

5 - What To Look Forward To

Now I saw in my dream, that when OBSTINATE was gone back, CHRISTIAN and PLIABLE went talking over the plain: and thus they began their discourse.

Chr. Come, neighbour PLIABLE, how do you do? I am glad you are persuaded to go along with me. Had even OBSTINATE himself but felt what I have felt of the powers and terrors of what is yet unseen, he would not thus lightly have given us the back.

Pli. Come, neighbour CHRISTIAN, since there is none but us two here, tell me now further what the things are, and how to be enjoyed, whither we are going.

Chr. I can better conceive of them with my mind than speak of them with my tongue: but yet, since you are desirous to know, I will read of them in my book.

Pli. And do you think that the words of your book are certainly true?

Chr. Yes, verily; for it was made by him that cannot lie (#Tit 1:2).

Pli. Well said. What things are they?

Chr. There is an endless kingdom to be inhabited; and everlasting life to be given us, that we may inhabit that kingdom for ever (#Isa 65:17 Joh 10:27-29).

Pli. Well said. And what else?

Chr. There are crowns of glory to be given us; and garments that will make us shine like the sun in the firmament of heaven (#Mt 13:43 2Ti 4:8 Re 3:4).

Pli. That is very pleasant. And what else?

Chr. There shall be no more crying nor sorrow; for he that is owner of the place will wipe all tears from our eyes (#Isa 25:8 Re 7:16,17; 21:4).

Pli. And what company shall we have there?

Chr. There we shall be with seraphim and cherubim, creatures that will dazzle your eyes to look on them (#Isa 6:1 1Th 4:16,17 Re 5:11). There also you shall meet with thousands and ten thousands that have gone before us to that place. None of them are harmful, but loving and holy; everyone walking in the sight of God, and standing in his presence with acceptance for ever. In a word, there we shall see the elders with their golden crowns (#Re 4:4); there we shall see the holy virgins with their golden harps (#Re 14:1-5); there we shall see men that by the word were cut in pieces, burnt in flames, eaten of beasts, drowned in the seas, for the love that they bore to the Lord of the place—all well, and clothed with immortality as with a garment (#Joh 12:25 2Co 5:2-4).

Pli. The hearing of this is enough to ravish one's heart. But are these things to be enjoyed? how shall we get to be sharers thereof?

Chr. The Lord, the governor of the country, hath recorded it in this book; the substance of which is, if we be truly willing to have it, he will bestow it upon us freely (#Isa 55:1,2 Joh 6:37 Re 21:6 22:17).

Pli. Well, my good companion, glad am I to hear of these things: come on, let us mend our pace.

Chr. I cannot go so fast as I would, by reason of this burden that is on my back.

Tit 1:2, Isa 65:17 Joh 10:27-29, Mt 13:43 2Ti 4:8 Re 3:4, Isa 25:8 Re 7:16,17; 21:4, Isa 6:1 1Th 4:16,17 Re 5:11, Re 4:4, Re 14:1-5, Joh 12:25 2Co 5:2-4, Isa 55:1,2 Joh 6:37 Re 21:6 22:17

“in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began,” (Tit 1:2 NKJV)

““For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former shall not be remembered or come to mind.” (Isa 65:17 NKJV)

“²⁷ "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. ²⁸ "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹ "My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of My Father's hand.” (Joh 10:27-29 NKJV)

““Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!” (Mt 13:43 NKJV)

“Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.” (2Ti 4:8 NKJV)

““You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.” (Re 3:4 NKJV)

“He will swallow up death forever, And the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces; The rebuke of His people He will take away from all the earth; For the LORD has spoken.” (Isa 25:8 NKJV)

“¹⁶ "They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; ¹⁷ "for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.” (Re 7:16-17 NKJV)

““And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.” (Re 21:4 NKJV)

“In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His *robe* filled the temple.” (Isa 6:1 NKJV)

“¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.” (1Th 4:16-17 NKJV)

“Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and

the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands,” (Re 5:11 NKJV)

“Around the throne *were* twenty–four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty–four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads.” (Re 4:4 NKJV)

“¹ ¶ Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred *and* forty–four thousand, having His Father’s name written on their foreheads. ² And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. ³ They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred *and* forty–four thousand who were redeemed from the earth. ⁴ These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from *among* men, *being* firstfruits to God and to the Lamb. ⁵ And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.” (Re 14:1-5 NKJV)

““He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.” (Joh 12:25 NKJV)

“² For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, ³ if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. ⁴ For we who are in *this* tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life.” (2Co 5:2-4 NKJV)

“¹ ¶ "Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and without price. ² Why do you spend money for *what is* not bread, And your wages for *what* does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat *what is* good, And let your soul delight itself in abundance.” (Isa 55:1-2 NKJV)

““All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.” (Joh 6:37 NKJV)

“And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.” (Re 21:6 NKJV)

“And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.” (Re 22:17 NKJV)