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I Am in the King's Highway, the Way of Holiness': John Bunyan's The Pilgrim's Progress

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“**I am in the king’s highway, the way of holiness’**: John Bunyan’s *The Pilgrim’s Progress*”

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ETS

November 15, 2022

- A Apollyon: ‘He was clothed with scales, like a fish (and they are his pride). He had wings like a dragon, feet like a bear, and out of his belly came fire and smoke, and his mouth was as the mouth of a lion.’
(see also Job 45:15, possibly Job 40:16 – Leviathan and behemoth)
- B Revelation 13:2 ‘And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.’
- C Isaiah 35:7-9:
7 And the parched ground shall become a pool,
and the thirsty land springs of water:
in the habitation of **dragons**, where each lay,
shall be grass with reeds and rushes.
8 And an **highway** shall be there, and a way,
and it shall be called **The way of holiness**;
the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those:
the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein.
9 No lion shall be there,
nor any **ravenous beast** shall go up thereon,
it shall not be found there;
but the redeemed shall walk there:
- D There also you shall meet with thousands and ten thousands that have gone before us to that place; none of them are hurtful, but loving and **holy**, everyone walking in the sight of God, and standing in his presence with acceptance forever [...] **Holy** virgins with their golden harps.’
- E Pru: “What is it that makes you so desirous to go to Mount Zion?”(50)
Chr: ‘Why, there I hope to see him *alive* that did hang dead on the cross; and there I hope to be rid of all those things, that to this day are in me an annoyance to me; there, they say, there is no death; and there I shall dwell with such company as I like best. For, to tell you truth, I love him, because I was by him eased of my burden; and I am weary of my inward sickness. I would fain be where I shall die no more, and with the company that shall continually cry, **Holy, Holy, Holy.**’
- F Now, according to the strength or weakness of his faith in his Savior, so is his joy and peace. So is his **love to holiness**. So are his desires to know him more, and also to serve him in this World. But though I say it discovereth itself thus unto him, yet it is but seldom that he is able to conclude that this is a work of Grace, because his corruptions now and his abused reason make his mind to misjudge in this matter. Therefore, in him that hath this work, there is required a very sound Judgment before he can with steadiness conclude that this is a work of Grace.
- G To others, it is thus discovered:
1. By an experimental confession of his faith in Christ.
2. By a life answerable to that confession; to wit, a **life of holiness, heart-holiness, family-holiness** (if he hath a family), and by **conversation-holiness** in the world. A life which, in the general, teacheth him inwardly, to **abhor his sin**, and himself for that, in secret; to **suppress it in his Family**, and to **promote holiness in the World**; not by talk only, as a hypocrite or talkative person may do, but by a **practical subjection, in faith and love, to the power of the Word.**