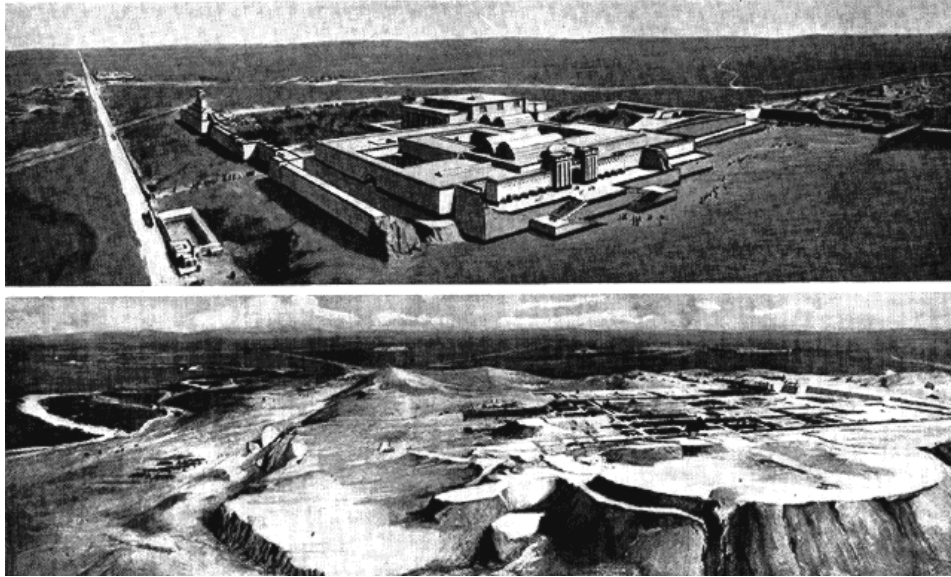


Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled

John 14:1-4

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.
And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.



Did you ever realize or did you know that the Bible words in John 14:1-4 as used by Jesus are taken directly out of the oriental marriage ceremony?

Every preacher and teacher uses these words frequently and we hear them at almost every funeral service. They are wonderful words, Jesus used them, and they are still being used today in India. But let me give you the background.

In New Testament Bible days a wedding ceremony lasted ten days. On the tenth day the bride and groom are declared husband and wife. For the first 12 months of their wedded life the two young people just learn to understand and live with each other. (Not a bad idea.) They live two months with the groom's parents, then two months with the bride's parents. They commute back and forth between the in-laws every two months, concluding their first year of married life in the home of the bride's parent's.

At the conclusion of this first year of marriage there is a unique religious service, with all the people of the town present. The husband brings forth his wife, appearing before all the village people. He stands his wife in front of him, facing himself, with the best man on his right side and the virgins that attended the wedding on his left hand, and with loving authority the husband says to his wife before them all, "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. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know."

Every son in New Testament times had to live in his father's house until his father's death. So the son after his first year of marriage leaves to prepare a "mansion," new apartment, in his father's house. After it is completed he returns for his bride and wife.

Jesus by using the very words of a bridegroom to his bride teaches us a lesson of great spiritual power. When you are married to me "Let not your heart be troubled;..." The bride trusts the groom while he is away preparing their "mansion" in his father's house. She does not worry although she fails to receive a letter, or a bouquet of roses, or sweet smelling perfume every day. She believes her husband's words, "Let not your heart be troubled..."

Jesus is coming back again for his own. He has declared it publicly before his people, therefore, let not your heart be troubled in any way for Jesus' return is more certain than the return of a man for his wife.

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