Before our first-year review last week, we found that Christian had arrived at the **House Beautiful** (the church) and was greeted by the **Porter** of the Lodge (the pastor). Once inside, he met four young ladies named **Discretion, Piety, Charity, and Prudence** (virtues) who questioned him about his journey and his faith. The house had been built by the Lord of the Hill for the relief and security of pilgrims.
We noted the importance of becoming a member of a local body of believers and catalogued the biblical responsibilities of pastors. Commentator William Mason strongly urged that “none ought to be admitted into the church of Christ, but such as can give good evidence that they are the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus, and are sincere pilgrims in the way of the heavenly city.”
During dinner (the Lord’s Supper), their conversation was about the Lord of the Hill and how He had been a great Warrior on their behalf. They talked long into the evening, after which Christian retired to a chamber called Peace, where he slept until morning. Having been justified by faith, he has peace with God (Rom. 5:1) as well as the peace of God (Phil. 4:7). Now alone for the night, he ponders...
In the Chamber of Peace

Where am I now? Is this the love and care Of Jesus, for the men that Pilgrims are? Thus to provide! That I should be forgiven! And dwell already the next door to Heaven.
Christian was counseled not to leave the House Beautiful until they had shown him the *rarities* of the place:

1. The Study
2. The Armory
3. The Delectable Mountains
The Study
Records of Antiquity

• The genealogy of the Lord of the Hill.
• Records about Jesus being the Son of the Ancient of Days and how He came by eternal generation.
• Detailed acts which Christ had done.
• The names of hundreds of people whom Christ had brought into His service.
Jesus’ Genealogy

• “The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham” (Matthew 1:1).

• “Jesus, when he began his ministry, was about thirty years of age, being the son of Heli, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Melchi, the son of Jannai, the son of Joseph...” (Luke 3:23-24).
The Ancient of Days

• **The Son of the Ancient of Days.** Bunyan was referring to Daniel 7:9: “I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which
Eternal Generation

shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

• **He came by eternal generation.** Jesus is from eternity the Son of God, i.e., He did not become the Son of God in time. It is not a term of office, but of nature (He and the Father are of the same nature or essence). He is the Son of God because He is divine.
Acts Done by Christ

- Creation
- Providence
- Miracles
- Healing
- Exorcisms
- Raising the dead
- His death and resurrection
- Ascension
- Salvation
“And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah; of David and Samuel and the prophets; who by faith conquered kingdoms, performed acts of righteousness, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight” (Heb. 11:32-34).
Additional Reading

• Records about God’s grace to unworthy sinners.
• Histories of things old and modern.
• Prophecies and predictions “that bring dread and amazement to God’s enemies and offer comfort and solace to pilgrims.”
“There is a great deal of difference between reading and studying. Reading is something we can do in a leisurely way, something that can be done strictly for entertainment in a casual, cavalier manner. But study suggests labor, serious and diligent work. Here then, is the real problem of our negligence. We fail in our duty to study God’s Word not so much because it is
difficult to understand, not so much because it is dull and boring, but because it is work. Our problem is not a lack of intelligence or a lack of passion. Our problem is that we are lazy.”

- from Knowing Scripture
The Armory
**History as Spiritual Warfare**

- Human history is a drama of paradise (Garden of Eden), and then war.
- War begins in Genesis 3 and continues throughout the rest of the Old and New Testaments.
- Jesus Christ is the triumphant Deliverer and King.
- We can experience deliverance from the power of Satan.
- Warfare will end one day.
Satan’s Primary Purposes

- To spoil and destroy God’s work.
- To keep people from God.
- To draw Christians into sin.
- To accuse and trouble Christians after they have sinned.
The Impact of the Modern Age

• Demythologizes God and Satan.
• Promotes the material and social, not the spiritual dimension.
• Accusation that people who believe in the Devil are ignorant and naïve.
• Maintains that religion is an illusion and, therefore, irrelevant.
• In general, the world impacts Christians with its various worldviews.
The Nature of our Warfare

• Who will rule our hearts?
• Whose voice will we listen to?
• Whom will we believe?
• Whom will we trust for blessings?
• Whom will we obey?
• Will we prove to be obedient or disobedient?
The Armor of God

• The Belt of Truth
• The Breastplate of Righteousness
• The Sandals of Readiness
• The Shield of Faith
• The Helmet of Salvation
• The Sword of the Spirit
• All-Prayer
More Than Conquerors

• Rely on the power and protection of God.
• Embrace the Word of God.
• Obey God’s commands.
• Pray fervently.
• Fellowship with other believers.
• Engage in spiritual warfare by repentance, faith, and obedience.
Old Testament Heroes

- Moses (Rod)
- Jael (Hammer and Nail)
- Gideon (Trumpets, Empty jars, Torches)
- Shamgar (Ox’s Goad)
- Samson (Jawbone)
- David (Sling and Stone)
- Christ (Sword)
Old Testament References

Characteristics

• For our comfort
• Near the Celestial City
• Beautiful woods, vineyards, fruits, flowers, springs, fountains
• Immanuel’s Land (“God with us”)
• Shepherds
Final Metaphors

• Christian outfitted with the whole armor of God.
• Another pilgrim passes by: Faithful.
• Christian descends into the Valley of Humiliation.