

# Building Home - My Father's House

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THE THEOLOGY OF HOME: FINDING SECURITY IN THE PROMISE OF CHRIST

THE UNIVERSAL NEED FOR SHELTER AND SECURITY

The concept of home is deeply rooted in the human experience. It begins as a physical reality—a small plot of land, an address—and expands outward into a neighborhood, a city, a province, and ultimately a nation. Every earthly home resides within a space and a place that is, was, and always will be a gift from God.

Home is fundamentally a shelter. It provides physical warmth, marks our territory, serves as a place to be fed, and offers a sanctuary where we can simply exist. There is a deep, psychological connection between a physical structure and human peace. When a person sets up a shelter—even a temporary tent on the tussocks of the Southern Alps in the southern Marlborough region—it rapidly becomes a place of comfort, warmth, and security. As soon as one returns to camp after a demanding day, the removal of a heavy pack brings an immediate sense of relief and security.

Consequently, the quickest way to disorient a person or a nation, and to induce profound feelings of insecurity, fear, and anxiety, is to strip away their home. Millions of people globally are facing this reality today, forced to flee as refugees due to the devastation of war. In a world that frequently refuses to welcome the displaced or acknowledge the basic human right to shelter, the notion of home is highly contestable and under active siege.

Followers of Jesus Christ, having been reconciled to God, are called to view this crisis differently. Because home and place matter deeply to God, they must matter to His church. God Himself chose to leave heaven and make His home among humanity. Therefore, the global body of believers must see the displaced and the marginalized as Jesus sees them: loved, special, created, and purposeful. Everyone requires a place to belong.

THE CELESTIAL PROMISE OF COMFORT

In the Gospel of John, Jesus addresses the reality of human anxiety by anchoring His disciples' security in an eternal dwelling place.

John 14:1-4

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going."

Context of the Upper Room

This passage is frequently reserved for funeral services, but its primary theological application is intended for the living. In the context of John 14, the disciples' world was on the verge of total collapse. Jesus had just revealed His upcoming betrayal and His imminent departure. The future they had envisioned over the previous three years was unraveling, leaving their hearts profoundly troubled.

The Remedy for Anxiety

Jesus does not dismiss or minimize their terror. Instead, He counters their fear with a absolute covenant promise. He directly links the cure for human anxiety to the guarantee of an eternal home. The original language of this text portrays a massive family estate with abundant space—a home where room is deliberately made for everyone.

## The Divine Architect

Jesus is not describing a sterile hotel built for strangers; He is preparing a designated space within His family home. Furthermore, He does not outsource this construction to an angelic host or a third-party contractor. Jesus is personally invested in the craftsmanship, shaping our eternal dwelling with His own nail-pierced hands.

This truth provides an unshakeable foundation for the believer. No matter how unstable an earthly housing situation may become—whether threatened by skyrocketing interest rates, catastrophic earthquakes, broken family dynamics, or emergency storm evacuations—the believer's eternal home remains rock solid. The final destination of the Christian is perfect belonging in the immediate presence of God, where the ultimate promise of scripture will be realized.

## Revelation 21:4

"He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

## THE EARTHLY IDENTITY OF THE BELIEVER

The Apostle Paul expands the theology of home from an individual future promise to a corporate present reality, demonstrating how believers are structurally integrated into God's spiritual household.

## Ephesians 2:19-21

"So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God."

## A Shift in Status

Through the gospel, our fundamental identity undergoes a radical transformation. Believers are no longer spiritual orphans, outsiders, or resident aliens. We have been granted full citizenship and legal membership within the immediate household of God.

## The Perfect Architecture

This spiritual house possesses an immovable foundation built upon the historical testimonies of the prophets and apostles, with Jesus Christ functioning as the Chief Cornerstone. The cornerstone is the primary stone set at the corner of a foundation, dictating the alignment, angle, and structural integrity of the entire building.

## The Inhabited Temple

This text carries a profound sense of comfort and total acceptance. The ultimate definition of home is not found in physical brick and mortar, but in the human heart resting fully in Jesus Christ. As believers are joined together across communities and generations, we are constructed into a living, breathing temple where the Spirit of God permanently resides.

## OUR CALL TO BUILD EARTHLY EMBASSIES

Because Jesus is actively preparing an eternal home for His people, the Church is formally tasked with building healthy, gospel-centered homes on earth. When believers establish spaces of safety, unconditional love, and radical acceptance, they are providing a broken world with a tangible preview of the coming Kingdom of God.

This celestial mandate translates into three distinct, practical actions:

### Building Physical Homes

Though the housing market in Aotearoa New Zealand presents immense financial challenges, the Church must actively care for those lacking stable housing. This involves partnering with missional organizations, giving generously of our financial resources, advocating wisely for systemic solutions, and

engaging in local neighborly acts like physical home repairs.

#### Building Spiritual Homes

The Church must ensure that new believers and young generations are never left to fend for themselves as spiritual orphans. Every small group, youth night, and corporate Bible study functions as intentional room-building within the house of God. We must prioritize the intentional discipleship of our children and the deliberate mentoring of young believers.

#### Rebuilding Broken Homes

Through the ministries of professional counseling, radical forgiveness, and intentional presence during crises, Christians are called to step into the wreckage of fractured relationships. Those who have experienced divine marital restoration and family healing must share their testimonies openly to offer authentic hope to the hurting.

#### THE RECONCILIATION MISSION OF THE CHURCH

Evangelism and global mission are, at their core, acts of spiritual home-building. When an individual surrenders their life to Christ, they instantly gain an eternal home and an immediate spiritual family.

Our model for this missional hospitality is Jesus Himself. In John 4, Jesus deliberately traveled through Samaria—crossing deeply entrenched cultural, racial, and religious barriers—solely to reach an isolated outsider. He offered living water to the Samaritan woman so that she could finally find her true home. He extended that same restoration to the blind, the leper, and the societal outcast.

The benchmark of final judgment reflects this precise heart for the outsider: "I was a stranger and you welcomed me" (Matthew 25:35). This missional calling is vividly demonstrated through ministries like Arotahi (the New Zealand Baptist Missionary Society), which actively constructs physical spaces of sanctuary, education, and community transformation in nations like Bangladesh and India, while simultaneously developing housing initiatives in local sectors like Christchurch to care for the displaced.

The door to Christ's home is permanently open, and His arms are continually extended in invitation. Scripture guarantees that everyone who knocks will find the door opened unto them. Secure in our eternal citizenship, the Church must now go forth as ambassadors of reconciliation, building communities characterized by strong foundations, loving walls, and wide-open doors.