



SUNDAY CHILDREN'S READING

# The PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

FROM THIS WORLD TO THAT WHICH IS TO COME  
DELIVERED UNDER THE SIMILITUDE OF A DREAM;

Wherein is Discovered, the Manner of His Setting Out,  
His Dangerous Journey, and Safe Arrival at the Desired Country.

by John Bunyan

Retold in Modern English  
by Jon Cardwell

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*"I have also spoken by the prophets, and I have multiplied visions, and used similitudes, by the ministry of the prophets."* Hosea 12:10

As I walked through the wilderness of this world, I settled into a certain place where there was a Den; and I laid down in that place to sleep. As I slept, I had a dream. I dreamt, and behold, I saw a man dressed in rags, standing in a certain place. He faced away from his own house, he had a book in his hand, and a huge load upon his back (Isa 64:6; Luke 14:33; Psa 38:4; Hab 2:2; Acts 16:30-31). I watched him, and saw him open the book, and read it; and, as he read, he wept, and trembled; and, not being able restrain himself any longer, he cried out miserably, saying, “What shall I do?” (Acts 2:37).

Therefore, in this great troublesome state, he went home. He tried to behave normally as long as he could so his wife and children could not see his distress; but he could not be silent long, because his misery increased with each passing moment. Finally, the man had a long talk with his wife and children about what was on his mind. He said to them: “O my dear wife, and you, my own children, I, your dear friend, am devastated because of this burdensome load weighing me down. Not only that, I’ve been informed and convinced that this our city will be burned with fire from heaven; in which this fearful overthrow shall miserably destroy us all, both me, with you my wife, and you my sweet babes, unless we are able to find a way to escape and be saved (which I don’t yet see how).”

At this, his relatives were painfully amazed; not because they believed what he said to them was true, but because they thought that he might have lost his mind— that he was crazy and had gone utterly insane. Therefore, as the night drew near, they hoped that sleep might settle his brains, so with all haste, they got him to bed. But the night was as troublesome to him as the day. The man in rags tossed and turned; and instead of sleeping, he spent the whole night sighing and crying. When morning came, the man’s family went in to see how he was. He told them, “Worse and worse.” The man also began to talk to them again. But their hearts began to harden against his words. They also thought they could drive away his diseased thoughts by treating him rudely and harshly. Sometimes they would mock him. Sometimes they would scold him. Sometimes they would just ignore him as if he wasn’t there at all. Because of this treatment, he spent more time alone in his bedroom, to pray for and pity them, and also to grieve his own misery. At other times, he would also walk alone in the fields, sometimes reading, and sometimes praying: and thus, for many days he spent his time.

Now, at one point, I saw him when he was walking in the fields, that he was reading his book, which had become his habit to do so; and what he read greatly distressed his mind— and, as he read, he burst out, as he had done before, crying, “What shall I do to be saved?”

I saw also that he looked this way and that way, as if he would run; yet he stood still because, it seemed to me as I watched him, he could not tell which way to go. I looked then, and saw a man named Evangelist coming to him. Mr. Evangelist asked him, “Why are you crying?” (Job 33:23).

The rag man answered, “Sir, I understand by the book in my hand, that I am condemned to die, and after that to come to judgment (Heb 9:27); and I find that I am not willing to do the first (Job 16:21), nor able to do the second” (Ezek 22:14).

Then Evangelist said, “Why are you not willing to die, since this life is accompanied with so many evils?”

The man answered, “Because I’m afraid that this load upon my back will sink me lower than the grave, and I shall fall into Tophet (Isa 30:33). And, Sir, if I am not fit to go to prison, I’m sure I’m not fit to go to judgment and execution.” The rag man shuddered and said, “The thoughts of these things make me cry.”

Then Evangelist said, “If this is your condition, why do stand here doing nothing?”

The man answered, “Because I don’t know where to go!”

Mr. Evangelist then gave him a parchment roll, and written within the roll were the words, “Flee from the wrath to come!” (Matt 3:7).

The man read it, and then looked at Mr. Evangelist very carefully. Finally, he asked, “To where must I flee?”

Evangelist pointed with his finger over a very wide field. “Do you see the wicket-gate way over there?” (Matt 7:13-14).

The man in rags said, “No.”

Then Evangelist asked, “Do you see the shining light over yonder?” (Psa 119:105; 2 Pet 1:19).

“I think I do,” answered the man in rags.

Then Evangelist told him, “Keep that light in your eye, and go straight toward it: then you’ll see the gate; then at the gate, when you knock, you’ll be told what you must do.”

So I saw in my dream that the man began to run.

Now, he had not run far from his own door, that his wife and children, seeing he was running away, began to cry after him to return; but the man put his fingers in his ears, and ran on, crying, “Life! life! eternal life!” (Luke 14:26). He didn’t look back. He ran as fast as he could toward the middle of the plain. (Gen 19:17).

The rag man’s neighbors also came out to see him run (Jer 20:10); and, as he ran, some mocked, others threatened, and some cried after him to return.

Among those that ran after him were two people who were determined to bring him back by force. The name of the one was Mr. Adam Ant Obstinate and the name of the other Mr. Ben D. Pliable.

To Be Continued....

