

## Pilgrim's Progress (Part 4)

**Quote:** "What God says is best, is best, though all the men in the world are against it." — John Bunyan

### ● Recap Previous Lesson

- Formalist & Hypocrisy
- Hill of Difficulty
- The Palace Beautiful (Porter & Discretion)
  - Watchful = minister
  - Discretion = deacon or elder
  - Christian asks Watchful if he can stay for the night
  - "I have so much the more a desire to lodge here tonight, because, by what I perceive, this place was built by the Lord of the hill, for the relief and security of pilgrims."
    - Watchful called for Discretion, who questioned Christian

### ● Palace Beautiful

- Discretion calls for "two or three more of the family"
  - Prudence = watches for hypocrites
  - Piety = understands spiritual matters
  - Charity = judges kindly according to the love of Christ in her heart
- "Come in, thou blessed of the Lord."
- Christian & the four ladies talk together while waiting for supper
  - Christian tells of all he has encountered thus far
  - This actually happened to Bunyan when he sought to join the church at Bedford:
    - \* "Well, John, I am glad to find that you are converted, but I could not take upon myself the responsibility of receiving you into fellowship; I must ask one of my elders or deacons to see you. Someone must be appointed by the church to converse with you, and report to the rest of the members whether you should be received or not." (John Gifford, Bunyan's pastor)
- **Pilgrim sleeps in the Chamber of Peace**
  - Pilgrim stays at Palace Beautiful for several days
  - "In Bunyan's day the church was not only the religious center, but also the social center in the village, the place where the faithful met regularly to renew bonds of fellowship. The church was a refreshing oasis in a world of care and woe in which man too often felt isolated and alone in facing his troubles."<sup>1</sup>
  - Church is a place of peace (2 Thessalonians 3:16; 2 Peter 1:2; Romans 14:17; 1 Corinthians 7:15)
- **Lessons learned at Palace Beautiful**
  - What are we shown (taught) in the Palace Beautiful (church)?
    - \* taught the Word of God (Sunday school lessons, messages, etc)
    - \* history (Bible stories)
    - \* prepared to fight the enemy (armor)
  - Christian was shown the pedigree of the Lord of the Hill
    - \* pedigree: the origin and the history of someone; the recorded purity of an individual
  - Who is the Ancient of Days? (God)

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.cliffsnotes.com/study\\_guide/literature/pilgrims-progress/summary-analysis/part-1/section-4.html](http://www.cliffsnotes.com/study_guide/literature/pilgrims-progress/summary-analysis/part-1/section-4.html)

- \* "I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire" (Daniel 7:9).
- Who is the Lord of the Hill? (The Son of the Ancient of Days – Christ)
  - \* What is the hill? (Mount Zion)
- Christian was shown the names of many hundreds that the Lord of the Hill had taken into his service
  - \* Hebrews, Chapter 11 – Heroes of the Faith chapter
  - \* List of Old Testament heroes
    - + Acts of His servants:
      - subdued kingdoms
      - wrought righteousness
      - stopped the mouths of lions
      - escaped the edge of the sword
      - waxed valiant in fight
      - out of weakness were made strong
  - \* Christian was learning "Bible Stories"
- Shown prophecies of the Lord
  - \* future events that would affect God's people
- **Next day Christian was taken to the armory**
  - Shown things God had provided for His pilgrims
    - \* Shoes that did not wear out
    - \* Sword, Helmet, Breastplate (armor)
  - Enough to provide for many men, as many men as there are stars in the heaven
    - \* What Bible story does that reference? (God's promise to Abraham of a literal Israel; this is speaking of a spiritual Israel)
  - "Engines" used by His servants (activity: name the Bible story/character represented)
    - \* Engines = tools
    - \* A rod or shepherd's staff (Moses' rod)
    - \* Hammer & Nail (Jael used to kill Sisera)
    - \* Pitchers, Trumpets, and Lamps (used by Gideon in the fight w/the Midianites)
    - \* Ox-goad (Shamgar used to kill 600 men; Judges 3:30-31)
      - + define: "ox-goad"
        - "It was observable," says he, "that in ploughing they used goads of an extraordinary size; upon measuring of several I found them about eight feet long, and at the bigger end about six inches in circumference. They were armed at the lesser end with a sharp prickle for driving the oxen, and at the other end with a small spade or paddle of iron, strong and massy, for cleansing the plough from the clay that encumbers it in working." (Clarke Commentary)
        - In the hands of a strong, skillful man, such an instrument must be more dangerous and more fatal than any sword. (Clarke Commentary)
    - \* Jawbone (Samson used to kill 1000 Philistines)
    - \* Sling & Stone (David used to kill Goliath)
    - \* The Sword with which the Lord will kill the "man of sin" (2 Thessalonians 2:3)
      - + Who is the man of sin? (When studying Revelation, it is shown to be the Pope, representing Roman Catholicism)
      - + What is the Sword? (The Word; Hebrews 4:12)

- + Spiritual condition of Bunyan's time
  - this book was published 1678
  - end of papalism's exclusive power 1530 when Luther dealt a deadly wound to the beast with the light on justification (Revelation 13:12)
- **Last day at Palace Beautiful**
  - vision of the Delectable Mountains
    - \* where was Christian when he received this vision?
      - + he received from the roof-top of Palace Beautiful ("heavenly places in Christ Jesus"; Ephesians 2:6)
      - + a place free from smog & mists (pollution of sin and falseness)
    - \* this is "Immanuel's land"
    - \* this is a view of the Celestial City (Heaven)
    - \* often we can get a clear view of Heaven when in church hearing the Word of God preached (in heavenly places, free from mists of spiritual confusion)
  - **Christian provided with furniture** (armor); Ephesians 6:15-18
    - \* Helmet of (salvation)
    - \* Sword (Word of God)
    - \* Breastplate of (righteousness)
    - \* Shield of (faith)
    - \* Shoes (Gospel of Peace)
    - \* Support of (all prayer)
- **The Importance of going through Palace Beautiful**
  - Every room in Palace Beautiful is important
    - \* each room provides knowledge/armor that will aid Christian in future battles
    - \* what rooms might be included in Palace Beautiful (church)?
      - + Sunday school room
      - + Main service room
      - + Prayer service room
      - + Youth meetings room
      - + Choir practice room
    - \* every room is vital for Christian spiritual training
      - + if Christian were to miss a room, he would be deficient in coming conflicts
    - \* must take advantage of every tool/teaching/aid to be fully equipped for the battle
- **Discretion, Piety, Charity & Prudence accompany Christian to the bottom of the hill**
  - Christian learned that it was much more dangerous to descend than to ascend
  - Prudence: "Yes, you are right; for it is a hard matter for a man to go down into the Valley of Humiliation as you are now doing, and not slip in any way."
  - For this reason, the four ladies stayed with Christian until he was at the bottom of the hill
  - They gave him a loaf of bread, a bottle of wine, and a cluster of raisins (refreshment; 1 Samuel 30:11-12 and remembrance; 1 Corinthians 11:23-29)
- **Valley of Humiliation**
  - Likened to being encouraged when worshiping with other Christians (church services), but being humiliated at school or work the next day
- **Battle with Apollyon**
  - Remember, Bunyan had military experience (fought under Cromwell) – no doubt he drew on this experience when describing the fight between Christian & Apollyon
  - Apollyon means "destroyer"

- to understand who Apollyon is, let's look at his description
- **Description of Apollyon**
  - A captain under the Great Beelzebub
    - \* where was Beelzebub's castle? (next to the Wicket Gate)
    - \* this is one of Satan's angels
  - Hideous to behold
    - \* compare Daniel's vision (dreadful and terrible beasts; Daniel 7:7) to Nebuchadnezzar's dream (precious metals) of the same thing (4 kingdoms)
    - \* False religion looks beautiful until you look at it with spiritual eyes
  - Scales like a fish (perhaps a reference to heathen god Dagon – fish god)
    - \* Discuss Fisherman's Cap & its ties to Roman Catholicism
  - Wings like a dragon
    - \* Dragon in Revelation = Paganism
  - "Spake like a dragon"
    - \* Dragon talk (Protestantism had lamb-like features, but spoke like the dragon; Revelation 13:11)
  - Feet like a bear & mouth of a lion
    - \* Description of Roman Catholicism (Revelation 13:2)
    - \* Reference to heathen kingdoms of Daniel's vision (Daniel 7:4-5)
  - Smoke & fire from his belly
    - \* Smoke represents God's presence (Mount Sinai) or the glory of God
      - + in Revelation smoke came up out of the pit & clouded people's vision of the Word and the Spirit (Revelation 9:2)
      - + this smoke was a "false glory"
  - Could Bunyan have fully understood the above references? Did the Apostle John fully understand when receiving the Revelation?
- Revelation 9:11 – "And they had a king over them . . . whose name . . . Apollyon"
  - This is the king of Protestantism
    - \* if it were just the devil tempting Christian with sin, would it have been such an intense battle?
    - \* the Christian is not as tempted by out-and-out sin as he is the more subtle temptations of hypocrisy, false religion, etc.
- Christian is fighting the devil, but more particularly the devil under the disguise of false religion
  - Apollyon (false religion) is trying to kill the Word & the Spirit (the two witnesses) in Christian's life
    - \* descriptions of Apollyon reference descriptions of heathenism, paganism and false religion (Roman Catholicism & Protestantism)
- Christian thought about going back. Why didn't he? (No protection for his back)
- **Apollyon's Tactics**
  - At first Apollyon tries to convince Christian ("contemptuous" manner – unlike the Good Shepherd when He loses a sheep; Luke 15:3-7)
    - Others have returned to me. If you do this, "all shall be well."
    - Others like you "come to an ill end."
    - I'll deliver you from all this.
  - Then Apollyon starts accusing (fiery darts)
    - You've already" been unfaithful in thy service to him; and how dost thou think to receive

- wages of him?"
  - "almost choked in the gulf of Despond"
  - "attempt wrong ways to be rid of thy burden"
  - "almost persuaded to go back at the sight of the lions"
  - "inwardly desirous of vainglory in all that thou sayest or doest"
- Christian admits all this is true, but
  - "the Prince whom I serve and honor is merciful, and ready to forgive"
- Apollyon shows who he truly is:
  - "I am an enemy to this Prince; I hate his person, his laws, and people: I am come out on purpose to withstand thee."
- **Great battle**
  - lasted more than ½ day
  - Christian is wounded, falls & loses his sword (the Word)
    - \* perhaps he yielded to temptation, became discouraged and fell
    - \* his mistake was in letting go of the Word
      - + he lost confidence in the words of the Bible
        - perhaps began to doubt
      - + he failed to read his Bible daily
        - if you don't read it, you can't use it
  - Apollyon "pressed him [almost] to death"
    - \* Christian reached out his hand (put forth effort) and caught up his sword
    - \* Christian dealt Apollyon a "mortal wound" by using the Word (Bible)
      - + Just as Jesus did with Satan "It is written" (Matthew, Chapter 4)
  - Christian rejoices
    - \* "Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the LORD shall be a light unto me" (Micah 7:8).
- "Apollyon spread forth his dragon wings, and sped away"
- **Tree of Life**
  - Christian applied leaves from the "tree of life" (Christ; Revelation 22:1-2; Proverbs 3:18; 1 Corinthians 1:24) to his wounds and was healed immediately
  - "Blessed Michael helped me . . . Therefore to Him let me give lasting praise, And thank and bless His holy name always."
    - Michael = Christ (Revelation 12:7; Jude 9); in the Hebrew & Greek, Michael means "who is like God" (read Hebrews 1:2-3)
  - Christian keeps his sword out
    - he has learned to be ready for the enemy