

# Pilgrim's Progress

By John Bunyan

Retold by Bible Visuals, 1959, USA



## About the author

In England, in 1628, a little boy was born to Mr and Mrs Bunyan. They called their son John. When he grew up, John became the author of a world-famous book called *Pilgrim's Progress*.

John knew that God had called him to be a preacher. In England at that time, the church had a rule that preachers had to preach exactly in the church they were told to preach in and nowhere else. But John did not preach in only one particular church. He preached wherever he knew God wanted him to preach. In doing so he disobeyed the laws of England and was put in jail for 12 years.

In jail, he had only two books. One was the Bible. The other was a book of biographies of people who had been put to death for preaching about their faith.

One night while in prison, John had a dream. John decided to write a story about his dream, which was about a pilgrim who travelled from a place of evil to Heaven. That book became the world-famous book called *Pilgrim's Progress*.

# 1. Pilgrim's Burden

Pilgrim lived in a place called the City of Destruction. Often, he did things which he knew were wrong. But he was not really sorry for his sins. One day he found an old book called *The Bible*. He picked it up and read it. As he read, he learned that unless he got rid of his sins, he, along with all those who lived in the City of Destruction, would one day be destroyed.

Day after day, as Pilgrim read the Bible, he felt the burden of sin grow heavier and heavier. Finally, it seemed to him that he had a real burden on his back. That is to say, a real heavy weight on his back.



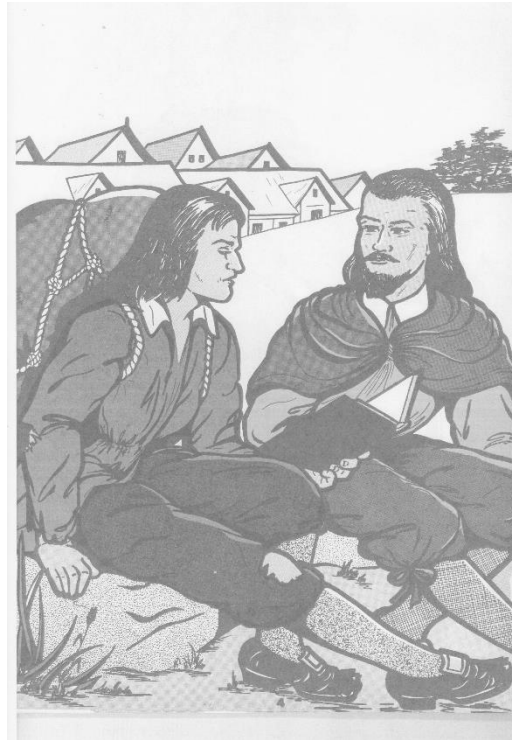
One day, as Pilgrim was reading and feeling very sad and unhappy, a man came to the City of Destruction. The man's name was Evangelist. He was sent by the Good King, who lived in the Celestial City. The Good King loved the people of the City of Destruction. He wanted everyone there to come and live with Him in the Celestial City, where they would be happy forever. And so, He sent His messengers, called evangelists, to tell the people in the City of Destruction how to get to the Celestial City.

When Evangelist saw Pilgrim reading the Bible and looking sad, he spoke to him.

“Why are you so sad?” he asked.

“Because I have been reading in this book,” replied Pilgrim, “that all have sinned and fall short of God’s standard. (Rom 3:23). I have also read, that after death there is judgement. (Hebrews 9:27). I do not want to die with this heavy burden if sin on my back. I don’t know how to get rid of it.”

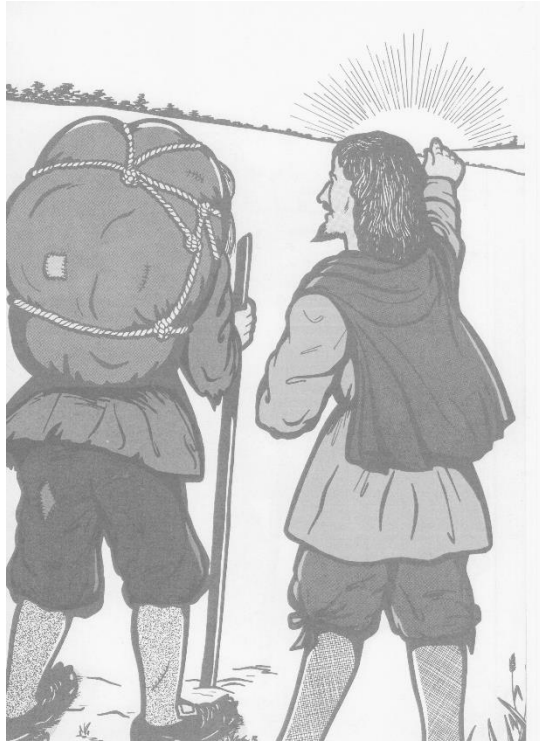
Evangelist showed Pilgrim the verse from the Bible which says, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved”, (Acts 16:31).



“But I *do* believe in God, and I *do* believe in Jesus,” said Pilgrim. “But my burden is still there. I can feel it on my back.”

Standing to his feet, Evangelist sighed and said, “I can see you do not really understand what it means to *believe* in the Lord Jesus Christ.”

“Stand to your feet Pilgrim, and look in the direction to which I am pointing. Do you see that gate off in the distance?”



“No,” said Pilgrim. “Perhaps it’s because of these tears in my eyes. But I cannot see any gate.”

“Look harder, Pilgrim. It is the *Gate of Decision*. It is through that gate you must pass before you can be rid of your burden of sin. Inside that gate stands a cross. To that cross you must come, truly believing that the Lord Jesus Christ died for your sins, just as it says in the Bible. Can you see the gate, Pilgrim?”

“No, Evangelist. I cannot see the gate. I fear that I will never enter there and be rid of my burden of sin.”

But Evangelist would not allow Pilgrim to give up hope. “Pilgrim,” he said, “perhaps you can see the light which shines over the Gate of Decision.”

Wiping the tears from his eyes, Pilgrim looked in the direction that Evangelist was pointing. “Yes, Evangelist, I do see a light. I do! I do!”

Thanking Evangelist, and with the Bible in his hand and the load of sin still on his back, Pilgrim travelled out of the city toward the Gate of Decision which stood on a hill. Many of those who lived in the City of Destruction made fun of him. But Pilgrim did not answer them. He kept on going.

Finally, when Pilgrim thought he could carry his burden no longer, he came to the gate. Over it he read, "Knock, and it shall be opened for you." Pilgrim saw a light shining out from the other side of the gate. It was the light which had guided him. Its beams seemed to spell out: "Seek, and you will find."

Timidly, Pilgrim reached out his hand and knocked.

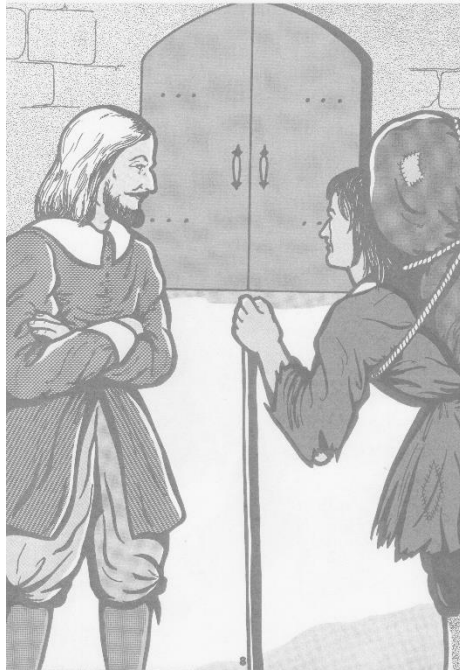


Immediately the gate was opened and a hand reached out, drawing him quickly inside the gate.

## 2. Pilgrim's Discovery

After the hand had reached out and pulled Pilgrim inside the Gate of Decision, he stood quite still. Outside he heard noises. "Ping! Thud! Ping! Thud!"

Again and again Pilgrim heard the strange sounds. The man whose hand had drawn Pilgrim inside simply stood and waited for Pilgrim to speak.



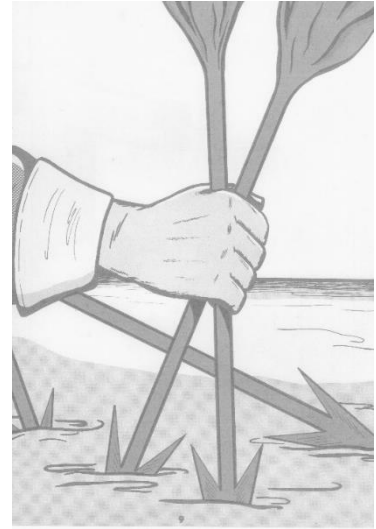
"Why did you draw me in so quickly? Pilgrim asked. "And what are those noises that I hear outside the gate? And please sir, who are you?"

Smiling, the man replied, "I shall answer your last question first, Pilgrim. My name is Mr Good-Will. I am a servant of the good King, and like Evangelist, my work is to help those who choose to travel to the Celestial City."

Mr Good-Will continued, "Also you want to know why I drew you inside so quickly and what the noises were that you heard outside. You, my dear Pilgrim, have just made the most important decision you could ever make. When you came to this gate and knocked, you were coming the only way anyone may come if he is ever to enter the Celestial City and live with the Good King and His Son forever. But the

Good King has an evil enemy! His name is Satan. Satan hates the Good King. He does all he can to make pilgrims turn back to the City of Destruction.

“The noises which you heard were Satan’s darts which were hurled at you. The ‘ping’ was the sound of darts flying through the air, and the ‘thud’ which you heard was the sound those darts made as they hit the earth. They hit the earth instead of hitting you, Pilgrim. Would you like to know what the darts are called? Mr Good-Will asked.



“Oh yes sir, I would indeed,” Pilgrim replied.

Opening the gate carefully, just wide enough to be able to reach outside, Mr Good-Will picked up two darts from the ground.

Pilgrim read the words, “Wait awhile – there is no hurry,” on one arrow, and on the other, “No one else is doing it – everyone will laugh at you.”

“There are many more darts which Satan throws,” Mr Good-Will said. “But these will show you how he tries to keep people from entering the Gate of Decision.”

“Thank you, Mr Good-Will,” Pilgrim said, “But see, I still have my heavy burden of sin. Evangelist said I would get rid of it when I got inside this gate.”

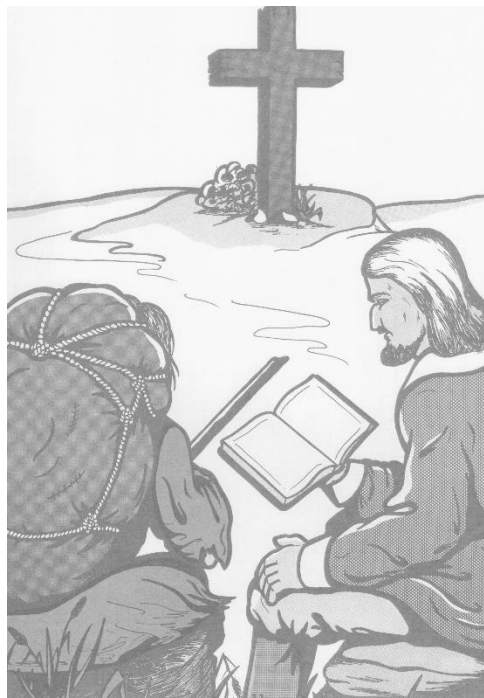




Taking Pilgrim by the shoulders, Mr Good-Will turned him around. “Face this way Pilgrim,” he said. As Pilgrim turned, he saw a rough wooden cross. “From now on, keep your eyes turned in this direction. Never turn to look at the old life you have left behind in the City of Destruction. Would you like to know what the cross means, Pilgrim?” Mr Good-Will asked gently.

“Oh yes please!” said Pilgrim. “I told Evangelist I *do* believe in God and I *do* believe that the Lord Jesus died on the cross, but my burden still remains. Evangelist said I do not *truly* believe. Please Mr Good-Will, tell me how.”

Mr Good-Will reached for the Bible which Pilgrim still clutched in his hands. “The ‘how’ has been here all the time, Pilgrim,” he said, “but you have not understood.”



As Mr Good-Will read from the Bible, Pilgrim seemed to see before his eyes the things of which Mr Good-Will read. He saw the Good King’s Son leave Heaven and come to earth and be born as a human baby. Then he saw that baby grow to a man, and He was nailed to a cross – a cross like the one that stood before him.

Pilgrim was about to cry out, “Don’t let them kill Him!”

At that moment he heard Mr Good-Will say, "It was for you, Pilgrim. It was for you, for me and the whole world. Unless the Lord Jesus Christ took the punishment for our sins, we could never be forgiven. We could never enter the Celestial City. He took your place, Pilgrim. The Bible says that we are all like sheep that have gone astray. We have all turned to our own way. But the Lord has placed our sin upon Jesus at the cross." (Isaiah 58:6)



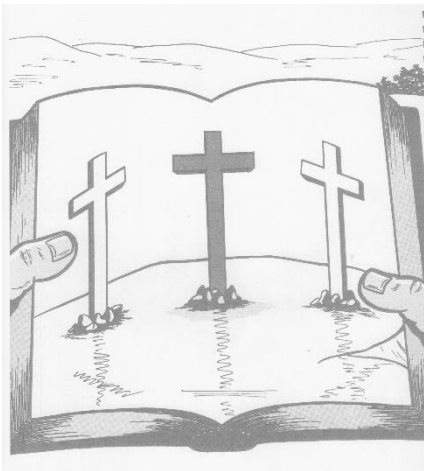
As Pilgrim listened, Mr Good-Will continued to read from the Bible about the thieves who were nailed to crosses, one on the left and one on the right of Jesus. One thief said to Jesus, "If you are God, then why don't you save yourself and us too?"

But the other thief believed who Jesus really was and said, "We are dying as punishment for the wrong we have done, but this man Jesus has done nothing wrong." Then he asked of Jesus, "Please remember me - I want to be with you in your Kingdom."

Jesus said, "You will surely be with me in Paradise."

As Pilgrim listened to Mr Good-Will, he knew that he wanted to be like the thief who wanted to be with Jesus. Pilgrim prayed a prayer, “Lord Jesus, I truly believe that you died for me. I’m sorry for my sins, and I want to live with you forever. I receive you as my Saviour.”

The moment Pilgrim prayed these words, he felt the burden of sin loosen from his back, and turning around, he saw it roll down a steep hill and disappear out of sight. Falling to his knees, Pilgrim prayed, “Thank you God, for sending your Son to die upon the cross for me. And thank you for sending Your messengers to help me understand. Amen.”



Shaking Pilgrim’s hand, Mr Good-Will said, “Remember, you are still a pilgrim. You are still traveling to the Celestial City. But you are now a *Christian* pilgrim. You are still traveling to the Celestial City. But you are now a *Christian* pilgrim. You may use the name ‘*Christian*’ instead of Pilgrim if you like.”

“Oh yes, that can be my name. From now in I will call myself ‘Christian’. But I must be on my way. I am eager to get to the Celestial City to see the Good King and His Son. I want to thank them for saving me from the City of Destruction. I can travel much faster now without that heavy burden.”

“It may be a long journey to the Celestial City,” Mr. Good-Will said. Some enter when they are quite young. Others have to wait until they are older. Now on your way Pilgrim, you must first stop at the Palace Beautiful. You will see it when you take the next turn in the path.”

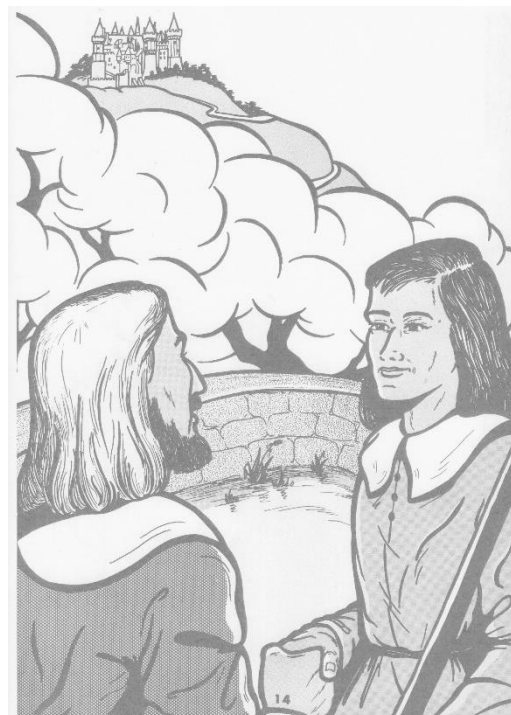
“But why?” Pilgrim asked impatiently. “Why must I stop there?”

“Because,” Mr. Good-Will replied, “that enemy who tried to hinder you from entering the Gate of Decision will now try to keep you from travelling on the narrow path. He will try to keep you from living for the Good King. He will never leave you alone until you have entered the Celestial City.”

Seeing Christian’s look of fear, Mr. Good-Will continued, “Do not be afraid. He can never force you back through this Gate and back to the City of Destruction. The Good King knows you cannot stand against the wicked prince alone. He has more friends waiting for you in the Palace Beautiful. They are waiting to help you. When you arrive at the Palace Beautiful, you will be given something that is exactly what you need to help you fight against the wicked prince and his followers.”

Pilgrim was about to ask what that “something” was when Mr. Good-Will said, “I shall not tell you any more now. Be patient and be on your way. You have enough time to reach the Palace Beautiful before dark.”

Again thanking Mr. Good-Will, Pilgrim hurried along the path that would take him to the Palace Beautiful. He kept wondering what the certain “something” was.



Pilgrim travelled along the path more quickly now. How good it felt to be rid of that heavy burden of sin! And how eager he was to be on his way to the Celestial City. However, he kept watch for the Palace Beautiful.

And then, just as the sun was setting, Christian saw it – the Palace Beautiful. It was standing on a hill and looked friendly and inviting. As he looked, the lights went on one by one and shone through the windows. Up the narrow path Christian hurried. As he got closer, he heard singing. The words of the song were:

*“Fight the good fight like a soldier,*

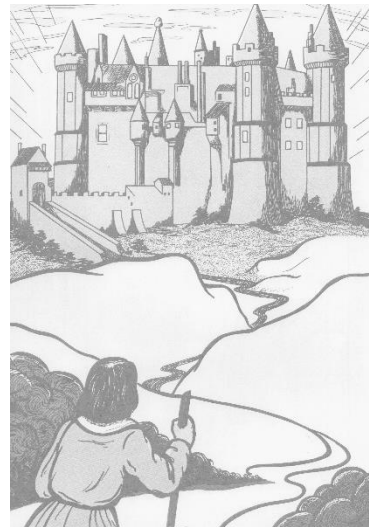
*Put on the armour of God.*

*The belt and the breastplate and helmet,*

*The shoes and the shield and the sword.*

*The Saviour will give you the victory*

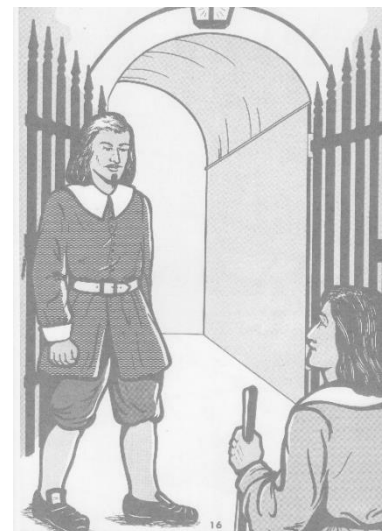
*And be with you wherever you go.”*



As Pilgrim paused to listen, he saw that the gate to the palace was open. Then he noticed a man standing guard. Motioning for Pilgrim to come closer, the guard asked, “Who are you? Where have you come from? Why are you here?”

“My name is Pilgrim – *Christian* Pilgrim. I have come from the City of Destruction. I desire to get to the Celestial City. Mr. Good-Will, who helped me through the Gate of Decision, said I would find friends here.” (Pilgrim was also thinking about the “something” that Mr. Good-Will said he would find here. But he did not think it was good manners to mention that!)

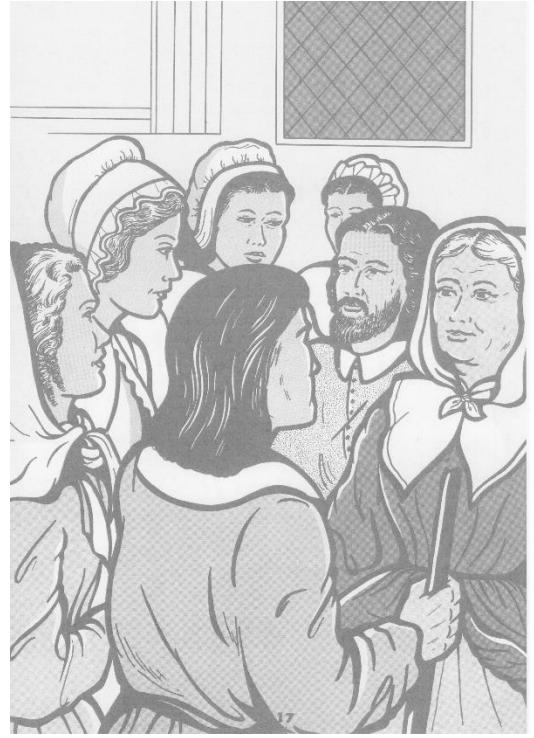
“Wait here for a moment,” the guard commanded. “I will call one of the young ladies who lives here.”



Pilgrim had not long to wait. A came out of the palace and talked to him. When she was certain he was a Christian and had been sent by Mr. Good-Will, she invited him inside.

Inside, the young lady introduced Pilgrim to her sisters and her parents. “We are a happy family,” the mother said, “and we too are Christians. Our command from the Good King is to welcome pilgrims who are on their way to the Celestial City. Here you will find rest and peace and gain strength for your journey. We welcome you!”

Pilgrim thanked the ladies for their kindness. After he had been given a good meal, he was shown where to sleep that night.



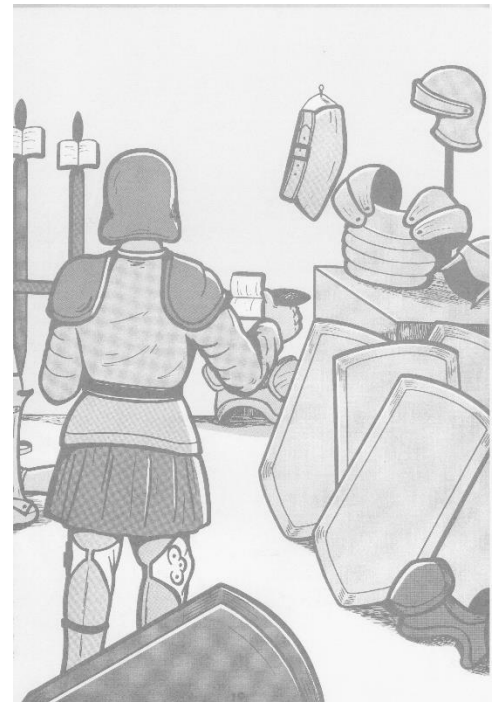
Pilgrim noticed that the name of the room was PEACE. Hanging on the wall was a tapestry with the words:

*“When you lie down you will not be afraid, and your sleep shall be sweet.”*

Almost immediately Pilgrim fell asleep. In the morning the sisters showed Pilgrim many things in the castle. He kept wondering what the “something” was that they would give him.

### **3. Pilgrim’s Armour**

He had not long to wait, for soon he was taken to a room called *the Armory*. There Pilgrim saw all sorts of armour hanging on the walls. “One of these will be your size,” one young lady said. “The Good King wants His Christian Pilgrims to wear the armour He provides for them. Every Christian must fight many battles you know, against the wicked prince. And here is a Bible, which will be your sword.”



Pilgrim put on his new armour and was preparing to leave when one of the sisters said, "There is one thing more. It is something that is very important for every Christian to use at all times and in all places."

She led Pilgrim to a small room. "Enter," she said as she drew a curtain aside. As Pilgrim entered, he saw another weapon. It was called: "*praying always – watching*".

Falling to his knees Pilgrim made use of the weapon immediately. "Dear God," he prayed, "Help me to remember always to watch and pray as I travel to Your city. Amen."

"This is a powerful weapon," Pilgrim thought, "which shall be locked inside my heart forever, ready to use at any instant."



Just as he was ready to leave, Pilgrim's friends stood and admired his armour. "It fits well," one of them said. Then they started to sing the song Pilgrim had heard when he first arrived:

*"Fight the good fight like a soldier,  
Put on the armour of God.  
The belt and the breastplate and helmet,  
The shoes and the shield and the sword.  
The Saviour will give you the victory  
And be with you wherever you go."*

Now he understood what the song meant.



When they had finished singing, Pilgrim thanked his friends once more and started down a steep hill. He felt brave and strong in his new armour. Yet he found it was more difficult going down this hill than it had been to climb the hill which led to the Palace beautiful!

“It is strange that it should be harder to go downhill than up,” Pilgrim thought. (He did not know that he was going down into the valley of humiliation.)

Stepping proudly along, Pilgrim did not notice a monster which was coming towards him. He did not notice until the monster was directly in front of him. Unafraid, because of his armour, Pilgrim called out loudly, “Who are you, sir? Step aside and allow me to pass.”



With that, the monster Apollyon, who was really the wicked prince, roared, “Step aside indeed! You once belonged to me, and even though you now belong to the King who lives in the Celestial City, you shall obey me. I hate that King!”

Suddenly Pilgrim did not feel quite so brave. He was about to run back the way he had come. Seeing Pilgrim’s fear, the wicked prince laughed. “Your shiny new armour has not been tried yet, has it? Do you think it can protect you against *me*? He! Ha! I have a little job I want you to do for me – perhaps more than one. And you shall!”

Pilgrim remembered the weapon locked in his heart. Quickly he prayed, “Dear God, help me!” After he prayed, he felt stronger and braver. Drawing his Bible sword, he said, “I shall not do the wrong thing. You cannot make me!”



With a roar which made the earth tremble, Apollyon began throwing fiery darts at Pilgrim. Each fell against the shield, until one hit his hand. Pilgrim dropped his sword. Laughing, Apollyon came close. It looked like he was going to win the battle, until Pilgrim reached out and grabbed his sword. He gave Apollyon a powerful thrust. Wounded and screaming with rage, Apollyon turned and stumbled off.

Pilgrim lay a long time in the Valley of Humiliation. He was ashamed because he had so quickly forgotten to “watch” and had not seen his enemy until it was too late. He was exhausted from the struggle, but after he had rested, he walked on again, holding tightly to his sword and watching as he travelled. Finally, he came out of the valley into open country again.



#### 4. Pilgrim in a Dungeon

Pilgrim walked slowly along the path through the open country, still weak from his battle with Apollyon. Often, he stopped to read his Bible. Again and again he read, “Put on the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the cunning tricks of the devil.”

“I have my armour on,” thought Pilgrim, “and I shall hold tightly to my sword. I shall also watch for the enemy. I will not let him make me do wrong things.”

Pilgrim was remembering that the sword was given to him as a weapon to fight evil, but he had forgotten that the sword was also for encouragement when he was feeling weak.

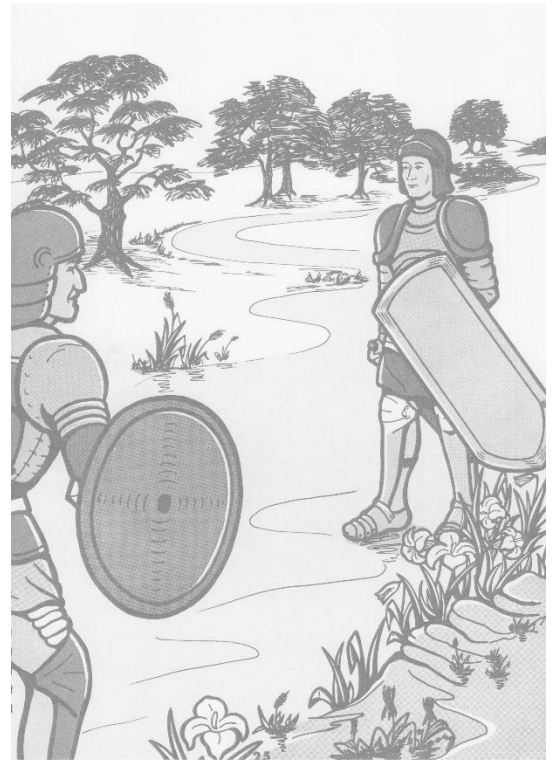


“I’m afraid I shall never be able to travel the long way to the Celestial City,” he said out loud.

“Do not give up hope, my brother,” Pilgrim heard someone say. He turned to see another pilgrim on the path behind him. Coming up beside Pilgrim, the newcomer said, “I could not help hearing what you said. My name is Hopeful. I’m another pilgrim. May I walk with you?”

“Indeed you may,” Pilgrim answered. “Surely I need a companion such as you to give me hope. Let’s travel together.”

For a time, the going was easy. The path was pleasant and smooth. The sun was shining. Lovely flowers and shade trees grew along the edge of the path. Pilgrim and Hopeful had a happy time together. They talked about the Loving Prince who had died upon the cross for them.



Soon, however, the path grew narrow. It was filled with stones. The beautiful flowers and shade trees were left behind. The sun was hot. The feet of the pilgrims grew sore. Limping along they began to talk less and less about the Prince and more and more about the hard way they had to travel. Finally, they grew so sorry for themselves they could talk of nothing else.

As they walked along, grumbling and complaining, Pilgrim noticed a path on the other side of the fence. It ran in the same direction as the one on which he and Hopeful were walking. It was covered with soft grass and he did not see any stones.

“Look Hopeful!” exclaimed Pilgrim. “Look on the other side of the fence! Why should we not walk on that path instead of this one? It seems to run in the same direction as ours. Why not travel to the Celestial City on a stony path which is smooth and pleasant?”

Hopeful looked over the fence. “Ah,” he said. “but that sign says BY-PATH MEADOW. I do not believe the Good King will be pleased if we walk there, Christian. I feel certain that this is not the path for us. We may get into trouble over there.”

“But I am tired of this stony way,” Pilgrim complained. “I want to have a little fun along the way. Come on, Hopeful!” Over the fence Pilgrim climbed. Shaking his head, Hopeful followed.

Soon, a storm came over. They could find no shelter from the heavy rain. They saw some boards placed against the fence. They crawled under the boards, wet and frightened by the thunder and lightning. They huddled together.

Finally, they went to sleep and slept through the night. They did not wake up until they heard a sound of *clump, clump, clump!* A huge giant towered above them.

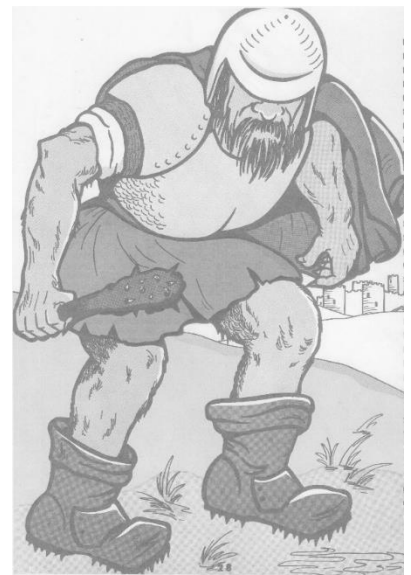
“What are you doing in my meadow?” roared the giant.

With teeth chattering, Pilgrim answered, “We are Christian pilgrims. We are on our way to the Celestial City, but if it displeases you to have to walk in your meadow, we can find the narrow path again and jump back over the fence.

“Yes,” Hopeful added, “we shall do that right away!”

“Oh no you don’t!” the giant screamed. “I am Giant Despair. Any Christian pilgrim who is foolish enough to stray into my meadow is thrown into my dungeon in Doubting Castle.”

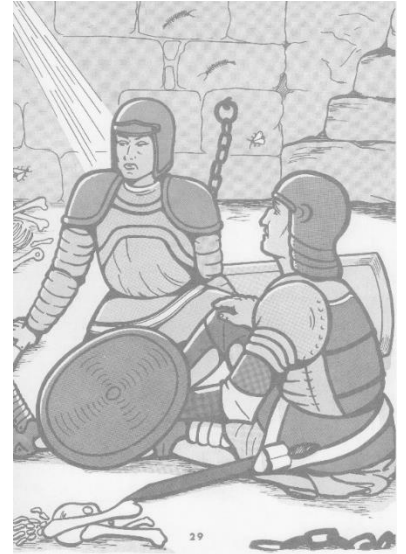
With that, the giant grabbed the pilgrims by the shoulders. He pushed them ahead of him and threw them into a dungeon, dark and smelly. Pilgrim still held his shield and sword. But he never once thought about using them against the giant!



The bright sun found its way through a crack in the wall of the dungeon. Thinking that they would now never be able to enter the Celestial City, Hopeful suggested that they read something from the Bible, in order to find a word of comfort.

With tears in his eyes Pilgrim said, “Please Hopeful, do not give up in despair. I am sorry I did not take your advice about By-Path Meadow.”

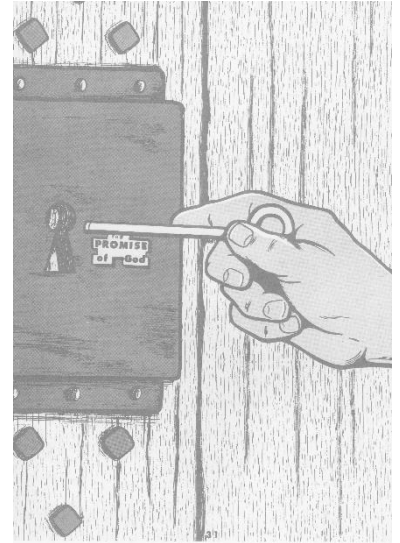
Hopeful sat close to the beam of light and read from the Bible. He read of the people of Israel whom God saved from their enemy. He saved them by parting the waves of the Red Sea and taking them safely across. When he read about the enemies being destroyed, Hopeful said, “Christian, if God could do that for His people, surely He can deliver us from Giant Despair. He is the same God. Let us have hope and trust in Him.”



For many days the pilgrims sat in the terrible dungeon. They grew weaker each day. They tried to trust God to free them, but even Hopeful almost gave up.

Then one day after he had prayed, Christian spoke. "Hopeful," he said, "All this time I have been carrying inside my clothing a key which was given to me for such a time as this. And I have completely forgotten about it until now."

With that Hopeful straightened up and said, "Then let's use it Christian, quickly!"



From inside his clothing Christian drew the key which was marked, THE PROMISE OF GOD.

"And now I remember," Hopeful said, "The Bible says in Psalm 138 verse 7:

*Though I am surrounded by troubles, you will protect me from the anger of my enemies.*

*You reach out your hand, and the power of your right hand saves me."*  
(NLT)

With great joy they took the key and saw that it did actually fit the lock to the door of the dungeon! Carefully they unlocked one door after another. But when they got to the last door its hinges were rusty and the door made a great squeaking sound as they opened it.

Giant Despair heard the squeaking. With a roar he hurried to the prison gate. But when he saw the key "The Promise of God", which Pilgrim held in his hand, the giant's knees gave way beneath him. Down he sank to the ground, unable to follow the pilgrims.

Christian and Hopeful ran as fast as they could - across the meadow, and there was the fence! They scrambled over it, never one looking back. Strangely enough, when they got back on the proper path the stones had been removed. Once more flowers and trees made the going easier.

“Why did we try to escape the stony way?” Pilgrim said sadly. “The Good King has provided more joy and pleasure along His pathway than could ever be found on any other. We must accept whatever we find as we travel, whether the pathway be hard or easy. He has planned it that way, and we must trust Him.

“Well said, my dear companion,” Hopeful declared.

## 5. The Journey’s End

“Look,” Pilgrim said to Hopeful. “There is someone walking slowly ahead of us. Let’s see if he would like some company.



As Pilgrim and Hopeful quickened their steps and came behind the traveller, Pilgrim said, “You seem to be going to the Celestial City as we are. May we walk with you? What is your name?”

My name is Ignorance,” the traveller replied. “I travel slowly, hoping at last to reach the Celestial City. If you are in a hurry, you had better go on ahead.”

“Did you come through the Gate of Decision and bow at the cross for forgiveness of sin?” Hopeful asked.

“Don’t be foolish,” Ignorance answered. “It is not necessary to have your sins forgiven to get inside the Celestial City. In fact, I have *not* been a sinner. I have

been good all my life. I came upon this path a long way ahead of the gate and the cross which you speak of. But you shall see that I shall enter the City just as you do. All that is necessary is to do the best one can. And I have lived a better life than most.”

Hopeful whispered to Pilgrim, “How can we help him?”

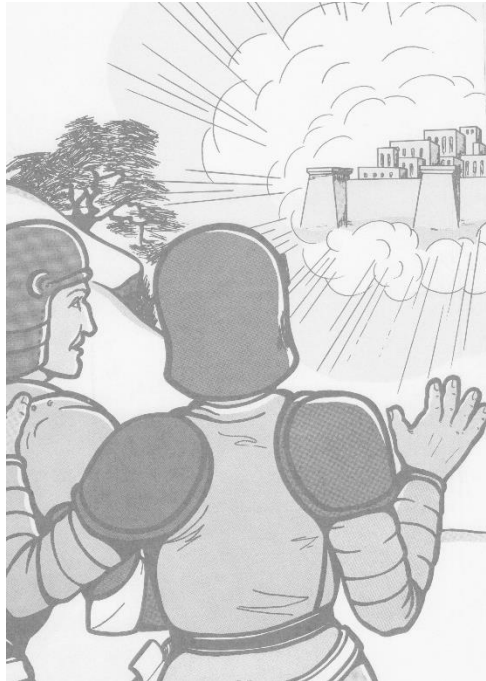
“There is no true hope for him until he is willing to admit he is a sinner,” Pilgrim replied. “And I am sorry to say, he is not willing to do that. So he travels with false hope in his heart. Oh, if only he would be willing to turn from his own way and receive Jesus as his Saviour.”



Pilgrim and Hopeful travelled on, leaving Ignorance behind. “Ignorance must be obedient and do as God says or surely he will never enter the City,” said Pilgrim.

“Yes,” said Hopeful. “All his good works will count for nothing because he stubbornly wants his own way. Pilgrim, I feel that we are not far from the Celestial City now, our heavenly home.”

And just at a turn in the path they saw the Celestial City. It shone as gold in the sunshine and the travellers held their breath as they looked.



Pilgrim and Hopeful came to a beautiful place from which they could see the Celestial City. They rested there as they had been told by one of the Good King's messengers that they could not enter until they were sent for. From time to time there were other pilgrims waiting there too. As they were called, they said "Farewell" to Pilgrim and Hopeful and each went on to the City. At such times Pilgrim and Hopeful heard singing coming from the beautiful City of gold. They knew that the pilgrims were being welcomed as they entered and joined the singing of praise to the Good Prince, their Saviour.





The pilgrims were surprised one day to see Ignorance walk boldly through the beautiful valley where they were waiting.

Without waiting to be called, he walked on saying, "Farewell Christian! Farewell Hopeful! May I ask what you are waiting for? I told you I would enter the City. They would never dare turn such a good person away." And Ignorance proudly walked to the end of the valley.

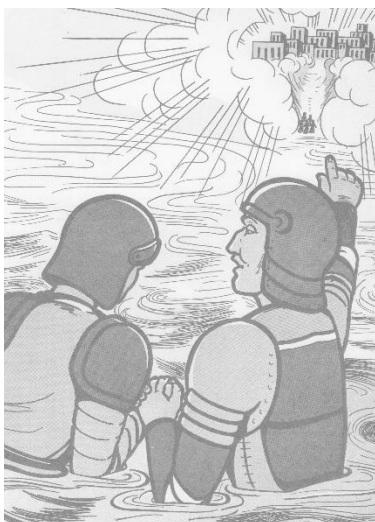
But Ignorance had not been gone long before Christian and Hopeful saw him being carried back through the valley. He was dropped over a cliff at the other end. His goodness had not earned him the right to Heaven. Christian and Hopeful dropped their heads and put their hands over their faces.

Right then an angel touched each on the shoulder. "The Good King has sent for you both," he said.

When the angel had led them to the end of the valley, Pilgrim and Hopeful saw that there was a river to be crossed before they could reach the City.

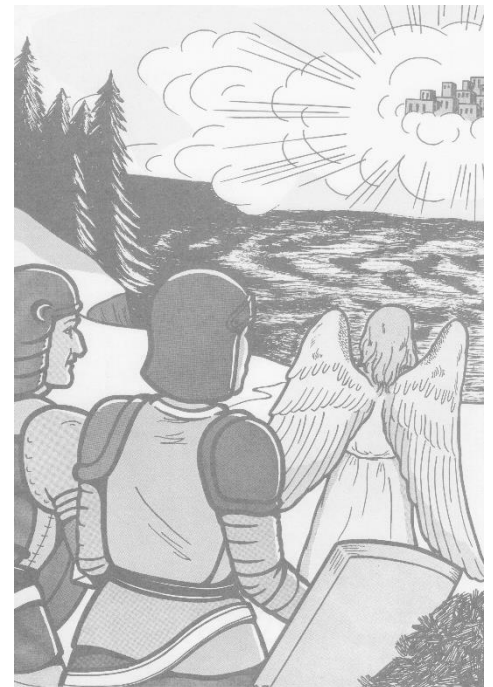
"How deep is the river?" Christian wanted to know.

"I cannot tell you that," the angel replied. "For some it is quite deep. For others it is quite shallow. But you will go through safely. Do not look at the angry waves. Keep your eyes on the other shore."



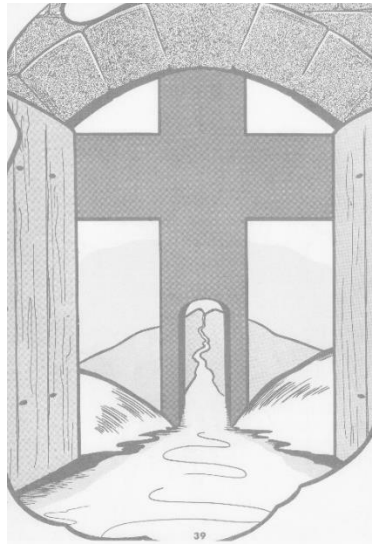
Christian stepped into the water. It was cold and rough and he was afraid. Hopeful stepped in also.

"Look up, Pilgrim!" he kept saying. "Keep your eyes on the City. See! There are some who have come down on the other shore to watch and welcome us."



And so Pilgrim and Hopeful were welcomed by those who had gone before. They recognized some whom they had known in the City of Destruction.

All of those at the welcoming gate had come through the first gate – the Gate of Decision. Each one had bowed at the cross and received the Lord Jesus as Saviour.



The music was very sweet in the City and Pilgrim and Hopeful joined in the singing, “Blessing, and honour and glory, and power, be to Him that sits upon the throne, to the Lamb for ever and ever.” (*Revelation 5:13*)

And then they were called into the presence of the Great King and His Son, to be welcomed by name. An angel announced:

“Rejoice, because your names are written in Heaven.” (*Luke 10:20*)

