

Do you want to know more about Ascension  
and Pentecost?

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# I GO TO PREPARE A PLACE FOR YOU

*Bible, John 14:2*

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**‘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.’**

### **Housing shortage**

Many people are confronted with this problem. You may have been looking for a place to live for many months, but you always miss out on that house. Maybe you have been evicted from your home. You were forced onto the street because the problems rose over your head and you couldn't pay the bills anymore. Perhaps you are fleeing from war and other terrorism. Millions of people in this world have been displaced from their homes.

### **Ascension**

But what does all this have to do with Ascension? In the Bible text above we read that Jesus says that in the house of God there are many mansions and that He is going there to prepare a place.

So Jesus – after He rose from the dead – went up to heaven to make preparations for the coming of all those who believe on Him. For all who can no longer find their home on this earth and who are on their way as pilgrims to another, infinitely better destination. Not because they cannot find an earthly home or are fleeing from disasters and other violence, but because they have become followers of Jesus.

### **Pentecost**

But how does one become a follower of Jesus? The Holy Spirit brings this to pass. At Pentecost Christians remember the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. That is why Jesus went back to heaven, so that the Holy Spirit would come. The Holy Spirit causes our eyes to be opened for the reality of God's existence, so that we can behold who God is and who we ourselves are. For this purpose, He uses the Bible, the Word of God. The Holy Spirit shows us that we have run away from our original home, that is, we have forsaken God. We call that "sin". He also ensures that people realize that because of this, we will never really feel at home on earth ever again, even if we do have a beautiful home.

Pentecost may be a long time ago, but it is still highly topical, because God still sends the Holy Spirit to people all over the world. God is pleased to convict people of their sins, and to give them true joy and peace in the midst of the turmoil of this world, that afterwards they may be with God forever. Whether you are looking for a home, evicted because of debts, fleeing because of war, or in possession of a nice house: only then you are **really** home.

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