



The Pilgrim's Progress

AN OUTLINED COMMENTARY

by

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PREFACE

This *Commentary* is designed to complement *The Pilgrim's Progress Study Manual* that is used in teaching seminars conducted by this writer. Whereas the *Study Manual* incorporates a full outline of Bunyan's allegory, here we have a detailed commentary based upon that same outline. It is intended to address the needs of serious students as well as teachers who use the Study Manual, and thus no apology is given for the detail that it contains.

Of course the ultimate goal of this work is that it may guide the student toward the embrace of Bunyan's gospel truth which is in fact the gospel of the Bible that so exalts the Lord Jesus Christ.

The author encourages communication from those who offer constructive criticism, enlightening opinion, or helpful advice.

Barry E. Horner

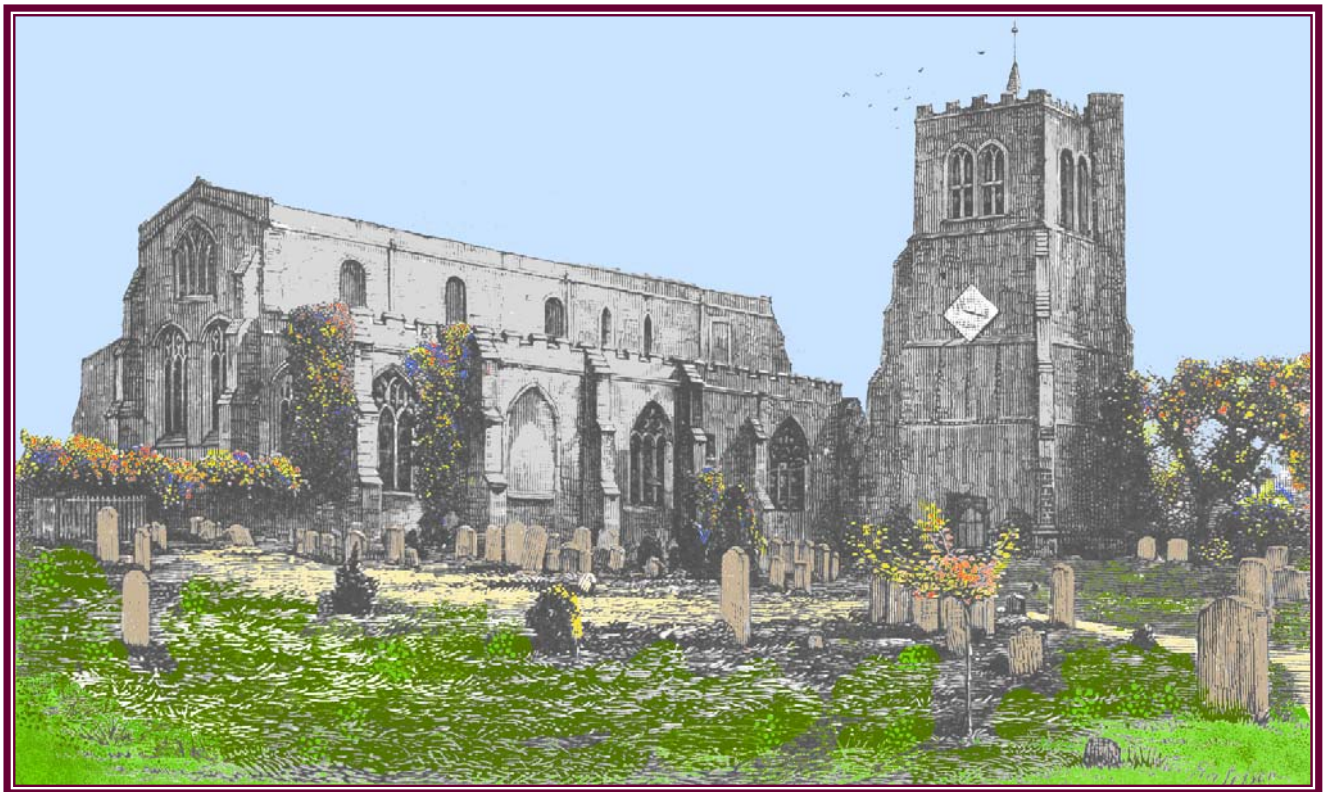


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Elstow Anglican Church and belfry

A CHRONOLOGY OF IMPORTANT EVENTS

- 1625 Charles I made king, and the tyranny of Archbishop Laud follows.
- 1628 John Bunyan born near Elstow, Bedfordshire.
- 1630's Bunyan briefly attends school. He learns the trade of a tinker, or metalworker, from his father.
- 1640 Oliver Cromwell elected to Parliament.
- 1642 Outbreak of Civil War.
- 1644 Death of Bunyan's mother and sister; prompt remarriage of his father to a third wife.
- 1644-47 Bunyan serves in the infantry of the Parliamentary Army. Upon his discharge, he returns to Elstow and is re-employed as a tinker.
- 1645 Parliament takes control over the Monarchy and the Church of England, substituting Presbyterianism. Archbishop Laud is executed.
- 1649 Charles I executed. Bunyan's first marriage. His wife encourages the reading of the legacy from her godly father of some practical Christian books. Four children are born, including blind Mary. Bunyan and family attend Elstow Anglican Church.
- 1649-60 The Commonwealth and Protectorate under Cromwell's direction.
- 1649-54 Spiritual turmoil and ambivalence, described in *Grace Abounding To The Chief Of Sinners*, lead to Bunyan's conversion and membership with the baptistic Bedford church, pastored by John Gifford, that becomes nonconformist.
- 1655 Bunyan begins to give evidence of his gifts of teaching and preaching. His pastor, John Gifford, dies and is succeeded by John Burton.
- 1658 Bunyan's first wife dies, as does Cromwell who is succeeded by his son Richard.
- 1659 Bunyan's second marriage to Elizabeth resulting in the birth of three children. Richard Cromwell abdicates.
- 1660 Charles II made king, and the restoration of the Monarchy commences.
- 1660-72 Bunyan is imprisoned according to the strictures of the Clarendon Code for leading an unlawful religious assembly. Occasional releases are allowed. He supports his family by making shoe laces, preaches to inmates, and spends much time writing.
- 1662 Act of Uniformity results in over 1,800 clergy being ejected from their pastorates.

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 Countrey.

I have uſed Similitudes, Hof. 12:10.

By John Bunyan.

Licenſed and Entred according to Order.

L O N D O N,
 Printed for *Nath. Ponder* at the *Peacock*
 in the *Poultry* near *Cornhil*, 1678.

A CHRONOLOGY OF IMPORTANT EVENTS

- 1665 The Great Plague of London.
- 1666 *Grace Abounding To The Chief of Sinners* is published. Short prison release.
- 1666 The Great Fire of London.
- 1667-72 *The Pilgrim's Progress* is probably written.
- 1670's Bunyan seeks advice from friends as to the advisability of publishing *The Pilgrim's Progress*.
- 1672 Charles II promulgates the Declaration of Indulgence. As a consequence, Bunyan is pardoned, released from prison, licensed to preach, and elected pastor of the nonconformist Bedford church. His preaching reputation becomes widespread.
- 1674 Bunyan troubled with malicious, false rumors concerning Agnes Beaumont.
- 1677 Bunyan further imprisoned for six months.
- 1678 *The Pilgrim's Progress* is published by Nathaniel Ponder, friend of John Owen.
- 1680 *The Life And Death Of Mr. Badman*, concerning his pilgrimage to Hell, is published as a sequel to *The Pilgrim's Progress*. The sixth edition of *Grace Abounding*, the last of Bunyan's lifetime, completes the enlarged text.
- 1682 *The Holy War* is published, using military metaphors.
- 1684 *The Pilgrim's Progress, Part Two*, is published.
- 1685 Charles II dies, professing Catholicism. James II accedes to the throne. Bunyan deeds all of his goods to his wife to protect his family against penal sanctions.
- 1686 *A Book For Boys And Girls* is published.
- 1687 Bunyan wisely turns down an offer to be an administrator in the Corporation of Bedford under the government of James II.
- 1688 Bunyan preaches his last sermon, August 19, on John 1:13, "Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."
- 1688 Having visited Reading to help reconcile a son with his father, Bunyan catches a fever, dies in London on August 31, and is buried at Bunhill Fields.
- 1688 William of Orange forces James II to flee to France.
- 1689 Coronation of William and Mary. Toleration Act promulgated.