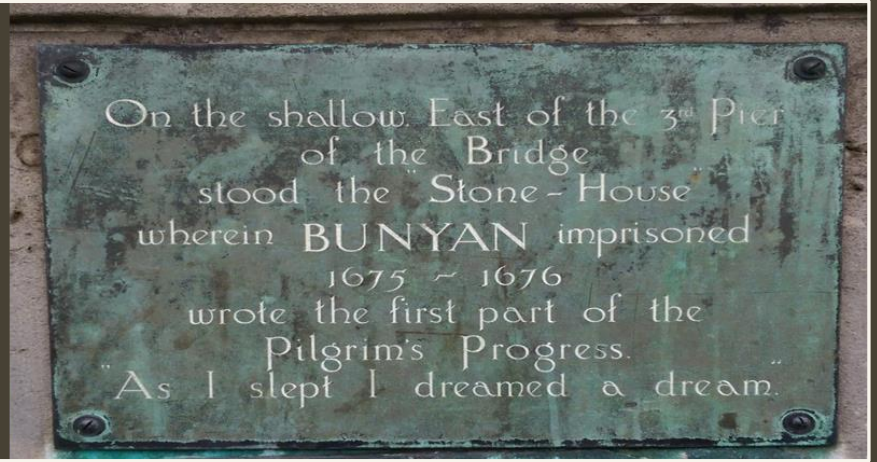
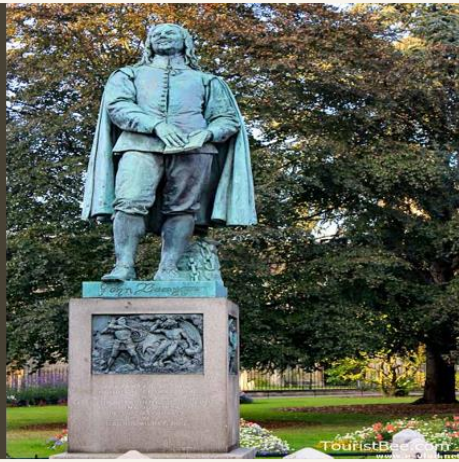


“WE MUST GO THROUGH MANY HARDSHIPS TO ENTER THE
KINGDOM OF GOD.”

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.**

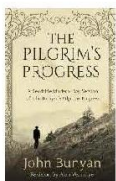
Matthew 24:9-13





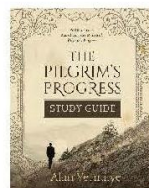
CHRISTIAN & HOPEFUL ENJOY PLEASANTRIES & ENCOUNTER MISERY

Study of *The Pilgrim's Progress* Spring 2024



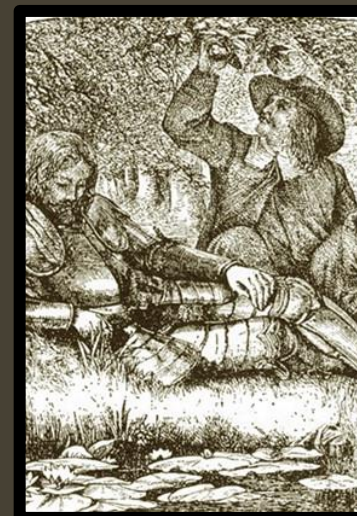
[The Pilgrim's Progress—A Readable Modern-Day Version
of John Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress — Revision by Alan
Vermilye](#)

[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](#)



FOUR SCENES

At the Pleasant
River



By-Path
Meadow



Captured by
Giant Despair



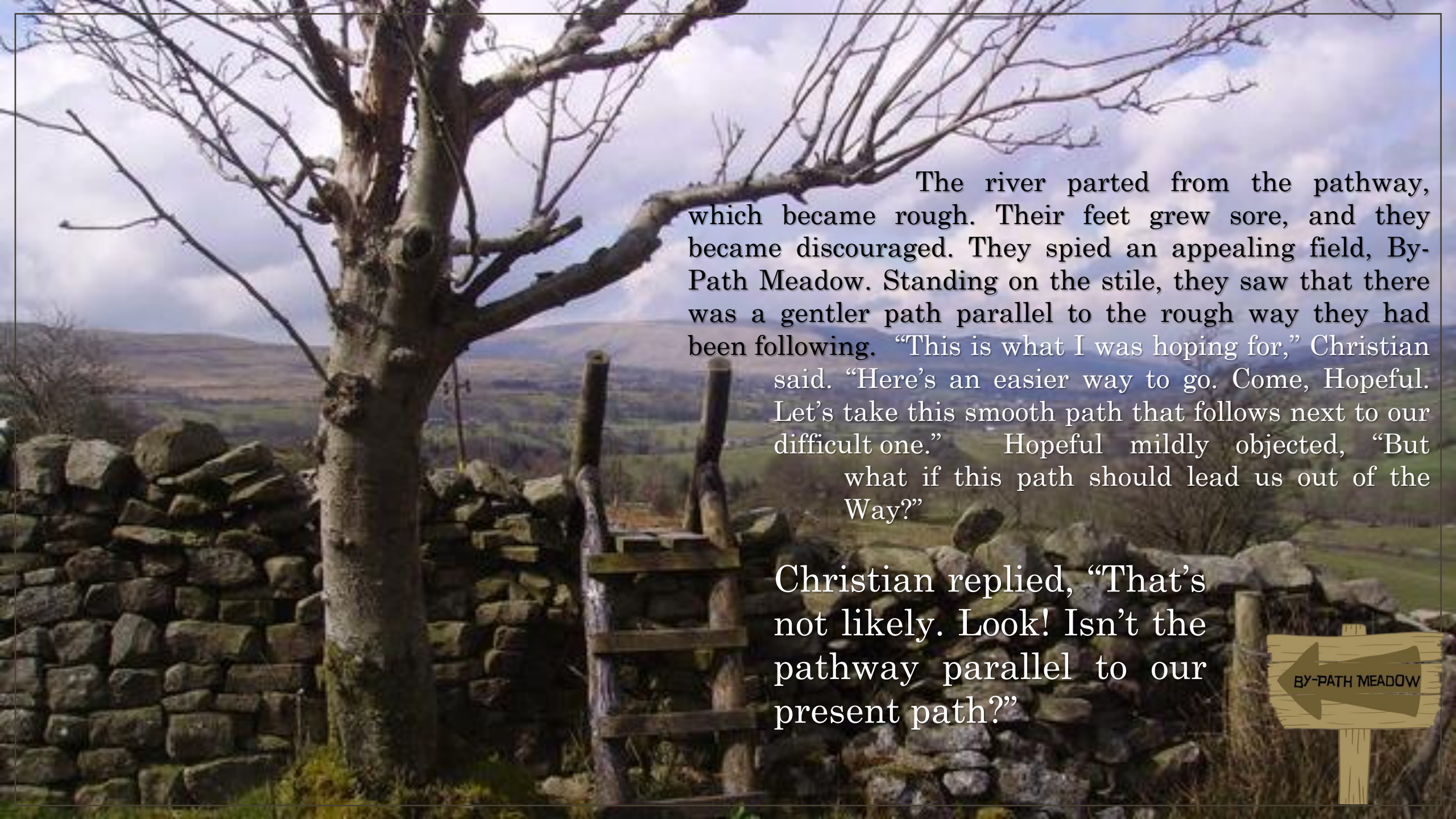
Harassed in
Doubting Castle





As Christian and Hopeful pass by the salt pillar of Lot's wife, they come upon a pleasant river with a paradise-like garden on its bank. It's the River of God, also called the River of the Water of Life. The path begins to bend away from the river. They refreshed themselves by the river with fruit and leaves from trees along the river for several days.

- The river represents peace and joy, which God richly provides us in Christ. It refreshes and revives our hearts as we meditate on God's riches in his Son.
- Our Creator imbued rivers with this symbolism.
 - Genesis 2:10—"A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden."
 - Psalm 65:9—"The river of God is full of water."
 - Psalm 23:1-2—"He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside the still waters."
 - Ezekiel 47:1-12—A vision of the river flowing from the temple of the Lord.
 - John 7:37-39—"If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. . . . Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."



The river parted from the pathway, which became rough. Their feet grew sore, and they became discouraged. They spied an appealing field, By-Path Meadow. Standing on the stile, they saw that there was a gentler path parallel to the rough way they had been following. “This is what I was hoping for,” Christian said. “Here’s an easier way to go. Come, Hopeful. Let’s take this smooth path that follows next to our difficult one.” Hopeful mildly objected, “But what if this path should lead us out of the Way?”

Christian replied, “That’s not likely. Look! Isn’t the pathway parallel to our present path?”

BY-PATH MEADOW

They find walking in By-Path Meadow easy, but they do not yet realize the pathway does not lead to the Celestial City.

Ahead of them, they see a man walking in the same direction they are going. They call out to him, asking where he is headed. “To the Celestial Gate,” he yelled back. This, at least for the moment, reassures Christian. “See. I told you we were on the right path.”

They do not know they are following an untrustworthy man, Vain-Confidence. Nightfall arrives. In the darkness, they lose sight of the man. The darkness blinds Vain-Confidence’s eyes, so he does not adequately see where he is going. A deep pit is directly in front of him, but he doesn’t see it. He plunges in.

Christian and Hopeful hear him fall and groan. As they contemplate what to do, torrential rain begins to fall with flashing lightning and loud thunder. Christian regrets taking the easy pathway. They begin to return to the path they had been taking, but the rain floods the path, nearly drowning them. They hear a voice encouraging them,

“Set up road signs;
put up guideposts.
Take note of the highway,
the road that you take.

Eventually, they find a shelter where they can wait out the storm.



BY-PATH, AN
INDIRECT ROUTE



They don't realize that their "little shelter" is near "Doubting Castle, which is owned by Giant Despair."

During his morning walk, Giant Despair comes upon Christian and Hopeful, asleep on his property.

The giant accuses the pilgrims of trespassing. So, he binds them and takes them to his castle, where he tosses them into "a very dark dungeon, nasty and stinking." There, the two pilgrims remained for four full days without nourishment or water and not even a ray of light.

What a pitiful situation! Christian's conscience tormented him because of his decision created their present distress.

His wife, Distrust advised the giant to beat the two pilgrims, leaving them "to mourn under their distress." Later, again on the advice of his wife Distrust, the Giant urges the pilgrims to commit suicide.

The pilgrims truly are despairing, but Hopeful calls them to the consolations of God's providence over them. Each day Giant Despair visits them, he expects to find them dead because each day, he inflicts abuse on them as directed by his wife.

The two pilgrims begin to despair of living to face Giant Despair again the next day.

Christian is about to accept death, but Hopeful reminds him of earlier hopeless situations he faced with courage and survived.

Distrust urges the Giant to bring his captives to the courtyard and show them the skeletons of other victims.



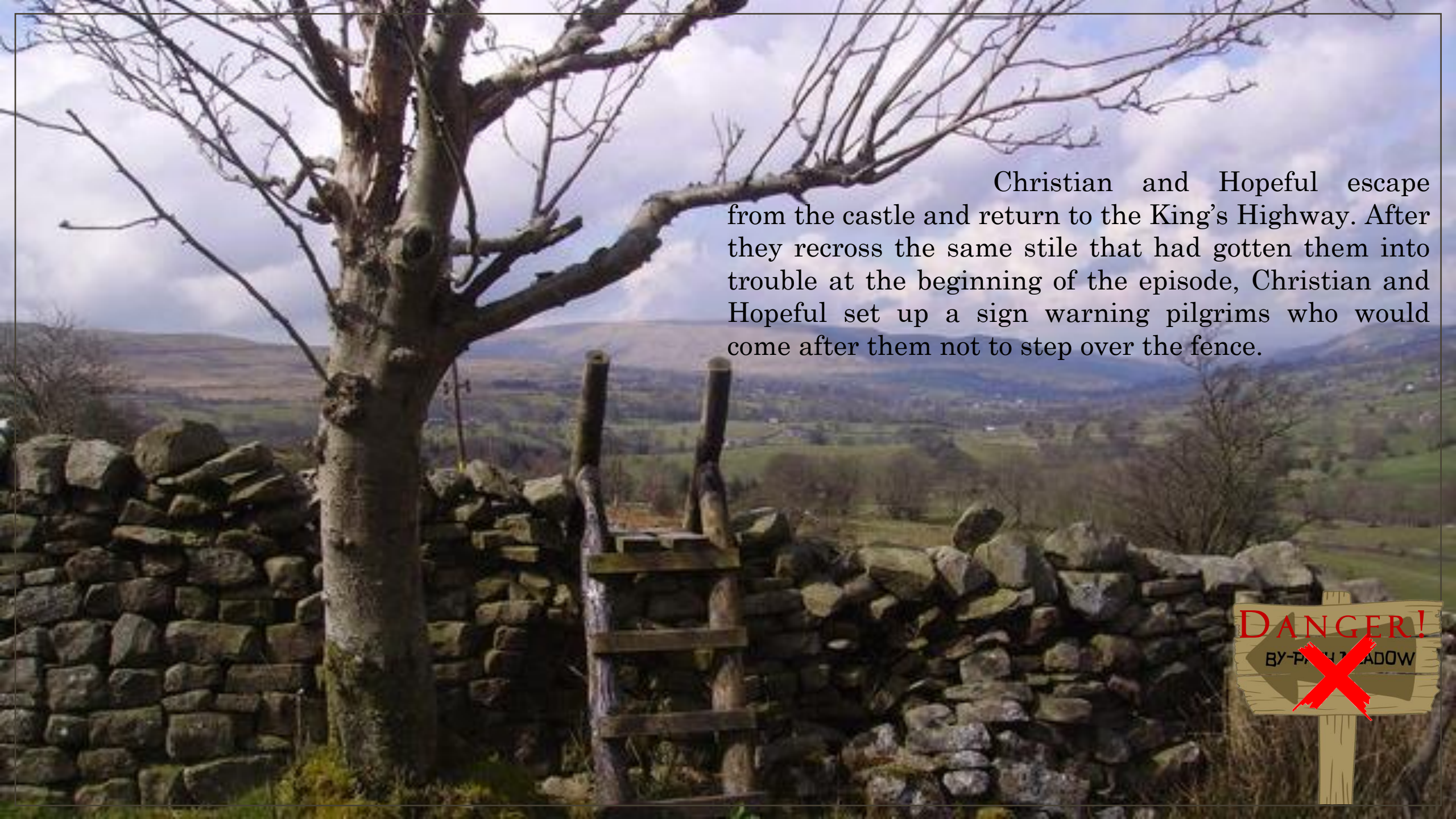


So, the next morning, Giant Despair takes them to the courtyard, where he threatens to tear them to shreds within ten days and scatter their pieces in the courtyard.

That night, while the Giant and Distrust wonder why the two pilgrims are so enduring, Christian and Hopeful pray.

Before sunrise, Christian awoke with a start, “What a fool I have been. I hold a key called Promise that I believe will open any lock in Doubting Castle!”

He pulls it from his pocket and tries to unlock the dungeon door. The sound of metal against metal heartened him as he turned the key. The lock opens. Christian walks to the outer door. It opens also. Then, the large iron gate stands between them and freedom. The lock is stiff, but at last, it opens. They swing the gate open, making a loud and unpleasant creaking noise that awakens Giant Despair who comes running, but he is too late.



Christian and Hopeful escape from the castle and return to the King's Highway. After they recross the same stile that had gotten them into trouble at the beginning of the episode, Christian and Hopeful set up a sign warning pilgrims who would come after them not to step over the fence.



DANGER!
BY-PASS THE STILE



NEXT WEEK
CHRISTIAN &
HOPEFUL MEET THE
SHEPHERDS,
IGNORANCE, &
LITTLE FAITH



CHRIST BIBLE CHURCH

