills what Jesus promised in John 14.
- † The New Covenant dwelling is corporate and relational.

Jeremiah 23:23-24

Am I a God who is near, declares the Lord, and not a God far off? Can a man hide himself in hiding places so I do not see him? declares the Lord. Do I not fill the heavens and the earth? declares the Lord.

- † God fills heaven and earth by His presence.
- † He rules from heaven in authority.
- † He dwells with His people relationally.
- † Heaven is the realm of His reign, not His confinement.

Revelation 21:3

And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them.

† Revelation ends exactly where John 14 pointed.

† God dwelling with man, not man relocating to find God.

† The New Covenant reality is His dwelling is with us.

† This marks the full manifestation of the New Covenant order after the passing of the old.

Historical References

† Irenaeus taught that God's dwelling with humanity was realized through Christ and the church.

† Tertullian affirmed that the Spirit makes believers the habitation of God.

† Augustine identified the church as the city and dwelling of God on earth.

† Early Christian writers consistently emphasized indwelling over relocation.

How It Applies To Us Today

† We don't wait for presence, we live in it.

† We don't strive to reach heaven, we walk in union with Christ now.

† Our confidence rests in access, not distance.

† Our identity is rooted in being God's dwelling place.

† Faith is lived from presence, not anticipation of escape.

Q & A Appendix

Q Is John 14 about going to heaven?

A No, it's about Jesus coming to dwell with His people, John 14:23, Ephesians 2:21-22.

Q What does heaven represent in this teaching?

A Heaven represents God's authority and reign, not a physical address, Isaiah 66:1, Jeremiah 23:23-24.

Q When was this dwelling reality fully established?

A With the passing of the Old Covenant system and the full establishment of the New Covenant in the first century, Hebrews 9:8-10, Revelation 21:3.

Q If Christ was going to the Father, wouldn't that mean He was going to heaven?

A Yes, Christ did go to the Father, but going to the Father speaks of covenant authority and completion, not abandonment of the earth. Jesus said the Father dwelled in Him and that He would come again and dwell in His people, John 14:10, John 14:23.

Q When Christ went to prepare a place, did He bring it back with Him?

A Yes, the prepared dwelling is revealed as the New Covenant body of Christ, where God now dwells by His Spirit. What was prepared through the cross and resurrection was manifested as the living temple, Ephesians 2:21-22, Hebrews 10:19-22.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† John 14:2-3; John 14:10; John 14:23; John 4:24; Hebrews 9:8-10; Hebrews 10:19-22; Isaiah 66:1; 1 Kings 8:27; Ephesians 2:21-22; Jeremiah 23:23-24; Revelation 21:3

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies; Tertullian, On the Resurrection of the Flesh; Augustine, City of God

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