① COMMANDS FOR The New Covenant Comm.

v.1 Let your heart NOT be Troubled

- Jesus would NOT say this to calm and trainquil disciples
- They were obviously troubled
  - maybe because they saw Jesus was "Troubled" in 13:20
  (although that "Trouble" was due to the betrayal and Jesus' concern for their faith upcoming test of faith)
- This trouble was most likely the result of Jesus saying He was leaving and they cannot come w/ Him

"Little children, I shall be with you a little while longer, you will seek me,... but where I am going, you cannot come 13:33

- This, without a doubt, shook them - they had left family and careers for Him (Matthew left a high paying job)
- Now when tension is high & they thought they would always have Him - He says He is leaving!
- Fear would grip anyone's heart

★ This fear & situation is not atypical
★ This situation echoes God's encouragement to His followers entering the Promised Land

"Look, the Lord your God has set the land before you, go up and posses it, as the Lord God of your fathers has spoken to you. Do not fear or be discouraged" Deut. 1:21

"Do not be terrified or afraid of them" Deut. 1:29

"When you go out to battle against your enemies, and you see the horses, and the chariots, and all the people more numerous than you, Do NOT be afraid of them; for the Lord your God is with you who brought you up from the land of Egypt"

"Hear O' Israel: Today you are on the verge of battle with your enemies. Do not let your heart be faint, do not be afraid, do not tremble or be terrified because of them. Deut. 20:1, 3

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid nor dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go" Josh. 1:9

- The parallels are huge and hard to miss

★ The apostles were headed into a new promised land w/ enemies
- yet told to not be afraid
- and they will have His Spirit v15-23

★ The work the Christian does is scary
- how we are to talk and act in this world puts us in great Danger! μεγα θλιψις

"In this world you will have tribulation but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" John 16:33

"We must through many tribulations enter the Kingdom of God" Acts 14:22 (συνεισερχομαι: begin to experience come into)

"I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and Kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ" Rev. 1:9

- As Foreshadowed throughout scripture...
The Kingdom is concurrent to the Tribulation

God tells Jeremiah before his dangerous journey..." Do not be afraid of their faces, For I am with you, to deliver you" Je. 1:8

- Jesus Quickly gives the remedy to Quench the fear

v.1 You believe in God, Believe also in Me
- In the same way you trust God - Put that same trust in me!!!
Foreshadowed in Moses (Ex. 14:31) and in the prophets (2 Chron. 20:20)

② FATHER'S HOUSE METAPHOR

- This metaphor (As God doesn't really have a "house") consists of:
1. My Father's house
2. many mansions/rooms/dwelling places
3. prepare a place

★ There are two main views of how to interpret this metaphor

① In heaven, there are many houses (enough room for all) and I'm leaving to prepare you a heavenly home, I will physically come back to take you to this heavenly home
- common view
- very little Biblical support

② God's presence consists of many different dwelling places and I'm going to prepare a Temple for God to dwell in you
- not as common of a view
- large amount of Biblical support

v.2 In My Father's house
- Support for "My Father's house" being heaven...
- God resides/Dwells in heaven, therefore it is metaphysically His "house"
- Number of times heaven is called Father's house in Bible: zero
- It's a logical guess, but little Biblical support
- 3rd Temple Literature, Philo, Rabbis, midrash speaks of "Eternal Dwellings" or heavenly houses

1 Enoch 39:4-5, 41:2, 71:18, 2 Enoch 61:2-3

- Evidence/support of My Father's house being The Temple (God's presence)
- Tabernacle was called God's house
- The Temple was called God's house
- House of the Lord = Temple 21x O.T.
- House of God = Temple 6x O.T.
  - Remember Ez 1, AND the name: Bethel
- N.T. EXAMPLES:

"He drove them all out of the Temple... and said, Take these things away, Do NOT make My Father's house a house of merchandise" John 2:15-16

"My Father's house shall be a house of prayer, NOT a den of thieves" Matt 21:13

"Do you not know that ye are the Temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you ...For the Temple of God is Holy, which Temple you are 1 Cor 3:16-17

"Do you not know that your (plural) body is the Temple of the Holy Spirit..." 1 Cor 6:19

"...Ye are now fellow citizens and members of the household of God...growing into a Holy Temple in the Lord, a dwelling place of God in the Spirit" Eph. 2:19-22

"Ye also as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices (Temple work)" 1 Pt. 2:5

"For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God, and if it begins with us first, what about those who do not obey the Gospel of God?" 1 Pt. 4:17

"IF I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which IS the church of the living God..." 1 Tim. 3:7

③ METAPHOR CONTINUED

v.2 In My Father's house are many mansions
- KJV, NKJV = Mansions
- ESV = Rooms
- NASB = Dwelling places

μονη = Dwelling places
- mansions isn't even close (Latin Mss)
- mansions makes no sense logically (how can these be mansions in a house)
- luxury is not the focus of this context or the Gospel
- Also, very interesting cross ref: cf. 14:23 We will make our home (μονη) with you

★ The μονη is where God dwells
★ So far, we have: God's presence is in the church, which is made of many dwelling places

v.2 If it were not so, I would have told you
- Jesus assures His apostles God can dwell (make His home) in many different places
- Again, remember Ez's vision

v.2 I go to prepare a place for you
prepare/create
- 2,000 plus years
- OR prepared by the cross (3 days)

place: TOTTOS
- place, opportunity - Acts 25:16
- often used for the "Holy Place" (TEMPLE) !!

★ The Jerusalem Temple was often called the Holy Place... or the Place (Deut. 12:5, 16:16, 17:8, 10, 18:6, 31:11)

"When you see the abomination of Des. spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the Holy Place (Temple)..." Matt 24:15

"The woman said,... our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say Jesus is the place (Temple) where we ought to worship" John 4:20

"IF we let Him alone like this, the Romans will come and take away both our place (Temple) and nation" John 11:48

"We have heard him (Stephen) say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place (Temple - John 2:19) and change the customs of Moses..." Acts 6:14

Paul was being arrested for "teaching everyone and everywhere against the Law and this place (Paul arrested in the Temple) Acts 21:28

So far... Exegesis: God's presence is in the church, which is made up of many dwelling places that Jesus has prepared by making you, the Church His New Temple/Holy place

③ I will come again

v.3 And if I go to prepare a place for you (plural), I will come again and receive you (plural) to Myself

- Jesus often says, He will come again to us... OR The coming of the LORD

★ There are 4 main meanings all depending on context:

① come for Judgment

"Behold the day of the Lord comes, cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, To lay the land desolate to destroy its sinners from it..." Is 13:9

(Stars, sun, moon no longer shine - v.10)
- apocalyptic imagery

"Behold, the Lord comes out of His place to punish the inhabitants... in that Day the Lord w/ His severe sword, great and strong will punish Leviathan, the fleeing serpent..." Is 26:21-27:1

"For as the lightning comes from the East and flashes to the west (EAST = Judg) so will the coming of the Son of Man be. For where the carcass is, the Eagles will be... Matt 24:27

★ This is Jesus' answer to the apostles Question of when the Temple will fall 24:3

② come again after His death and resurrection

"a little while and you wont see me then a little while and you will see me"... John 14:19

"A little while and you will see me then in a little while you will see me again" John 16:16

③ come in the Spirit/Kingdom

"Assuredly, I say to you, there are some standing here who shall not taste death, until they see the Son of Man coming in His Kingdom" Matt. 16:28

"The sun shall be turned into darkness and the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord. And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved" Joel 2
- Fulfilled according to Peter literally, Quote Joel 2 - ACTS 2

"If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father and I will love him and will come to him and make Our home in him. John 14:23

④ come again physically

Q: has Jesus been "preparing" this place for over 2,000 years now?
- Was this place (New Temple) prepared in 3 days by the cross
- OR are we still waiting for Him to come again to receive/dwell with us?

"This same Jesus, who was taken up to heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into Heaven" Acts 1:11

"We are looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and savior, Jesus Christ" Titus 2:13

"For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the LORD will by no means precede those who are asleep." 1 Thes 4:15

★ also, NOT to be confused w/ scripture speaking of His first coming (advent) FIRST coming/advent 2

"Rejoice Greatly, O daughter of Zion, shout O daughter of Jerusalem, Behold, your King is coming to you He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey" Zech 9:9

"Behold, I send My messenger (John the Baptist) and he will prepare the way before Me, and the Lord who you seek will suddenly come to His Temple Even the Messenger of the Covenant in whom you delight, Behold He is coming, says the Lord." Mal. 3:1

★ So... which best describes 14:3? (I will come again and receive you to Myself)
- common thought is #4... His physical 2nd coming
- But that hasn't happened yet which would mean no one has been "received" by Jesus
- most likely Jesus is referring to #3...
- He will come in the Spirit to receive you as a dwelling place (Temple) of God
- especially considering v.23

★ same word, "μονη" dwell in you

⑤ THE WAY, THE TRUTH, The Life

- understanding the prior metaphor helps us understand "the way"

v.5 Thomas said to Him, Lord we do not know where You are going, so how can we know the way?
- as typical, the apostles were confused by Jesus' metaphor
  - Destroy Temple, ch2
  - Born again, ch3
  - living water, ch4
  - living Bread, ch.6
  - Foot washing, ch13

Parables - Matt 13 (All Teachings confused them)

★ They now were confused on 1) where this way leeds and 2) how they can know the way

v.6 Jesus said to him, I am the Way, the Truth, and the life...
- this is the 6th "I am" statement
- All 7 are metaphorical... ALL
- I am the bread of Life - ch. 6
- I am the light of the world - ch. 8
- I am the Door of the sheep - ch. 10
- I am the Good shepherd - ch. 10
- I am the Resurrection & the life - ch. 11
- I am the way, truth, & Life - ch. 14
- I am the True Vine - ch. 15
- almost all of these were confusing at first

- So, with the common interpretation Jesus is the way to heaven, to have a mansion, that is being prepared and we will receive at His coming
- Less common, but more Biblical interpretation:
Jesus is the way to make you the new Temple where God dwells in you and is prepared/available now
- Jesus is the Truth
αληθεια: Reality
- Jesus is the Life
ζωη: come to life, vitality

"Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live" John 5:25

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die..." Do you believe this?" John 11:25-26

v.6 No one comes to the Father
- in heaven... OR
- To have Him dwell in you except through Me
- I alone will one day take you TO the Father... OR
- I alone can make you the New Temple to come to the Father's presence now