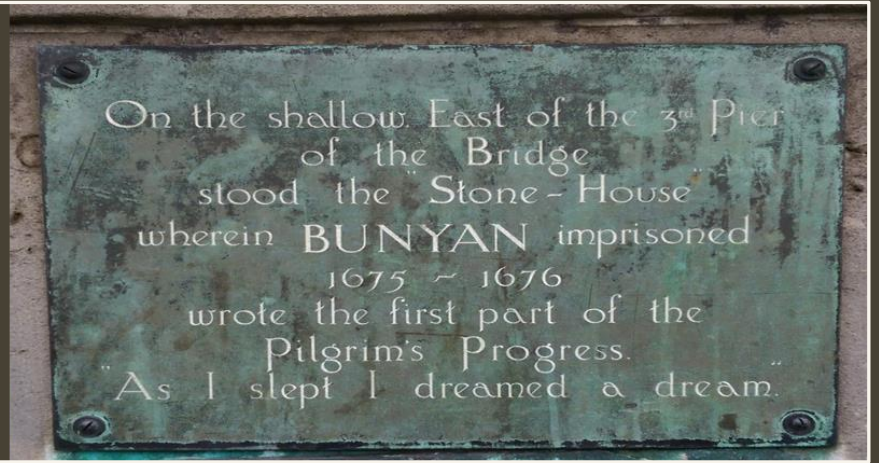
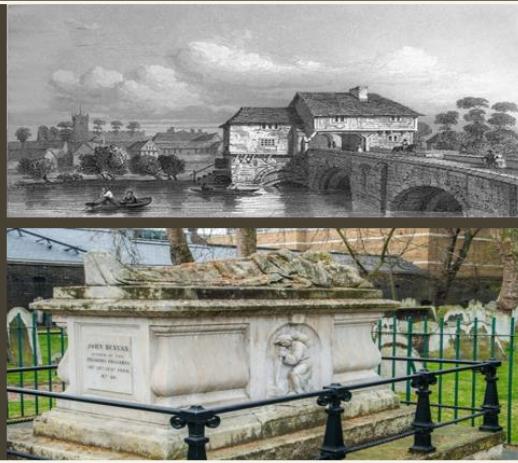
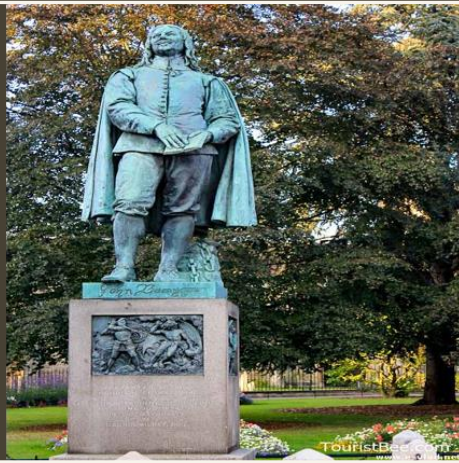


“WE MUST GO THROUGH MANY HARDSHIPS TO ENTER THE
KINGDOM OF GOD.”
ACTS 14:22



JOHN BUNYAN'S *THE PILGRIM'S PROGRESS*

CHRIST BIBLE CHURCH



THE PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

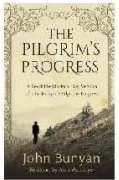
Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. And then many will fall away, betray one another, and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because lawlessness will increase, the love of many will grow cold. **But the one who endures to the end will be saved.**

Matthew 24:9-13

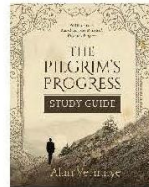




Study of *The Pilgrim's Progress* Spring 2024



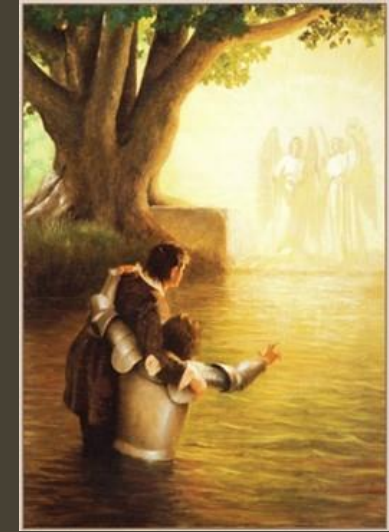
[The Pilgrim's Progress—A Readable Modern-Day Version
of John Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress — Revision by Alan
Vermilye](#)
[The Pilgrim's Progress — Study Guide](#)



Session	Date	Pages		Chapter
		Pilgrim's Progress	Study Guide	
1	February 4	13-33	22-31	1
2	February 11	34-55	32-45	2
3	February 18	56-68	46-54	3
4	February 25	69-83	55-63	4
5	March 3	84-97	64-70	5
6	March 10	98-124	71-80	6
7	March 17	125-136	81-85	7
8	March 24	137-152	86-93	8
	March 31	No Class—Easter Sunday		
9	April 7	153-163	94-99	9
10	April 14	164-181	100-108	10
11	April 21	182-214	109-122	11
12	April 28	215-228	123-129	12

[Download Pilgrim's Progress Scripture Reference Guide](#)
[Download The Pilgrim's Progress Study Guide Answer-Guide](#)

CHRISTIAN & HOPEFUL ENCOUNTER THE SNARE OF THE FLATTERER, ATHEIST, & IGNORANCE, AGAIN

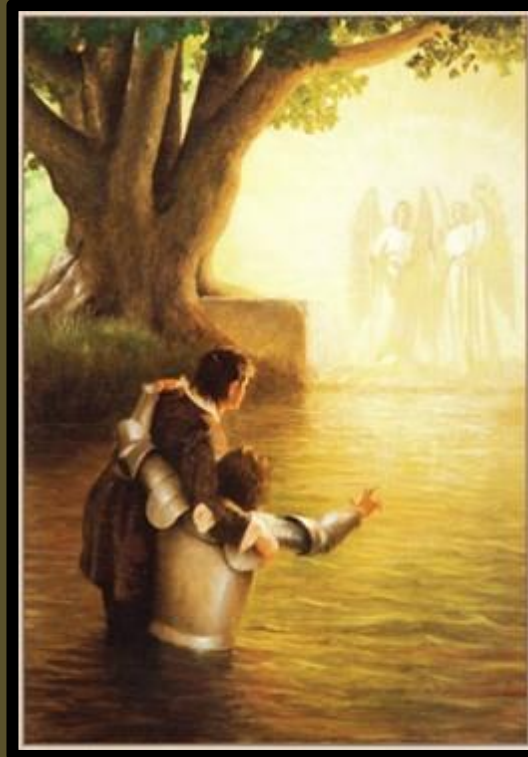


THREE SCENES

Beulah Land



Crossing the
River of Death

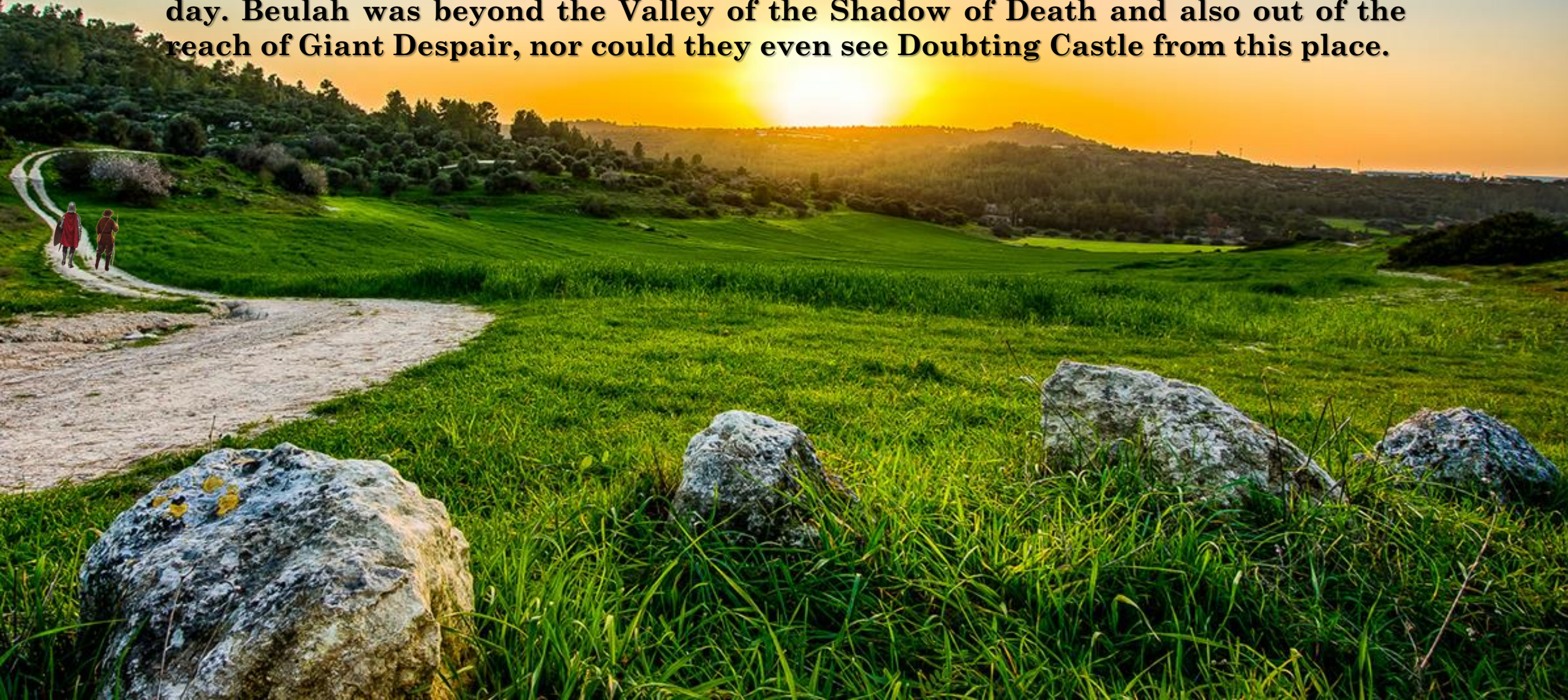


Ignorance

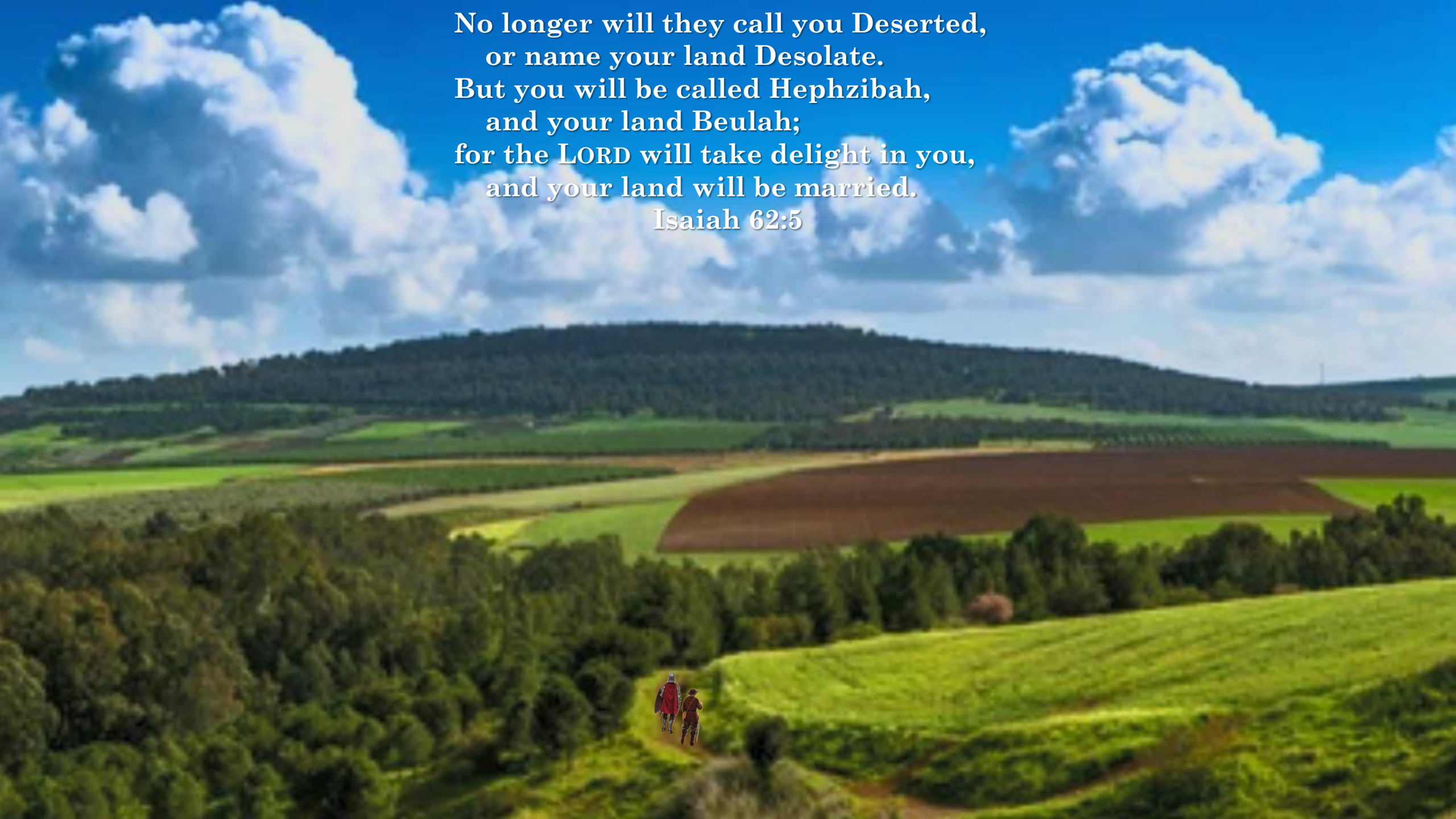




Now, I saw in my dream that by this time the pilgrims had passed over the Enchanted Ground and entered into the country of Beulah, whose air was very sweet and pleasant. Since the way went directly through this country. Here they heard the continual singing of birds, saw flowers appear on the earth, and heard the voice of the turtledove in the land. In this country, the sun shone night and day. Beulah was beyond the Valley of the Shadow of Death and also out of the reach of Giant Despair, nor could they even see Doubting Castle from this place.



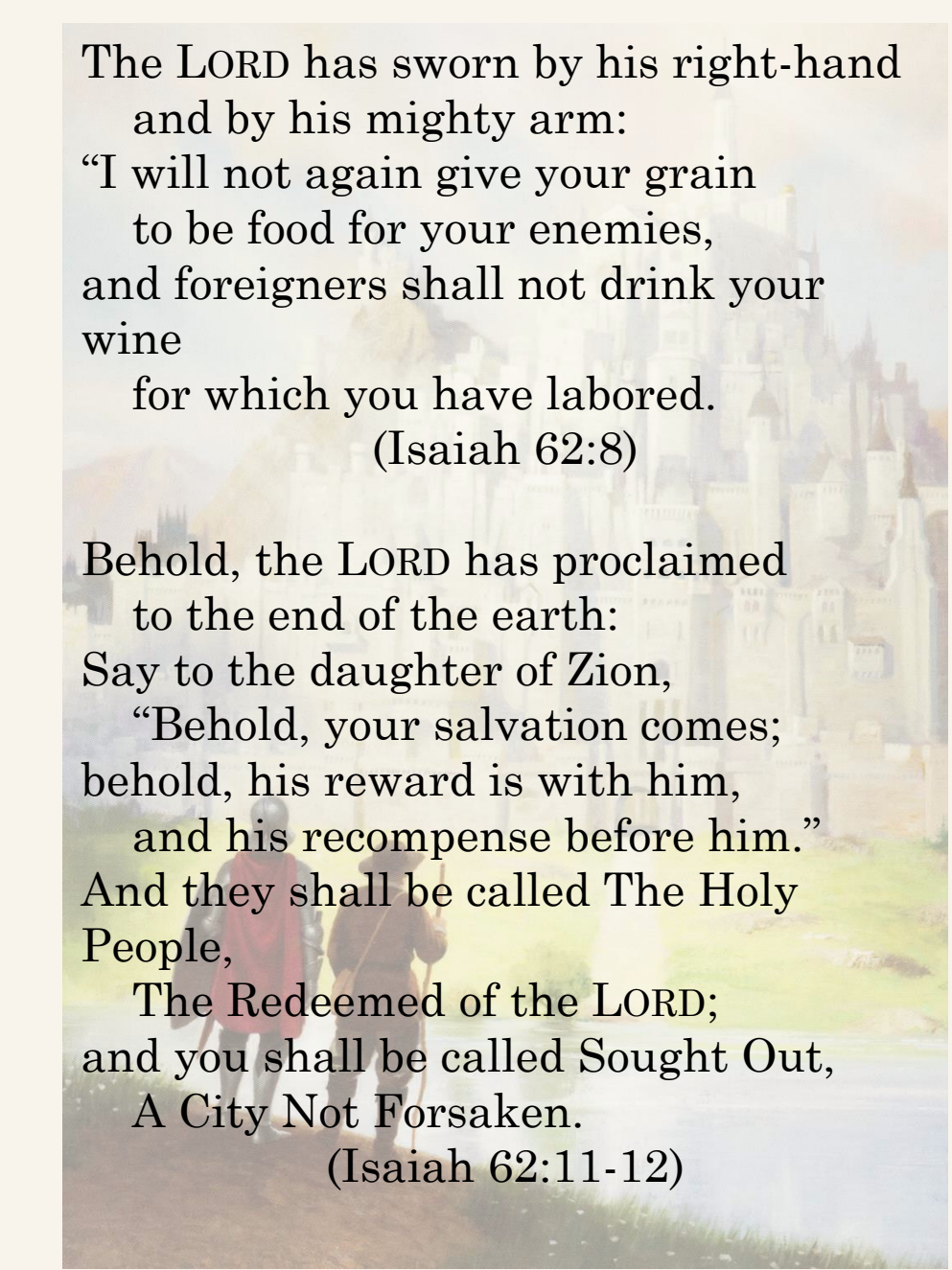
No longer will they call you Deserted,
or name your land Desolate.
But you will be called Hephzibah,
and your land Beulah;
for the LORD will take delight in you,
and your land will be married.
Isaiah 62:5





Here, they were within sight of the City to which they were going. They also met some of the inhabitants of the country, for in this land, the Shining Ones commonly walked because it was upon the borders of Heaven. In this land, also the contract between the bride and the Bridegroom was renewed: "As the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so did their God rejoice over them." Here, they had no lack of bread or wine, for in this place they met with an abundance of what they had sought during all their pilgrimage. Here, they heard voices from outside the City, loud voices proclaiming, "Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your salvation comes! Behold, his reward is with Him!'" Here, all the inhabitants of the country called them "the holy people, the redeemed of the Lord, those sought out."

Now as they walked in this land, they rejoiced more than they had in any other part of the journey. And as they came near the Celestial City, they could see that it was built of pearls and precious stones and that the streets were paved with gold. The natural glory of the City and the sunbeams' reflection on it made Christian feel sick with desire. Hopeful also had a few bouts of the same sickness. The sickness was so great that they had to rest from their journey while crying out because of the deep pangs of desire: "If you find my Beloved, tell Him that I am sick with love."



The LORD has sworn by his right-hand
and by his mighty arm:

“I will not again give your grain
to be food for your enemies,
and foreigners shall not drink your
wine
for which you have labored.

(Isaiah 62:8)

Behold, the LORD has proclaimed
to the end of the earth:

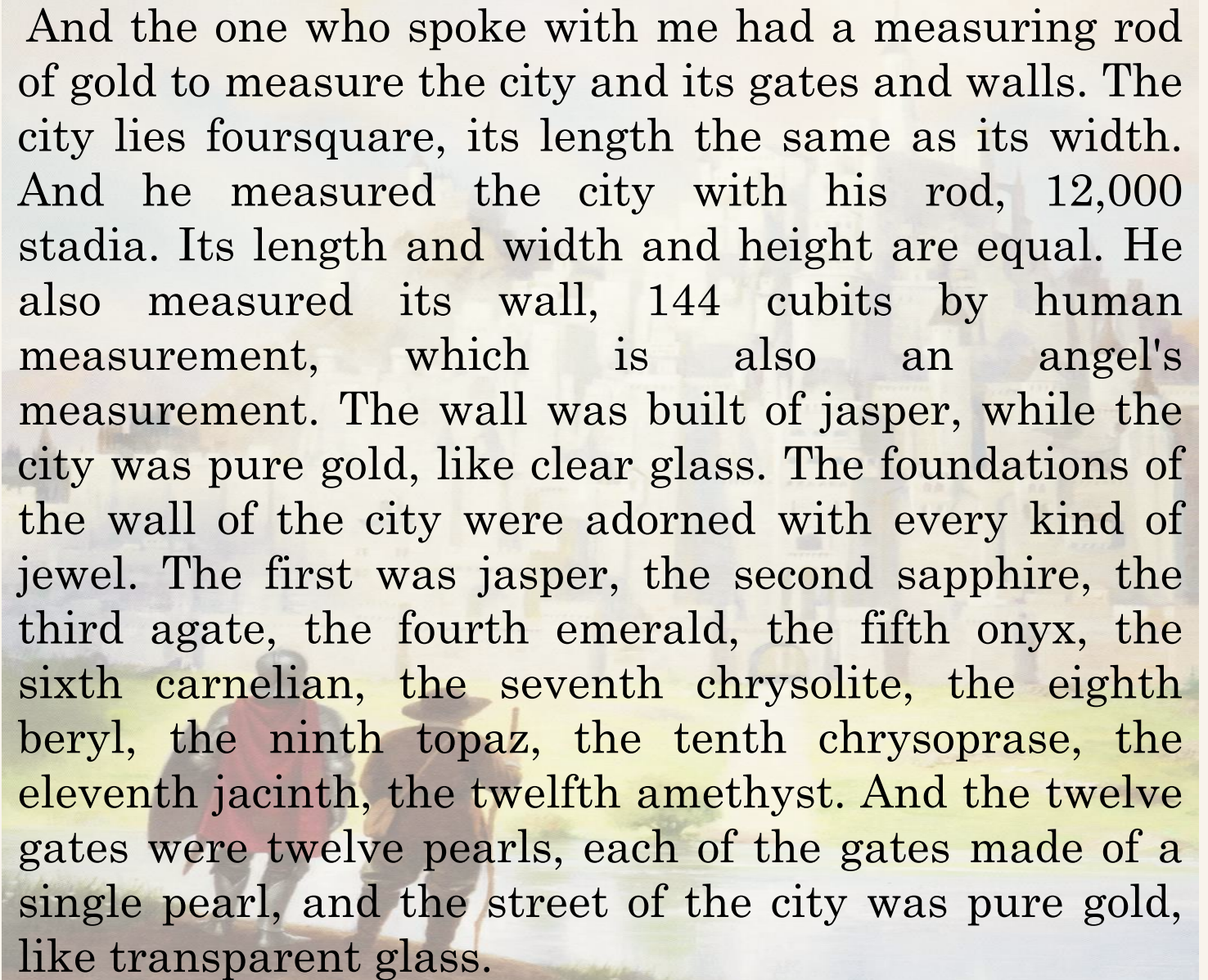
Say to the daughter of Zion,

“Behold, your salvation comes;
behold, his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.”

And they shall be called The Holy
People,

The Redeemed of the LORD;
and you shall be called Sought Out,
A City Not Forsaken.

(Isaiah 62:11-12)



And the one who spoke with me had a measuring rod
of gold to measure the city and its gates and walls. The
city lies foursquare, its length the same as its width.
And he measured the city with his rod, 12,000
stadia. Its length and width and height are equal. He
also measured its wall, 144 cubits by human
measurement, which is also an angel's
measurement. The wall was built of jasper, while the
city was pure gold, like clear glass. The foundations of
the wall of the city were adorned with every kind of
jewel. The first was jasper, the second sapphire, the
third agate, the fourth emerald, the fifth onyx, the
sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth
beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the
eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst. And the twelve
gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a
single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold,
like transparent glass.

(Revelation 21:15-21)

Lamentably, from ancient times, Christians have, with little avail, disputed whether we should interpret the Book of Revelation *literally* or *symbolically*. This misguided and unfruitful debate, sidetracks advocates on both sides. Neither *literal* nor *figurative* is a suitable description of interpretation. Everyone who engages in *literal* or *figurative* interpretation is misguided. Literal and figurative are not descriptive of how we read or interpret. They are descriptions of our speaking and writing. When we speak or write, we cannot escape representing things either *literally* or *figuratively*.

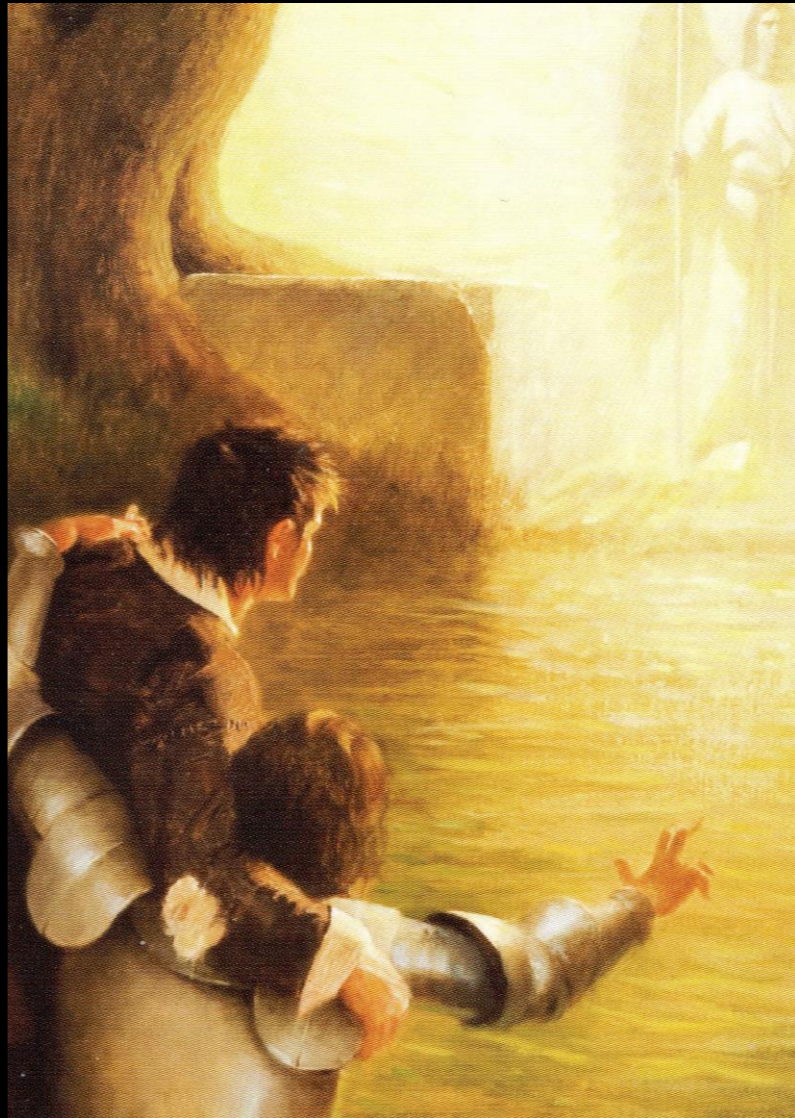
Many who endorse what they call “*literal interpretation*” of Revelation do so under the misguided notion that not to take their view is to regard things portrayed in the Apocalypse as not actual but unreal. For example, John portrays New Jerusalem as having twelve gates, each made from a singular large pearl, and a main street made of pure gold, which is as transparent glass (Rev 21:21). Even the angel’s measuring rod used to measure the city is made of gold. The size of the pearls and the transparent gold signal figurative, not literal, representations of the city. Yet, John’s figurative portrayal hardly suggests that the city is not real. The city is real.

How could John represent the reality that he sees in his vision of the eternal city except by portraying it with the most exquisite, expensive, and extravagant elements known to humans? His objective is to assure believers that the celestial city that will be our habitation upon the new earth is far grander, far more lavish, and exponentially more paradisiacal than our human imaginations can conjure. As precious as pearls and gold are in this present world, to regard these as the actual elements of New Jerusalem’s gates and streets is to miss John’s point, even to cheapen his vision. Why? Neither massive pearls nor transparent gold, which are not known to exist in this world, adequately capture the glory and beauty of the eternal abode upon the New Earth. John is assisting his readers to envision the most extraordinary city imaginable in terms of Earth’s costliest, most treasured elements in astounding abundance. The dwelling place will be extravagantly better than anything humanly imaginable.

The water is
deep or
shallow
depending
on the
pilgrim's
faith in the
King of the
Celestial
City.



THE LAST ENEMY IS DEATH



Only two have passed from this life into the Celestial City without passing through death: Enoch and Elijah.

- When Enoch had lived 65 years, he fathered Methuselah. Enoch walked with God after he fathered Methuselah 300 years and had other sons and daughters. Thus all the days of Enoch were 365 years. Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him (Genesis 5:21-24).
- And as Elijah and Elisha went on and talked, behold, chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. And Elisha saw it and he cried, “My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” And he saw him no more (2 Kings 2:11-12).

As the two waded into the River of Death, Christian suffered greater despair. He began to sink. Hopeful, who found solid footing, reassured his friend, “Be of good cheer, my brother. I feel the bottom, and it is solid and secure.”

Christian became horrified, fearing that he would perish in the river and not enter the Celestial Gate.

Christian’s faith wavered, but Hopeful’s faith remained resolute as he encouraged Christian with familiar Scripture promises.

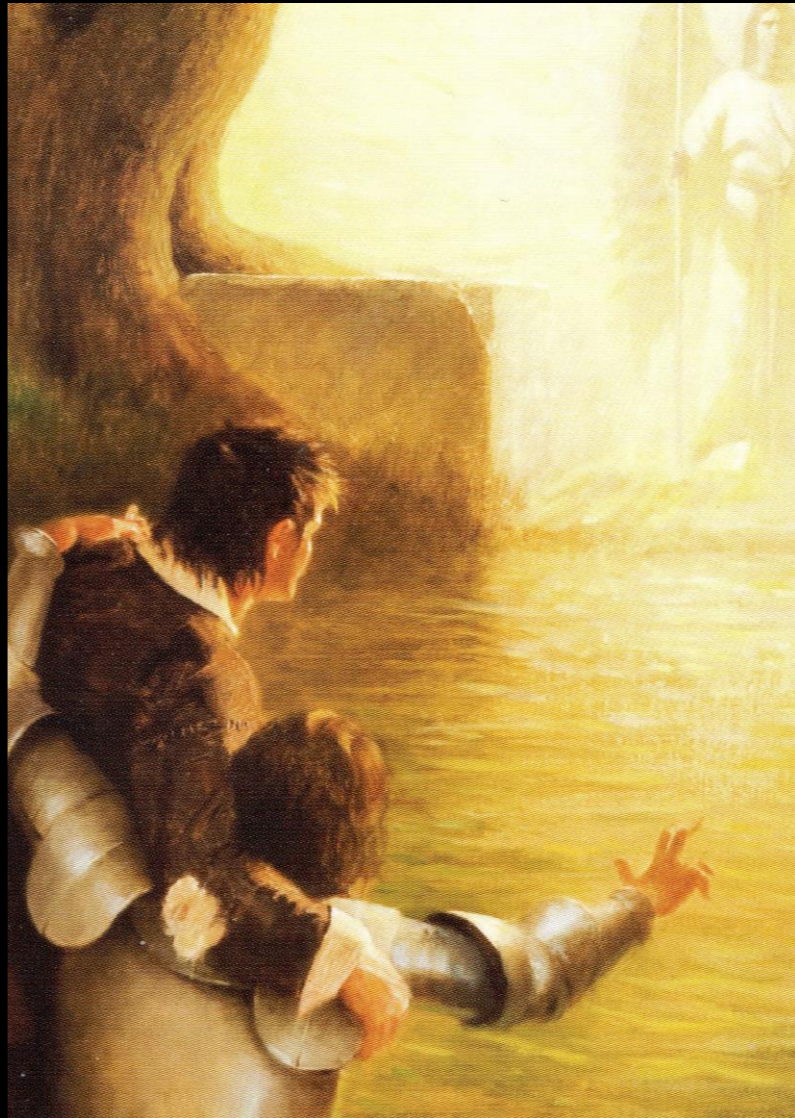
Christian recalled Isaiah 43:2—

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you.

For I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

“Then they both took courage and crossed the river, and the enemy was as still as a stone.”

THE LAST ENEMY IS DEATH



How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!
What more can be said than to you God hath said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

“Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

“When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
for I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless,
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

“When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply;
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

“E'en down to old age all My people shall prove
My sovereign, eternal, unchangeable love;
And then, when grey hairs shall their temples adorn,
Like lambs they shall still in My bosom be borne.”

“The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake.”



Attributed to K____.

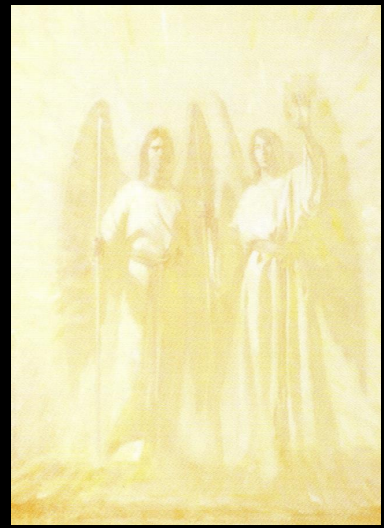
In John Rippon's published collection of hymns (1787).

He was the pastor of Carter Lane Baptist Church, London.



DEATH IS NO FRIEND. DEATH IS OUR LAST FIEND.

All the Dead Await the Resurrection,
Either of Life or of Condemnation.



As in Adam, all die, so also in Christ, all shall be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. He must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For “God has put all things in subjection under his feet.” But when it says, “all things are put in subjection,” it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

1 Corinthians 15:23-28

Christian and Hopeful “left their mortal garments behind them in the river.” Now, their ministering angels transported them “to the Paradise of God,” where they received white robes and would be present with the King, never to suffer sorrows, sickness, affliction, or death.

Christian and Hopeful asked, “What must we do in the holy place?”

The angels said, “You must receive the comforts of all your toil and have joy for all your sorrow; you must reap what you have sown, even the fruit of all your prayers, tears, and sufferings in your journey for the King. In that place, you must wear crowns of gold and enjoy the perpetual sight and vision of the Holy One, for ‘there you shall see Him as He is.’ There, you shall serve Him continually with praise, shouting, and thanksgiving. Him whom you desired to serve in the world, though with much difficulty, because of the infirmity of your flesh. There your eyes shall be delighted with seeing, and your ears with hearing the pleasant voice of the Might One. There you shall enjoy your friends again, those who have gone before you, and there you shall with joy receive all those who follow you to this holy place.

A great company of angels welcomed Christian and Hopeful: “Blessed are they who are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb.”

Inscribed on the gate were these words: “Blessed are they who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may enter in through the gates into the City.”

They surrendered their certificates, which were brought to the King who welcomed them.





IGNORANCE

Bunyan reports, “Now, while I was looking at all these things, I turned my head to look back and saw Ignorance approaching the river. He crossed without any of the difficulty that Christian and Hopeful had since there was a ferryman named Vain-Hope ready to take him across in his boat.”

Ignorance ascended the hill to the city gate and read the inscription—“Blessed are they who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may enter in through the gates into the City.”

No one welcomed him. So, he knocked.

The gate opened. He was asked from where he came. He was asked for his certificate. “Don’t you have a certificate?” He was speechless.

The King was told of his arrival. He commanded the angels to bind Ignorance and take him away. The angels carried him to the door in the side of the hill the shepherds had shown Christian and Hopeful.

“Then I saw that there was a way to Hell from the gates of Heaven as well as from the City of Destruction.”

So, I awoke, and behold,
it was a dream.





“WE MUST GO THROUGH MANY HARDSHIPS TO ENTER THE KINGDOM OF GOD.”

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.



Hebrews 10:24-25



