

# Pie in the Sky

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In the New Testament John reports that Jesus says

## **John 14:2 (NASB95)**

- 2 “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.

As a result of this quotation we find people who believe that Jesus, the master carpenter, has entered heaven to build a mansion for them there.

Yes! Really! I’ve spoken to some of them.

The Greek conjunction  $\text{οτι}$  is translated here as ‘for’ but can also be translated as ‘that’ or ‘because’ or ‘since’. In this present case it is used in similar fashion to the conjunction ‘but’. Nevertheless it marks a difference rather than a contrast as ‘but’ does. Therefore He must be saying that the dwelling places in the Father’s house are one thing but I am going now so I can make a different place for you. Yes, a place (singular) for you (plural) as distinct from the dwelling places (plural) in My Father’s house.

What then is this *new* place Jesus tells us of? What place is/was He going to create for us? Has He created that place yet? Let’s read on. The subsequent verses should explain.

## **John 14:3–4**

- 3 “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.  
4 “And you know the way where I am going.”

Traditionally this has been interpreted to refer to the rapture, but does it? Clearly He says we will be where He is. In earlier verses He has just told Peter and others that they cannot follow Him now but they will follow Him later, presumably to the place He is about to prepare. They obviously cannot follow now because the place doesn’t yet exist. However Peter says he will lay down his life for Jesus. Jesus agrees that he will indeed lay his life down. Peter has now laid his life down and indeed he has followed Jesus in death and we know that he is now with Jesus and is in full fellowship with Him. And so we can now conclude that the place has been made and that it is ready and even that it is now occupied.

I have laid down my life, not in physical death yet but I have laid it down nevertheless. Now, like Peter, I occupy a place of fellowship with Jesus. So am I now occupying this place too? I say yes, I am. The place is called the Body of Christ, the Church, prepared by Jesus Himself for His brethren to dwell in and fellowship together.