**MANSIONS OVER THE HILLTOP**

 **John 14:2**, KJV: “In My Father’s House are many mansions…” Greek: (mon-ay) an abiding place, dwelling. #3438 Strong’s Greek Concordance: An “individual dwelling is only referred to in 2 places in the Bible, both by Messiah” (**John 14:2 and John 14:23**)

 **John 14:1-3**: “Let not your heart be troubled. Believe in Elohim, believe also in Me. [2](https://biblehub.com/john/14-2.htm) In My Father’s house are many staying places. And if not, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. [3](https://biblehub.com/john/14-3.htm) And if I go and prepare a place for you, I shall come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, you might be too.”

 Note: Only the King James uses the English word “mansions.”

 **John 14:23**: “…a home with him will make” (mon-ay). “If anyone loves Me, he shall guard My Word. And My Father shall love him, and We shall come to him and make Our stay with him.”

 (The Scriptures) **John 14:23** is talking about the same type of “dwelling” as in **Psalm 91:1**. Abba Yahuwah comes to dwell in us, when we ask Yahushua Messiah to baptize us into the Spirit of Yahuwah. He comes into our belly area, (**John 7:37-39**) as He once came over the Ark in the Most Set-Apart Place in the temple. In **I Kings 8**, Solomon called this area “the speaking place.” It is there that He speaks, teaches, instructs, guides, convicts, and transforms us. In eternity we will dwell among the born again in our Father’s “staying places of dwelling.”

 In American fundamental Christianity the idea of having one’s individual mansion in heaven came largely from the teaching that went forth in the 1940s, and the song “Mansion Over the Hilltop” by Ira Stanphill.

 America had gone through “the Great Depression” in the 1930s, and WWII, and so this song among Christians became a doctrine i.e. that we’ll each have our own mansion in heaven. And, of course to back it, as Christianity does, they have to have a Bible verse to go with it, and the King James Version provided that in one verse – **John 14:2**. But, it the American idea of a mansion what Messiah was talking about? **"Mansion Over the Hilltop"**

This song was written in 1949 by Ira F. Stanphill. He was born on February 14, 1914. He was a  very gifted musician.  By the age of 10 he was playing the piano, organ, ukulele, and the accordion.  He was singing and composing by the time he reached 17.  He participated in revival crusades, prayer meetings, and ten campaigns.  He graduated from the Junior College in Chillicothe, Missouri, and later was made an honorary Ph.D. from Hyles-Anderson College in Indiana.  He preached and sung all over America and 40 other countries.  He was inducted into the GMA Hall of Fame in 1981 and published his autobiography, This Side of Heaven, in 1983. He wrote over 550 gospel songs throughout his life. Rev. Stanphill departed this world on December 30, 1993 and is buried in Johnson County Chapel and Memorial Gardens in Overland Park, Johnson County, Kansas

A story told by evangelist Bro. Gene Martin, who was preaching at Bethel Temple Assembly of God Church in Oak Cliff, Texas. Inspired the pastor, Rev. Albert Ott to make the suggestion to Bro. Stanphill to write a song about the mansion that waits for us over there in heaven and he immediately wrote the lyrics and sang the song that very night.  Unfortunately, Bro. Gene Martin was not present that night this favorite hymn was born.

This is the way his story was told.  One day a wealthy man facing bankruptcy took a drive through the rural part of the country. As he passed one particular house it caught his attention. It was needing a paint job and repairs of all kinds. The broken window glasses were replaced with oil paper. Many shingles as well as part of the roof were missing which made him wonder how the house was even still standing. A young girl about the age of 8 or 9 and poorly dressed was playing in the front yard. The man was compelled to stop and talk to the young girl. In their conversation, he mentioned how sorry he was that she lived in such a poor surrounding. The little girl excitely asked him, "Why haven't you heard? My daddy just inherited a fortune and he's building us a mansion just over that hill over there. Don't know when it will be done, but I won't have to live in this house forever.

Song Lyrics
Verse 1
I'm satisfied with just a cottage below
A little silver and a little gold.
But in that city where the ransomed will shine
I want a gold one thats silver lined.

Chorus
I've got a mansion just over the hilltop
In that bright land where we'll never grow old
And someday yonder, we will never more wander
But walk on streets that are pure as gold.

Verse 2
Though often tempted, tormented, and tested
And like the prophet, my pillows a stone
And though I find here no permanent dwelling
I know He'll give me a mansion my own.

Verse 3
Don't think me poor or deserted or lonely
I'm not discouraged I'm heaven bound
I'm but a pilgram in search of the city.
I want a mansion, a harp, and a crown.

 Instead of discipline, taking the responsibility necessary, the diligence, the hearing and obeying, American coming out of the Great Depression longed for prosperity and material possessions. The people of the nation, without knowing, it began their turn towards idolatry with the lust to make money and obtain possessions. Thus, the song encouraged the poor during hard times that one day they’d have their own private mansion – and, as the song goes, made of gold.

 Yes, as America became the great super power of the world, the carnality and lust for material things, for wealth, for being “somebody” in the eyes of man, became the roll-model for Christians also, ignoring the requirements necessary to receive from “God.” This turning point began after the end of WWII when America became the world’s super power, and we used that power to correct the world and prepare the people for the coming of “antichrist.”

 Now the nation of a past Christianity is denying Messiah, denying the Bible as the Word of God, denying basic principles for being born again, while still clinging to their Cinderella imagination of a “mansion over the hilltop” by American standards. All the new doctrines and focus is to obtain for one’s self. No more sorrow, no more pain – only getting what we want. They do not want to hear that “it is through much tribulation that we enter the Kingdom,” that we have to overcome, “fight the good fight of faith,” and “endure to the end.” Preparation for martyrdom is not a popular sermon title as it was in the days of Jonathan Edwards, when his sermon “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God” had people on their knees crying out to God for forgiveness.

 The KJV and most translations into the English are filled with American-thinker words and expressions that conjure up false thinking from what the original words of Hebrew and/or Greek say and mean.

 In 2007, in Jordan, Abba asked me to list errors in doctrine in just Evangelical, Charismatic, and Pentecostal denominations. I quickly listed 66 such false teachings in 2007 before leaving Jordan. Now a very high percentage of those groups in American Christendom are apostate by the standards of Yahuwah in their original language and culture’s standards.

 As my friend Connie in Tiberias said so emphatically: “THE BIBLE IS NOT AN AMERICAN DOCUMENT.” No, the Bible is NOT a Greco-Roman culture document. The Word of Yahuwah comes from an ancient culture that goes back thousands of years. In **Exodus 6**, Abba told Moses that Abraham only knew Him as “Shaddai,” the Almighty. Moses was to tell the children of Israel in Egypt that His Name is Yahuwah, meaning “I AM – the ever-existing One.” In Isaiah, He said of Himself: I, I AM Yahuwah, that is My Name, and my esteem I will not give to another.” Messiah said to the enraged Pharisees: “Before Abraham was, I AM.”

 I lived in Jordan for 7 years. Egyptians came into Aqaba, Jordan to build houses. They laid 30’ foundations of metal and stone. The first level was for mom and dad. The houses did not have roofs that closed the house in and finished it off. The plumbing and electrical system fixtures were left standing up on a flat roof, so that elderly parents, older unmarried children, or married children could have a place built – to keep the families together.

 Families stayed together. So, since the fixtures were already there, all the builders had to do was build on top of the first floor where the parents lived. Thus, parents and children could live together in one two-story or three-story house.

 In the house I stayed in the last 5 years I was there, the bottom house was quite large, so two small apartment-sized houses were built on top of it. These were rented out since the couple in the lower house were young and their children were only elementary school age. I rented one such new apartment above a family. I told them the only thing it was missing was for me to have a balcony, like I had on my first apartment in Aqaba. In the first apartment the balcony opened up to the headwaters of the Gulf of Aqaba, and faced Israel, Egypt, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia. So, with the second apartment, the owner took me up a flight of stairs to the roof. It was flat and laid out to put a third level on it if needed. He said “This is your balcony.” I put a table and chair up there, and spent many happen days and evenings there. To me, it was a mansion. I paid $213.00 a month for that newly built second-story apartment.

 To me those lovely apartments in Jordan were better than a mansion. When I moved over to Tiberias, Israel, all the apartment houses faced Lake Kinneret (Sea of Galilee), facing the Golan Heights. They all had balconies too. For six weeks I got up for the sunrise over the Golan. It was a time of Abba’s teaching. I took lots of pictures. Being right on the Lake turned my apartments into mansions for me. Abba has “staying places” for us. But, the western Greco-Roman world’s idea of everyone having their own mansion in heaven is major carnality to the max. Abba/Daddy wants a family. Messiah didn’t die and rise again so that a bunch of greedy self-centered brats could live in luxury on streets of gold. Now the Beast, Lucifer’s main man, is preparing to have all born-again Christians or not, Messianic or not, killed/martyred for their faith. Who are we loyal to?

 In affluent nations, a mansion is a large house filled with one’s possessions. In affluent nations possessions are very important to people. Yes, they work hard – even a lifetime – for a big house and possessions. Yet, their spirit is slowly but surely swept in to suspended animation and no one speaks from their spirit. The world system is greatly honored. Religion is honored, but the possessions are adored and even worshipped without one’s knowing what is taking over them. I will be pointing this out as I podcast **Jeremiah 10**.

 Love of this world dulls the spirit into lifelessness, as one’s surroundings give them feelings of security. The more possessions, the more security, the duller one gets towards eternity.

 **I John 2:15-17**: “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world…”

People do not realize that the allurement of the “mansion” mentality makes one dull towards the call of discipleship. The call to “go into all nations and preach the Good News,” or even share the Good News in your neighborhood, town, county, state, and nation, is something totally rejected. **Acts 1:8** is ignored, and the Spirit’s will is not wanted or obeyed.

 As the words of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Messiah in Revelation, and throughout the Word are coming to pass rapidly and America faces total annihilation – all set up without, and within – people go on to find their fun, their security, their comfort, from the things of this world. (**Isaiah 13, 47, Jeremiah 50-51, Revelation 17-18**)

 Messiah told us that to walk the narrow path to the narrow gate that leads to life is “hard pressed,” as the raking of the “tribulum,” the farm instrument that put pressure on wheat to free it of tares and chaff. It is our greatest blessing in this life. (**Matthew 7:13-14**)

 Having the Presence, the peace or Yahuwah and Yahushua in our spirit, changes of mind, quietens our emotions, strengthens our will, and takes us through with rewards awaiting us.

 Things are in the turning stage now – into “great tribulation.” How far that is away I don’t know, but in my spirit I feel we’re talking months. Let us he like Noah and humbly obey.

 Study the Word with a leading Concordance, uniting a topic throughout the Word, in the language of the culture in which it was written. Using Biblehub.com you can access the Interlinear on a particular verse. There also you can access the Strong’s Concordance word meanings. The English so often gives impressions that are not Yahuwah’s nature, ways or thinking. Use a Concordance to find all verses on a topic.

 Get your understanding of what you see and hear from Yahuwah in your spirit. “Let Elohim be true and every man a liar,” the Word warns. Take everything to Yahuwah in prayer so that you come to know His nature, ways, and thinking, and thus understand His Word. He doesn’t change. Get to know Him as He is! When you know the Father, you’ll know the Son too.

In His love, shalom, blessing, Yedidah

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