Chapter Twenty-Two

The Country of Beulah

Now I saw in my dream that by this time the pilgrims had gotten over the Enchanted Ground and had entered the country of Beulah, whose air was very sweet and pleasant. Since their path went directly through it, they stopped to refresh themselves for a while. Here they continually heard the singing of birds and saw the flowers appearing every day. They heard the voice of the dove in the land. In this country the sun shines night and day. This place was beyond the Valley of the Shadow of Death and also out of the reach of Giant Despair. They couldn’t even see Doubting Castle from here. They were now within sight of the City to which they were going and met some of the inhabitants of that City, for the Shining Ones (angels) commonly walked in this land, since it was on the border of heaven. Here the contract between the Bride and the Bridegroom was renewed. “As a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you.” They did not lack for corn or wine, for in this place they had an abundance of those things which they had sought during the whole pilgrimage. They heard voices from the City - loud voices - saying, “Say to the Daughter of Zion, ‘See, your Savior comes! See, his reward is with him.’” Here all the inhabitants of the country call them ‘The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord; and you will be called Sought After.’

Now as they walked in this land, they rejoiced more than they had when they traveled in other parts of the kingdom which were further away. As they approached the City, they got a better view of it. It was built of pearls and precious stones. The street was paved with gold. And because of the natural glory of the City, and the reflection of the sunbeams on it, Christian, longing to be there, became sick. Hopeful also got a little of the same disease - homesickness. Therefore, they rested by the City for a while, crying out, “If you see my Beloved, tell him that I am love-sick.”

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1. “No longer will they call you Deserted, or name your land Desolate. But you will be called Hephzibah, and your land Beulah; for the Lord will take delight in you, and your land will be married” (Is. 62:4).

2. “My lover spoke and said to me, ‘Arise, my darling, my beautiful one, and come with me. See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land’” (Song of Sol. 2:10-12).

3. Is. 62:5b.

4. “The Lord has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: ‘Never again will I give your grain as food for your enemies, and never again will foreigners drink the new wine for which you have toiled; but those who harvest it will eat it and praise the Lord, and those who gather the grapes will drink it in the courts of my sanctuary’” (Is. 62:8-9).


7. “O daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you – if you find my lover, what will you tell him? Tell him I am faint with love” (Song of Sol. 5:8).
After they were strengthened a little and were able to bear with their sickness, they walked on 
their way and came nearer and nearer to the City where there were orchards, vineyards, and 
gardens, whose gates opened onto the highway. As they came up to them, they met the gardener 
to whom the pilgrims said, “Whose good vineyards and gardens are these?” He answered, “They 
are the King’s and are planted here for his own enjoyment and also for the comfort of pilgrims.” 
Then the gardener invited them into the vineyard and encouraged them to refresh themselves 
with the delicious food. He also showed them the King’s favorite garden paths and arbors. Here 
they stayed and slept.

Now I saw in my dream that they talked more in their sleep than they had in their whole journey. 
As they were reflecting on their dreams, the gardener said, “Why are you so concerned about 
talking in your sleep? It is the nature of the grapes from these vineyards to be so sweet that they 
actually cause people to talk in their sleep.”

I saw that when they awoke, they decided to go up to the City. But, as I said, the reflection of the 
sun on the City (for the City was pure gold) was so extremely glorious, that they could not yet 
look at it with their naked eyes, but only through an instrument made for that purpose. So I saw 
that as they went on, two men dressed in clothing that shone like gold met them. Also their faces 
shone like the light.

These men asked the pilgrims where they had come from, and they told them. They also asked 
them where they had lodged, what difficulties and dangers they had experienced, and what 
comforts and pleasures they had enjoyed on their way. And they told them. Then the men that 
met them said, “You only have two more difficulties to encounter, and then you are in the City.”

Christian and his companion asked the men to go along with them. They told them they would. 
“But,” they said, “you must obtain it by your own faith.” So I saw in my dream that they went 
along together until they could see the Gate.

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8 “If you enter your neighbor’s vineyard, you may eat all the grapes you want, but do not put any in your basket” (Dt. 23:24).

9 “The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass” (Rev. 21:18).

10 “And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-
increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit” (II Cor. 3:18).