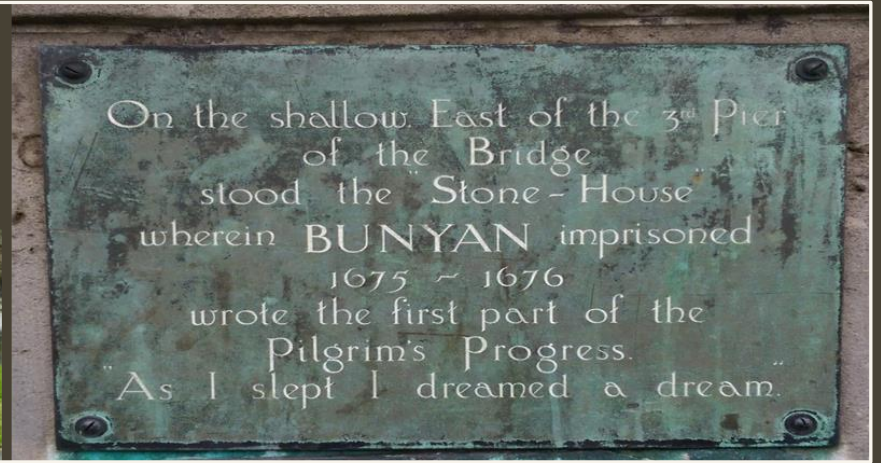
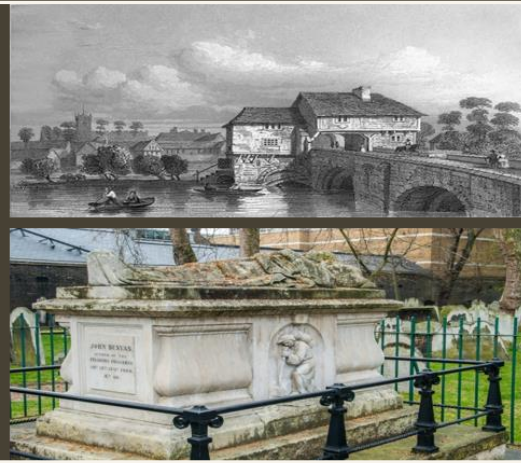
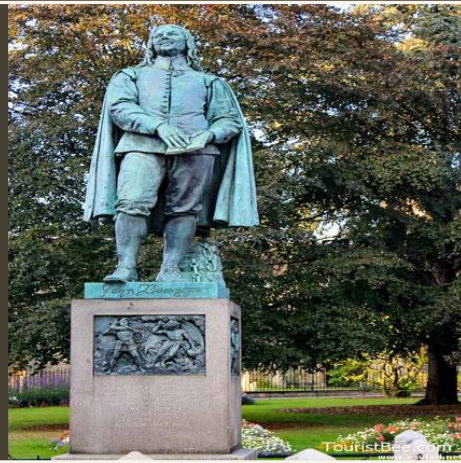


“WE MUST GO THROUGH MANY HARDSHIPS TO ENTER THE  
KINGDOM OF GOD.”  
ACTS 14:22



# JOHN BUNYAN'S *THE PILGRIM'S PROGRESS*

CHRIST BIBLE CHURCH





# *THE PILGRIM'S PROGRESS*

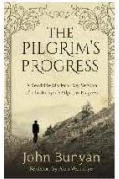
Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. And then many will fall away, betray one another, and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because lawlessness will increase, the love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

Matthew 24:9-13



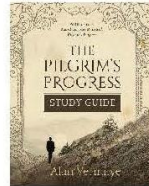


## Study of *The Pilgrim's Progress* Spring 2024



[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](#)

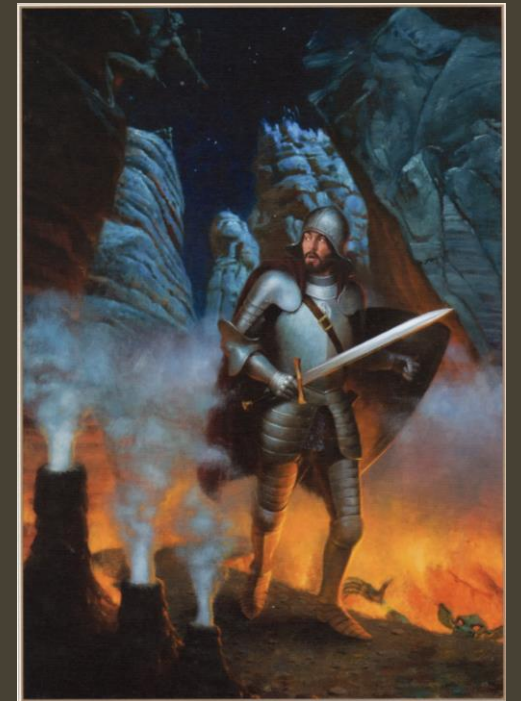


Session	Date	Pages		Chapter
		Pilgrim's Progress	Study Guide	
1	February 4	13-33	22-31	1
2	February 11	34-55	32-45	2
3	February 18	56-68	46-54	3
4	February 25	69-83	55-63	4
5	March 3	84-97	64-70	5
6	March 10	98-124	71-80	6
7	March 17	125-136	81-85	7
8	March 24	137-152	86-93	8
	March 31	<b>No Class—Easter Sunday</b>		
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 BATTLES APOLLYON & PASSES THROUGH THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH



# TWO SCENES

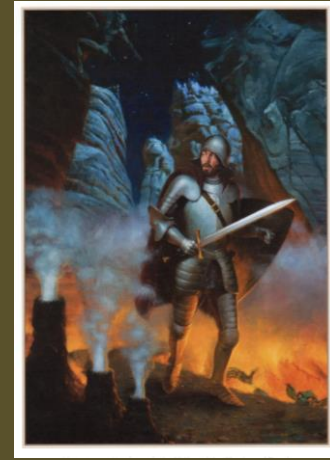
WHY DOES THE VALLEY OF HUMILIATION FOLLOW THE PALACE BEAUTIFUL

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Apollyon

Dark Valley

---



EPISODES OF DARKNESS  
IN THE VALLEY OF HUMILIATION

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Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

1 Peter 5:8-9

And the fifth angel blew his trumpet, and I saw a star fallen from heaven to earth, and he was given the key to the shaft of the bottomless pit. He opened the shaft of the bottomless pit, and from the shaft rose smoke like the smoke of a great furnace, and the sun and the air were darkened with the smoke from the shaft. Then from the smoke came locusts on the earth, and they were given power like the power of scorpions of the earth. They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any green plant or any tree, but only those people who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. They were allowed to torment them for five months, but not to kill them, and their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it stings someone. And in those days, people will seek death and will not find it. They will long to die, but death will flee from them.

In appearance, the locusts were like horses prepared for battle: on their heads were what looked like crowns of gold; their faces were like human faces, their hair like women's hair, and their teeth like lions' teeth; they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the noise of their wings was like the noise of many chariots with horses rushing into battle. They have tails and stings like scorpions, and their power to hurt people for five months is in their tails. They have as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit. His name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek he is called Apollyon.

# THE BATTLE WITH APOLLYON

Just below the Palace Beautiful lies the Valley of Humiliation. Christian has just entered the valley when he sees a “foul fiend” named Apollyon coming toward him. He was a hideous monster with scales like a fish, wings like a dragon, feet like a bear, mouth like a lion; fire and smoke poured out of a hole in his belly. Christian was fearful and debated in his mind what he should do. Should he retreat or stand his ground? Since he had no armor on his back, if he retreated, he would be an open target for the beast’s fiery darts. If he retreated by backing up, he risked stumbling. Christian knew he needed to stand his ground. That would give him the greatest opportunity to survive Apollyon’s vicious assaults.

The monster asks Christian: “From where did you come? Where are you going?”

Christian acknowledged, “I came from the City of Destruction, the place of all kinds of evil, and I am making my journey to the City of Zion.”

“Ah, hah! You are one of my subjects, for the City of Destruction is in my country where I am the prince and the god. How did you run away from me, your king? Except that I want you to return as my subject to serve me, I would strike you down to the ground with a single blow.”

“Indeed,” said Christian, “I was born under your dominion, but I found your service cruel, and the wages you pay to all who serve you is death. So, when I was given greater understanding of my plight, like others, I searched for a way to become the man I should be.”

Apollyon growled, “No prince will so readily give up his subjects. I will not lose you to another king. Since you complain about the wages for your service, go back. I promise to give you what our country can afford.”



**There Is No Armor For A Retreating Warrior**



Christian confidently responded, “I have entrusted myself to the King of Zion and have sworn allegiance to Him. How can I betray him? I will not become a traitor.”

“You betrayed me,” snarled the fiend. “Yet, I am willing to ignore your betrayal if you will now turn back and return as my subject.”

Christian would not relent, but said, “I served you out of ignorance. Now I believe the Prince under whose banner I stand has the authority to absolve me and pardon me for all I did while in your service. And He has. Though I know you hate the truth, I speak the truth, nonetheless. I delight in the service of the Prince of Peace, the wages he gives, his servants, his government, his company, and his country is far better than yours. Stop trying to persuade me to forsake the King’s Highway. I am His servant and will follow Him.”

The vile beast mocked, “When you come to your senses again, think about all the obstacles you will likely meet on the way you have chosen to follow. You know many of that Prince’s servants come to shameful deaths because they forsake me and transgress my ways!” Apollyon continued, “Why do you prefer that Prince? He doesn’t come to rescue His servants from his enemy. But I, many times, as the whole world knows, have delivered either by power or fraud, those who have faithfully served me even when that Prince took them from me. I will deliver you, Christian.”

“You lie, you devil,” Christian called out, “You claim my princely King delays rescuing his subjects from your capturing them. He acts by testing their love and loyalty to him, loyalty to the end when he delivers them into glory. If not delivered in this life, they know they have a crown of glory that awaits them when he welcomes them.”



Apollyon howled in rage, pointing his accusatory finger at Christian, saying, “You have already been unfaithful to your new Prince. So, how do you expect to receive generous wages from Him?”

Christian challenged the monster, “When have I been unfaithful to Him?”

Indignant, Apollyon spewed smoke from his nostrils. “You were unfaithful when you began to set out on your journey and almost drowned in the Slough of Despond. Again, you were unfaithful when you tried to be rid of the burden when you should have waited for your King to remove it. Your unfaithfulness was evident when you dropped your certificate. Unfaithfulness loomed large when you were almost persuaded to turn back at the sight and sound of the lions at the Palace Beautiful.”

Apollyon glared at Christian with pride, thinking he had broken him. Mockingly, he argued, “When you talked about your journey, and all that you have seen and heard, oh, how you inwardly desired everyone’s praise, and your pride was obvious for everyone to see.”

Christian agreed, “All that is true and much worse. But the King whom I honor and serve is merciful and eager to forgive the sins of all who repent. I had many weaknesses when I resided in your land because I was born into sin and trained in sin. But I became sorrowful over my sins, and now the weight of sin’s guilt is gone. I received a pardon for my sins from my King. Beware of what you do because I am in the King’s Highway, the Way of Holiness.”

Apollyon let out a shriek, “I am the Prince’s enemy. I hate Him, His laws, and His people. That is why I have come here to stop you.”



**Micah 7:8**—“Do not gloat over me, my enemy! Though I have fallen, I will rise.”

**Romans 8:37**—“No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.”

**James 4:7**—“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

**Hebrews 4:12**—“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

Then, daring Christian to advance, Apollyon straddled to entire width of the highway and hissed, “I have no fear. Prepare to take your last breath. I swear by my infernal den, you will go no farther. Here, you die!”

The raging beast hurled a flaming dart at Christian’s chest, but Christian deflected it with his shield of faith. **Rom. 12:2; 1 Cor. 15:2; Rom. 10:5**

Determined to take his stand, Christian drew his sword, which is the Word of God. Apollyon swiftly advanced, rapidly hurling fiery darts with Christian deflecting them with his shield. Nevertheless, Christian sustained wounds on his head, his hand, and his foot, all causing him to stumble somewhat, prompting Apollyon to press even closer. Fresh courage coursed through Christian’s body. This mortal combat endured for half a day, with Christian growing weary and worn from his many wounds.

Apollyon seized the opportunity. He grappled with Christian who fell to the ground. As he fell, the sword flew from his hand. Then Apollyon taunted, “I have you now!” as he leaped on Christian and nearly crushed him to death. Christian began to despair of life.

But as God would have it, when Apollyon lifted himself up to deliver his final blow to terminate his foe, Christian reached for his sword lying on the ground. He grasped it and, with determination, announced, “Do not gloat over me, my enemy! Though I have fallen, I will rise.” Christian thrust his sword into the hideous fiend, Apollyon, who fell backward like a man who had received a mortal wound. Seeing that he had gained the advantage, Christian rejoiced by saying, “No, in all these things, we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.” When Apollyon heard this victory cry, he spread his dragon wings and flew away, and Christian saw him no more.





When the devil fled, grateful Christian said, “Here, I will give thanks to Him who delivered me out of the mouth of the lion, to him who helped me resist Apollyon.” So, Christian sang,

Great Beelzebub, the Captain of this fiend,  
Designed my ruin, therefore, to this end.  
He sent him armed with weapons and with rage  
That hellish was, and fiercely did I in battle engage.  
But God’s angel Michael helped me, and I,  
A slash of the sword did make the fiend fly.  
Therefore, to my God, I give my lasting praise  
And thank and bless His holy Name always.

Then, a messenger appeared before Christian, offering a handful of leaves from the Tree of Life. He received them with gratitude and applied them to his wounds which immediately healed. He sat to eat some bread and drink some wine from the provisions Prudence, Piety, and Charity had given him.

After being refreshed, Christian resumed his journey with the sword drawn and ready in his hand lest he encounter another enemy in the Valley of Humiliation. But Apollyon had fled, perhaps to harass some other pilgrim.

And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.) And he blessed him and said,

“Blessed be Abram by God Most High,  
Possessor of heaven and earth;  
and blessed be God Most High,  
who has delivered your enemies into your hand!”



Genesis 14:18-20

Keep your heart with all vigilance,  
for from it flow the springs of life (Prov. 4:23).



“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:14-16

## **Be wary. The Backside of A Retreating Warrior Is Not Protected with Armor. Face the Foe with Your Christian Armor Seen.**

- Do not conceal your Christian faith to avoid being canceled.
- High School students, do not conceal your faith to gain entrance into a valued peer group.
- Office worker, do not look the other way when unfair labor practices benefit you but not all, and you say nothing for fear of being blackballed.
- College students, do not hide your faith to avoid the sneers of faculty and classmates concerning anti-Christian ideas and beliefs.
- Parents, do not avoid causing a disturbance when a trans-identified male is forced into your daughter's locker room.
- Social Media participants, let your Christian light be seen in everything you post, whether text or images.



Our heart has not turned back,  
nor have our steps departed from your way;  
yet you have broken us in the place of jackals  
and covered us with the shadow of death (Ps.  
44:18-19).

Some sat in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
prisoners in affliction and in irons,  
for they had rebelled against the words of God,  
and spurned the counsel of the Most High (Ps.  
107:10).

With the Valley of Humiliation behind him, Christian now enters a continuation of the land's depression called the Valley of the Shadow of Death. Christian faced his greatest foe in the valley behind him, the devil himself. Now, in this valley, some of the foes he will face are presented by the valley itself. It is a lonely and desolate place, as the prophet Jeremiah portrays it as

the wilderness,  
in a land of deserts and pits,  
in a land of drought and deep darkness,  
in a land that none passes through,  
where no man dwells.

Jeremiah 2:6

1 John 3:12

Numbers 13

In this valley, Christian is subjected to greater hardships than he encountered in the previous valley. Immediately upon entering the valley, two men came retreating from the valley. They were descendants of the spies who returned a depressing report on the Promised Land.

“Where are you going?” asked Christian.

Breathlessly, they said, “Back! Back to where we came from, and you should do the same to preserve your life and peace of mind.”

“Why are you alarmed?” Christian inquired.

“Alarmed! You are headed where we almost went beyond the point of no return,” they replied. “We were almost into the Valley of the Shadow of Death when we realized the danger ahead. The valley is pitch black. We saw hobgoblins, satyrs, and dragons of the pit. We heard howling and yelling from people who were tortured, being bound in chains. Discouraging clouds of confusion engulf the valley. The shroud of death spread over it. It’s a dreadful and disorderly place.”

“I’ve never seen anything like you have described. But there is no other way to the Celestial City. I must proceed,” Christian responded.

“Go ahead, but we warned you. We will find another way.”

Christian went on his way with the sword in hand, ready if attacked.

CHRISTIAN ENTERS THE VALLEY OF  
THE SHADOW OF DEATH

In my dream, I could survey the entire length of the valley. A deep ditch lay on the right side of the path in which many, from the beginning of time, have perished being led there by the blind. On the left was a dangerous quagmire in which not even if a good man falls, he cannot find solid footing. King David once fell there, and unless the Lord delivered him, he would have been smothered to death.

Always dark, the pathway between the two deathtraps was extremely narrow. Walking forward without losing one's footing on either side was dangerous but necessary to reach the end of the valley. Christian's heartbeat raced, and he breathed heavily. In the middle of the valley, hell's mouth reached the edge of the path, spewing flames, smoke, sparks, and hideous noises leaped at Christian, whose sword provided no protection. He sheathed the sword, resorting to All-Prayer, the final armor with which he had been clothed.

Christian cried out, "O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!" (Ps. 116:4). He pressed on for a long time. Still, the flames leaped toward him while he continued hearing pathetic, tortured voices as he proceeded for several miles. At one point, he thought he heard demons approaching him. He stopped to ponder his impending plight. He considered turning back, but realized the distance back was as great as forward.

When the demons seemed almost upon him, he cried out, "I will walk in the strength of the Lord God!" They retreated.

Confused, Christian thought the blasphemies he heard may have been uttered by his own mouth. He was smitten with grief to think he may have blasphemed the One who loves him and died for him. As he walked for some time, he thought he heard a man's voice saying, "Though I walk through the Valley of the Shadow of Death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me."

Deliver me

from sinking in the mire;  
let me be delivered from my enemies  
and from the deep waters.

Let not the flood sweep over me,  
or the deep swallow me up,  
or the pit close its mouth over me (Ps. 69:14-15).







On such a dreadful and treacherous pathway, hearing the voice brought joy to his heart for three reasons.

1. He now believed he was not alone in the valley but that someone who feared God was in the valley with him.
2. Even though it was dark and dismal, so he could not see the man walking ahead of him, he was confident that God was with that man, given his words.
3. He hoped he could catch up with the man ahead and have him as a companion on his journey.

Christian called out to the pilgrim who was walking ahead of him, but the traveler did not answer. Like Christian, he also thought he was alone on the trail.

As morning dawned, Christian burst forth, saying, “He has turned the shadow of death into the morning” (Job 9:11).

Daylight exposed the terrors of the valley behind him, including the ditch and the quagmire, the hobgoblins, satyrs, and dragons. He remembered the saying, “He reveals deep things out of darkness and brings out to light the shadows of death” (Job 12:22). So, his spirits were lifted, but he feared the hazards of the valley all the more.

The rising sun cheered him with its kind mercy. He realized how treacherous the first part of his journey through the Valley of the Shadow of Death had been. But it would not compare to the dangers that lay before him, which he yet needed to travel. Viewing the path ahead, he saw that it had many pits, deep holes, snares, traps, and deceptive paths that led down to the pit. He praised God for the sun’s light to illumine the way. Thus, as he walked the remainder of the way through the valley, he said, “His lamp shines on my head, and by His light I go through darkness” (Job 29:3).

Now, I saw in my dream at the valley’s end blood, bones, ashes, and mangled human bodies, even of some pilgrims who had traveled this way. I wondered what could cause such carnage. Then I saw a cave where two giants, Pope and Pagan, lived together in days gone by. Their power and tyranny had cruelly put to death those whose bodies littered the area. But Pagan was now dead, and Pope was old and decrepit with little more to do than sit at the mouth of the cave and watch passing pilgrims and utter denouncements, “More like you must be burned.” Christian passed by silently but smiling, then breaking out in song:

*O world of wonders, (I can say no less.)  
That I should be preserved in this distress  
That I have met with here! O blessed be  
That hand that from it has delivered me!  
Dangers in darkness, devils, Hell and sin.*

*Encompassed me, while I this vale was in;  
Snares and pits, and traps, and nets did lie  
About my path, that worthless, silly I  
Might have been caught, entangled, and cast down;  
But since I live, let Jesus wear the crown.*



NEXT WEEK  
CHRISTIAN IS JOINED  
BY TWO TRAVELING  
COMPANIONS—  
FAITHFUL & TALKATIVE

CHRIST BIBLE CHURCH

