

PREVIEW



THE PILGRIM'S PROGRESS PART II
CHRISTIANA & THE CELESTIAL CITY

1 Peter 2:9-11 (NKJV)

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*But you are a chosen generation,
a royal priesthood, a holy nation,
His own special people,
that you may proclaim
the praises of Him
who called you out of darkness
into His marvelous light;
who once were not a people
but are now the people of God,
who had not obtained mercy
but now have obtained mercy.*

*Beloved, I beg you
as sojourners and pilgrims,
abstain from fleshly lusts
which war against the soul.*

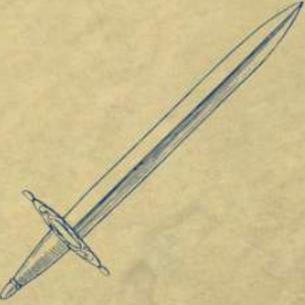
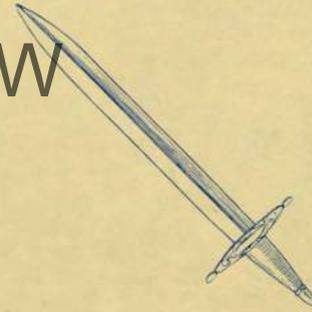
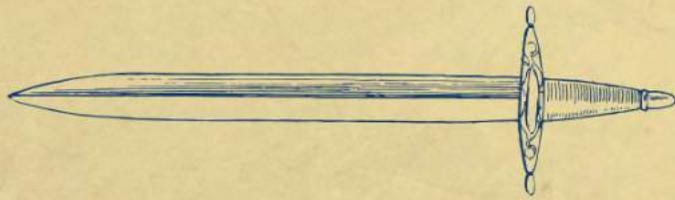


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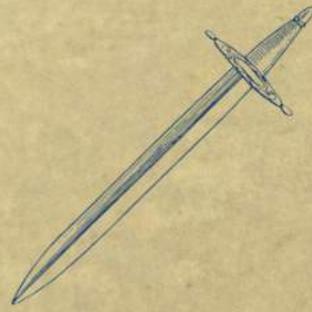
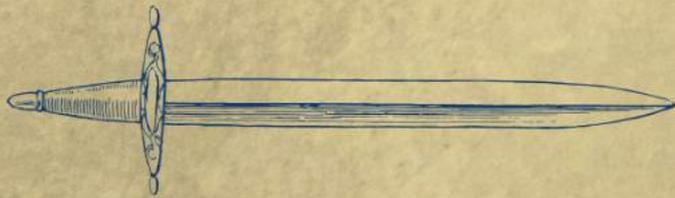


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Dedicated to:

My daughter, Olive.
May the King keep you pure
and blameless, so you can shine
like a light in this crooked
generation.



Little Pilgrim's Big Journey Part 11

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1. *A Letter from the King*
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2. *Entering the Narrow Gate*
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Introduction

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John Bunyan spent twelve years in prison because he was determined to obey God rather than man. He said, “I will stay in prison till the moss grows on my eyelids rather than disobey God.” He also said, “I will stay in jail to the end of my days before I make a butchery of my conscience.”

Bunyan was finally released from prison in 1672. *The Pilgrim’s Progress* was first published six years later. In that book, Christian’s family refused to join him, and they were left in the City of Destruction.

After reading that story, many people wondered what happened to Christian’s family. So John Bunyan released the second part of *Pilgrim’s Progress* after six more years, in 1684. This part follows the journey of Christian’s family to the Celestial City. And it’s the story told here in *Little Pilgrim’s Big Journey Part II*.

My aim has been to follow the flow and emphasis of the original, while also making the story connect more naturally with *Part I*. Some scenes and characters have been adapted to help children understand and engage with the timeless truths in this book.

My prayer is that the timeless truths in this story will impact the hearts and minds of many little pilgrims as they begin their big journeys of faith.



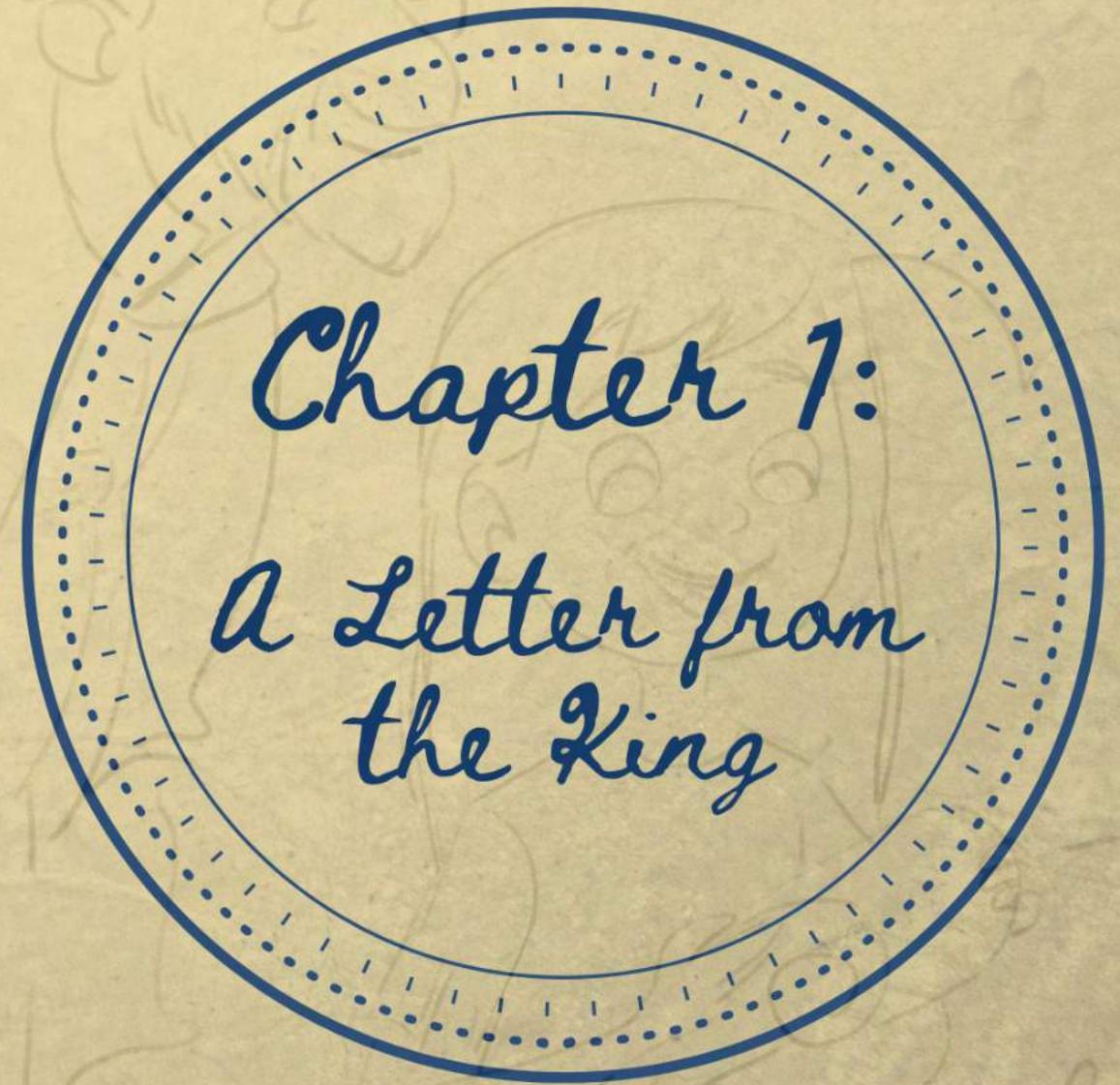
What is an Allegory?

The Pilgrim's Progress is not an ordinary story. It was written as an allegory. An allegory is a story with a deep meaning. All the people and places mentioned in an allegory are intended to teach us important lessons. (To help make clear the meaning of this particular allegory, a short summary and discussion questions are included at the end of each chapter in *Little Pilgrim's Big Journey Part II*.)

A pilgrim is someone who leaves home to go on a big journey. John Bunyan believed that the Christian life is like a pilgrimage, with many joys and trials on our way to heaven. *The Pilgrim's Progress* is the story of John Bunyan's experience as a Christian, but it represents the journey of all Christians.

This story vividly explores biblical themes as we follow Christiana and her brothers on their journey to the Celestial City. One of the repeated themes in *Part II* is, "the bitter must come before the sweet." John Bunyan understood this, as he spent twelve bitter years in jail because of his commitment to follow Christ. Yet now Bunyan is with his Savior enjoying the sweet reward of his faithful service to God.

Every Christian's journey will be different, but we all must believe the King's word and follow the King's path. After we have endured difficulty in this life, we will receive eternal joy in the King's city.



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As I walked through a forest, I found a quiet place to rest, and I fell asleep. As I slept, I dreamed again. And in my dream, behold, I saw Christian's sister, Christiana. She was crying to herself, "Woe is me! I am lost."

Christiana cried because she missed Christian and thought she might never see him again. She remembered mean things she had said to him, and how she wouldn't listen to his loving pleas. Sometimes she could almost hear Christian's voice calling out, "What must I do to be saved?"



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Christiana went back to her house and told her brothers,
“Christian is gone, and it’s all our fault!
Why didn’t we go with him?”

“I thought he was a fool,” said Jude, her older brother.
“But now I know he was the wisest of us all.
The light of life was given to him, but we remain in darkness.”

And Eli, her younger brother, cried out,
“Christian showed us his book, he told us of the King,
he invited us to the Celestial City—but we wouldn’t listen!
Now we’re doomed to destruction.”



That night, Christiana had a strange dream. She saw a large open scroll. Written on it were all the bad things she'd ever done—each time she had lied, or cheated, or been angry at someone. The scroll grew bigger and bigger in front of her, until it seemed like it would crush her.

Christiana awoke, shaking with fear. She cried out, “Lord, have mercy on me for all of my sin!”



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But she told herself, "It was just a dream."
She fell back asleep and dreamed again.

This time her dream was more pleasant.
She saw Christian in the Celestial City
among the happiest people she'd ever seen.
They sang and danced near the throne of a King.
The music was sweeter than any melody on earth,
and the joy on Christian's face seemed brighter than the sun.
All the children in that city sang out,
Thank you, my Lord, for your goodness and grace.
Thank you, my King, for this glorious place.



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When Christiana woke up, she began to pray, and her brothers joined her.
“Dear King, please forgive us. If it’s not too late,
we would like to become pilgrims.”

As they prayed, they heard a knock at their door. It was Evangelist!
He said to the children,
“The King calls you to come to the Celestial City—this very day!
You must join Christian and all the King’s people
in the place where the sun never sets,
where happiness never ends,
and where no more tears are shed.”



“Oh, how I wish that was true!” Christiana said.
“But how can I know the King will accept me?”

Evangelist pulled a letter from his pocket.
“The King knew it would be hard for you to believe,
so he sent this letter.”

The letter smelled sweeter than a field full of flowers.
Christiana read these words in golden ink:
“My child, I have loved you with an everlasting love.
Come dwell in my city, eat at my table,
and live with my people forever and ever.”

“Oh, would you take us there?” Christiana said.
“It’s not an easy path to the King’s City.”

PREVIEW “It is a difficult path,” Evangelist said.
“But the bitter must come
before the sweet.”



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Evangelist told them, “You must take the path your brother took.
Follow the light all the way to the Narrow Gate.
Many of the King’s servants are ready to help you along your journey.”

Evangelist remembered Christian’s journey and all the difficulties he faced.
He knew the trials that these young ones must face.
He cried, but his tears were mixed with joy,
for he also knew the great happiness that lay ahead of them.



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That morning in the City of Destruction was unusually bright and beautiful as Christiana and her brothers left their home. They left everything behind to follow the King's path.



The first steps of their journey were light and joyous, and they sang together:
*Freed from death and saved from wrath,
As pilgrims we travel upon the King's path.
Onward and upward to Zion we go.
We'll seek the King's City—our forever home.*

Chapter 1 Summary

In this chapter we see the work of the Holy Spirit as he prepares the children's hearts to receive the King's Word. Through Christian's influence, his family desires to become pilgrims like him. Christiana feels the weight of her sin, though she doesn't have a burden on her back like Christian did. In John 16:8, Jesus says that the Holy Spirit "will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment."

In Christiana's dream, she sees a scroll containing all the bad things she's ever done. This scroll is like God's law, which reveals our sin to us (Romans 7:7). God's Spirit uses God's law to convict us of sin, so we can learn that we need a Savior who can free us from the judgment our sin deserves (Galatians 3:24). Apart from the work of the Holy Spirit, our hearts are hardened to God's truth and we can't see the beauty of the Gospel.

Knowing that only the King can save them, Christiana, Jude, and Eli leave their home to follow the King's path. When Jesus called his disciples, he told them to leave everything behind and follow him (Luke 14:25-33). Salvation is a free gift from God that leads to an eternal reward (Ephesians 2:8-9)—yet following Jesus is costly in this life. Christians may experience many difficulties in this life, but there is an eternal reward awaiting all who turn from their sin and trust in Jesus for salvation.

Understanding the Allegory

1. What did Christiana's dreams represent?
2. Why did Christian's family decide to become pilgrims?

Applying the Allegory:

3. How does God's law help us understand our sin and need for a Savior?
4. Evangelist said, 'the bitter must come before the sweet.' What does this mean?
5. Has God called everyone to turn from their sin and follow him?

