

# GOD'S PROVISION FOR HIS PEOPLE

**BIBLE TEXT** : John 14:1-31

LESSON 235 Senior Course

**MEMORY VERSE:** "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 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" (John 14:1, 2).

## **BIBLE TEXT** in King James Version

### **John 14:1-31 (KJV)**

<sup>1</sup> Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.

<sup>5</sup> Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?

<sup>6</sup> Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

<sup>7</sup> If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.

<sup>8</sup> Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us.

<sup>9</sup> Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou *then*, Shew us the Father?

<sup>10</sup> Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.

<sup>11</sup> Believe me that I *am* in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake.

<sup>12</sup> Verily, verily, I say unto you, He

## **BIBLE REFERENCES:**

### **I Words of Comfort from Jesus to the Troubled Disciples**

- 2 Jesus promises to prepare a place for them, John 14:1-3
- 3 The Way, the Truth, and the Life are explained to doubting Thomas, John 14:4-7
- 4 The mystery of the divine "Father and Son" are explained to troubled Philip, John 14:8-11
- 5 Jesus promises that greater works will be wrought by believing disciples, John 14:12-14

### **II The Promise of a Comforter**

- 1 "Another Comforter" shall come to abide forever, John 14:15-17
- 2 Jesus will be manifested to His disciples, but not to the world, John 14:18-24;  
**Matthew 18:20 (KJV)**  
<sup>20</sup> For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.
- 3 "The Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost," will be their Teacher, John 14:25, 26;  
**John 16:12-14 (KJV)**  
<sup>12</sup> I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.  
<sup>13</sup> Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.  
<sup>14</sup> He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew *it* unto you.
- 4 Jesus gives closing words of comfort, John 14:27-31

## **NOTES:**

### **Troubled Hearts**

The disciples were troubled at the thought of their separation from Jesus, for He had said, "Yet a little while I am with you," and "Whither I go, ye cannot come" (John 13:33). But Christ, with His compassion and desire to comfort the hearts of those who followed Him, brought forth these beautiful words: "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 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 14:1-3).

There was a time when the "morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy" (Job 38:7); but the day came when sin disrupted the harmony in God's creation and brought a curse upon the earth. Sin ruined the fellowship of God with mankind and wrought havoc in the world; but the heart of God yearned for His creatures, and in His infinite wisdom He brought forth a plan whereby sinful man could be redeemed. "In my Father's house are many mansions." God the Father sent Christ into the world to reconcile it unto Himself that the people who are redeemed by the Blood of Jesus might dwell with Him throughout eternity. Think what it will mean when the words of

that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater *works* than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

<sup>13</sup> And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

<sup>14</sup> If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do *it*.

<sup>15</sup> If ye love me, keep my commandments.

<sup>16</sup> And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

<sup>17</sup> *Even* the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

<sup>18</sup> I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

<sup>19</sup> Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.

<sup>20</sup> At that day ye shall know that I *am* in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.

<sup>21</sup> He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

<sup>22</sup> Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world?

<sup>23</sup> 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.

<sup>24</sup> He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.

<sup>25</sup> These things have I spoken unto you, being *yet* present with you.

that great voice that John heard out of Heaven are fulfilled: "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God" (Revelation 21:3)!

### Father's House

That Holy City, the New Jerusalem that John saw descending, is the Father's house. In it are many mansions, beautiful beyond description; Jesus has gone to prepare them — get them ready for those who love Him. Think of those transparent golden streets, those clear walls of jasper, the river of life, the trees whose fruit ripens every month, the soothing balm of the leaves — it is all our Father's House. And He has invited us Home to live with Him forever. We, the prodigals, are welcomed Home with a great feast — our sins forgiven, our debts cancelled at the cost of His own dear Son. The Pure and Holy One sacrificed Himself that the defiled and unclean might be redeemed. Who is there so foolish as to refuse the great plan of God? Who is so wise as to have a better place or a happier way than that which He offers?

"And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know" (John 14:4). Jesus made it as plain as He could that He came from God and was going back to God. For three years His ministry was spent in pointing the way to eternal life. He taught the people repentance and the new birth. He told them of a life above sin and how they could be sanctified and made pure and holy. He asked them to tarry in Jerusalem until they were endued with power from on High. He told them of the Comforter who would abide with them forever. He instituted the Lord's Supper and the Washing of the Disciples' Feet. He commanded them to observe water baptism — baptizing "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." But above all this, He is the Way. It is only through His sacrifice and the shedding of His Blood that men find pardon for their sins.

### The Trinity

"Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake." Jesus wanted the disciples to recognize His Divinity. When Peter received the revelation and recognized who Jesus was, he said, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus' reply was that that revelation came from Heaven and that "upon this rock I will build my church" (Matthew 16:16-18). The Church of Christ must recognize not only that He was a Teacher sent from God but that He is God, that He is the Lamb of God who was sacrificed for the sins of the world. "Ye believe in God, believe also in me." In other words, "Believe that I am God." "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father." Christ was the perfect revelation of the Father. As the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ was "the express image of his person" (Hebrews 1:3). This does not mean that he was the same Person, but an exact likeness. There is no discrepancy or conflict in Their plans or purposes. The one reveals perfectly the will of the other.

The distinct personalities of the Trinity are revealed in this chapter. Jesus said, "I go unto my Father." This teaches that the Father in Heaven, and Jesus on earth, were separate personalities. He also states that "the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you" (John 14:26). Here in one verse of Scripture we see the Trinity revealed through the

<sup>26</sup> But the Comforter, *which is* the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

<sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

<sup>28</sup> 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.

<sup>29</sup> And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe.

<sup>30</sup> Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me.

<sup>31</sup> But that the world may know that I love the Father; and as the Father gave me commandment, even so I do. Arise, let us go hence.

### **QUESTIONS**

- 0 Where is the most complete description of Heaven found?
- 1 Explain the second coming of Christ.
- 2 What is the difference in the manifestation of the Holy Ghost in Old Testament times and today?
- 3 Why were the disciples troubled at this time?
- 4 What promise brought a comfort to their hearts?
- 5 How many promises can you find in this chapter?
- 6 Are these promises applicable to us today?
- 7 Name some of the functions of the Holy Ghost in the world today.
- 8 Give several Scriptural proofs of the Trinity.
- 10 When was the fulfillment of the promise of a Comforter?

Father's sending the Holy Ghost to bring to remembrance the things that Jesus, the Son, had said. The Holy Ghost is here spoken of in the third person, as He, a Person. There is a unity in the divine Godhead that we do not fully comprehend, but we can see that there is a blessed Trinity: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. We also see the Trinity revealed at the baptism of Christ when the Spirit descended upon the Son in the form of a dove and the Father spoke out of Heaven.

When Jesus said to Philip, "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father," He meant more than just what Philip could see with his natural eyes. These physical, mechanical bodies are not the real essence of our true self. We may recognize people by their physical appearance; but when we really become acquainted and know them well, it is the character and inner life that endears them to us. So it was with Christ — it was not His stature nor the colour of His hair that revealed the Father, but that great heart of compassion, the love that He had, the life that He lived, and the works that He did that showed the disciples the Father.

### **The Baptism of the Holy Ghost**

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father" (John 14:12). This promise gives us an idea of the purpose of the baptism of the Holy Ghost. It is the gift of power for service. "Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8). This gift of power, the baptism of the Holy Ghost, should not be confused with sanctification, which is the cleansing of the heart. Sanctification is holiness, and the baptism is the enduement of power. David was sanctified when he prayed, "Create in me a clean heart, God" (Psalm 51:10). Isaiah was sanctified when the live coal of fire from the altar touched his lips. But it was not until the Day of Pentecost that the Holy Ghost was poured out and men were baptized with the Holy Ghost and fire. Holy men of old spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost; John was filled with the Holy Ghost from his mother's womb; but on the Day of Pentecost the hundred and twenty were baptized (immersed) in the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost not only filled them but also the house where they were sitting, and out of their innermost being flowed rivers of Living Water.

The baptism of the Holy Ghost was not limited to the Day of Pentecost, for we find that it was poured out eight years later at the house of Cornelius (**Acts 10:44-46 (KJV)** <sup>44</sup> While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. <sup>45</sup> And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. <sup>46</sup> For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,) and twenty-three years later at Ephesus (**Acts 19:6 (KJV)** <sup>6</sup> And when Paul had laid *his* hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.). Each time they spake with tongues, which is the evidence of the baptism of the Holy Ghost. This marvelous experience was not limited to Bible times; but, according to the Scriptures, "The promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call" (Acts 2:39). God is still calling and pouring out His Spirit upon those who are sanctified wholly. "Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?" (Acts 19:2).