

The Promise of Heaven

John 14:1-6

Our planet has been shrunk to the size of a computer screen. We are troubled by events on the other side of the world. Yet most people don't lie awake at night worrying: "Are we going to war with Iran?" What keeps them awake is the war zone in their home.

David Jeremiah was president of a Christian school when he learned that his daughter was caught experimenting with cocaine at the Christian school. David Jeremiah wrote at that time: "The feelings that overwhelmed me were unlike anything in my previous experience. Nothing in my life had prepared me for the initial shock and the resulting pain of the days and months to follow."

Jesus exhorts us twice in John 14 to "Stop letting your hearts be troubled" in 14:1 and 14:27. In between these two exhortations are seven promises that will enable us not to be troubled.

The apostles to whom Jesus preached his last sermon were troubled. Jesus had just dropped **three bombs** into their lives in 13:18-38.

1. First, Jesus informed His tight band of trainees who had practically lived together for three years that one of them would betray Him (13:18-32). This would be like your best friend turning against you, stabbing you in the back and becoming your sworn enemy.

2. Next, Jesus tells them His faithful followers that He is leaving them and they cannot go with Him (13:33-35). Imagine someone you love very deeply telling you that they are leaving you, maybe, because of cancer.

3. Finally, Jesus predicts that their leader, Peter, will before morning, deny Jesus three times (13:36-38). If you have ever put your confidence in a human leader and then he falls into sin, then you know the disappointment of the disciples.

To the devastated disciples then and now Jesus gave seven promises to sustain us.

- 1. The Promise of Heaven** (*John 14:1-2*)
- 2. The Promise of the Coming of Christ** (*John 14:3-6*)
- 3. The Promise of Knowing the Father** (*John 14:7-11*)
- 4. The Promise of Doing Greater Works** (*John 14:12*)
- 5. The Promise of Answered Prayer** (*John 14:13-15*)
- 6. The Promise of the Holy Spirit** (*John 14:16-26*)
- 7. The Promise of Peace** (*John 14:27*)

There are just as many stars in the sky at noon as at mid-night, although we cannot see them in the sun's glaze. Promises in God's Word are like stars, they shine brighter in the dark.

First, we must believe in the Person who makes the promises: “You believe in God, believe also in me.” Belief in God and belief in Christ is one act of the will not two. Jesus is God. This is why John wrote his gospel as stated in John 20:30-31. John is laid out in four sections:

1. The Introduction 1:1-18 Jesus is the eternal Word
2. The Book of Signs that prove Jesus is God and can save 2-12

Jesus’ Seven “Signs” in the Gospel of John

1. Changing water into wine in Cana (2:1–11)
2. Healing an official’s son in Capernaum (4:46–54)
3. Healing an invalid at the Pool of Bethesda in Jerusalem (5:1–18)
4. Feeding the 5,000 near the Sea of Galilee (6:5–14)
5. Walking on the water of the Sea of Galilee (6:16–21)
6. Healing a blind man in Jerusalem (9:1–7)
7. Raising dead Lazarus in Bethany (11:1–45)¹ In **12:37**, miracles were rejected.

3. Jesus Farewell Sermon in 13-17 in which He prepares them for His death and their ministry
4. Jesus Crucifixion and Resurrection 18-21

Have you trusted Christ as your Savior? These promises are conditional on this one condition. “Believe” is the key word found 98 times in the Gospel of John.

Now, we can believe the first promise: The Promise of Heaven.

1. Heaven is a Place of Worship: *“In my Father’s house.”*

“My Father’s house” is used only one more time in Scripture, John 2:16, with a reference to the Temple in Jerusalem with its vast courts and numerous chambers and spacious porches with room for the thronging worshipers of God who filled the Temple with His glory.

Just as the divine glory or presence of God filled the Temple and His worshipers fell down so will we in Heaven. There is a sneak preview in Revelation 5:8-14.

2. Heaven is a Place of Ample Room: *“In my Father’s house are many mansions.”*

How many of you have seen the Biltmore House and Gardens with its 250 rooms and over 4 thousand square feet of floor space. According to John’s measurements in Revelation 21, what Jesus has gone to prepare will make the Biltmore House look like a doll house.

In Heaven there will be exactly enough reservations for all who get saved. There will be no overbooking. There will not be any “no shows” nor “vacancy” signs because of believers losing their salvation.

Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1983-). *Vol. 2: The Bible knowledge commentary : An exposition of the scriptures* (268). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

Jesus gave another promise to all believers in John 10:28: “I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.”

Heaven is like the cross of Christ about which we sing, “There is room at the cross for you, though millions have come, there is still room for one, yes there is room at the cross for you.”

3. Heaven is a Place of Reunion: *“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 you may be also.”*

A. First, Jesus speaks of His reunion. “I go” to Mount Calvary and then to Mount of Olives and then on to Heaven. Now He is preparing a place. If Jesus did not go to Calvary you and I would never go to Heaven.

Wiersbe wrote, “When Jesus was here on earth, he was a carpenter. Now He has returned to glory, He is building a church on earth and a home for that church in Heaven.”

Heaven will be prepared by the time we get there. The question is, “Are you prepared?”

Next, Jesus will come again. Before He comes back, we must come to Him: “Come unto me, all you that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28).

B. Then the reunion for believers. Who has someone in Heaven?

Peter asked Christ, “Where are you going?” or what His destination was in 13:36.

Thomas asked Christ, “How can we know the way?” or the directions to get to Heaven in 14:5.

To Thomas’ question, Jesus gave one of the most important statements on salvation ever spoken: “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life, no man comes to the Father but by me.”

Have you ever been in an unfamiliar town and stopped and asked for directions. You ask for directions and the fellow says,

“Oh, yea, I know where that is, you go down here about 3 miles where Mr. Jones used to live. You know where Mr. Jones used to live?”

“Well, no.”

“Anyway you turn right where Mr. Jones used to live and then you go about 2 miles and turn left at the store Mr. Jones used to run. You do know where that store is?”

“No.”

He looks at you, I’m not surprised you can’t find anything.”

What I like is when someone says, “I’m going there just follow me.” But Jesus did one better for Thomas who asked for directions to Heaven. Jesus told Thomas, “I am the directions, I’ll not just

tell you or show you how to get there, I'll take you there." If you know Christ as your Savior, He will take you to Heaven.

In another sermon, the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus spoke of the just two ways or roads people are travelling.

The first way or road is broad and travelled by the majority of people who are rejecting Christ as Savior and this road dead-ends in Hell (Matthew 7:13).

The other way or road is narrow and travelled by fewer and leads to Heaven and Jesus is the only way (Matthew 7:14).