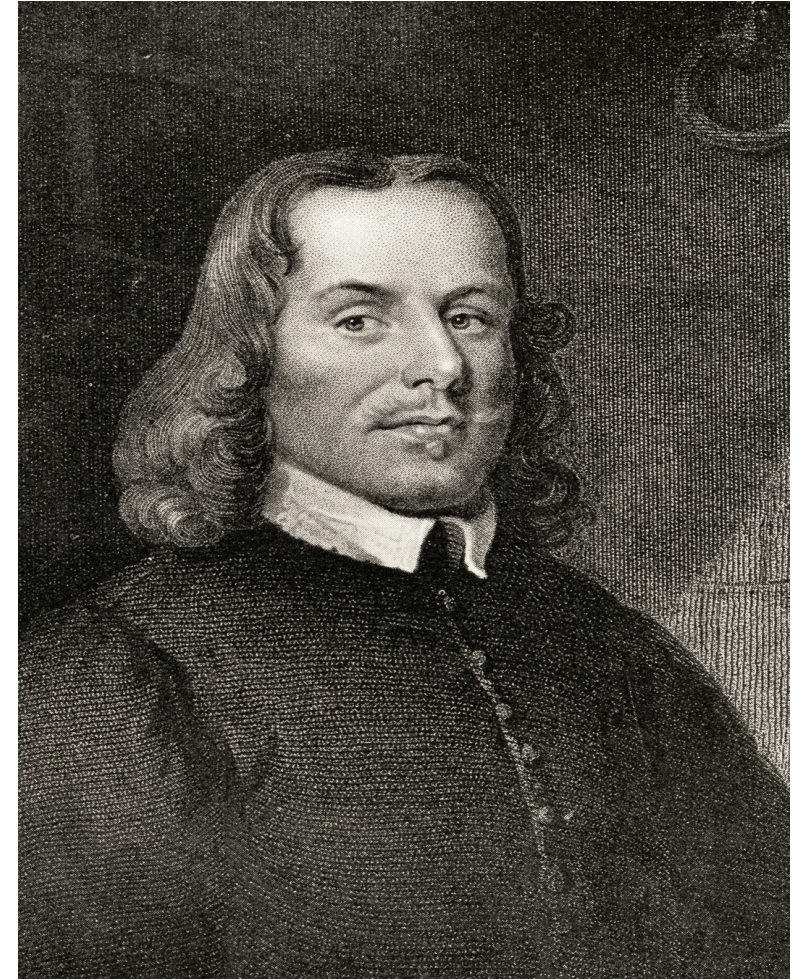
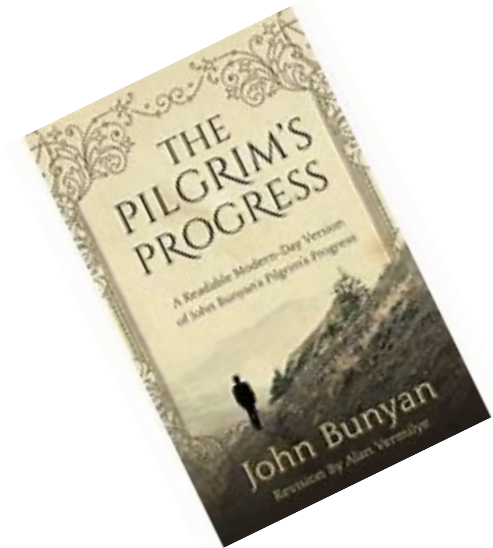


John Bunyan

-Notable Puritan preacher and English writer of Christian allegory, sermons, and poetry in the 1600s.

-Most notable work is “**The Pilgrim’s Progress**”



Bunyan In Prison

-To go free, all John Bunyan had to do was make one promise. He must agree not to preach publicly anymore. Bunyan's reply: "If I was out of prison today, I would preach the gospel again tomorrow by the help of God."

-He also quoted I Peter 4:10, "As every man hath received the gift, even so, minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." His gift, he contended, was preaching.

The Pilgrim's Progress-An Allegory

-What is an allegory? A popular form of literature in which a story points to a hidden or symbolic parallel meaning. Certain elements, such as people, things, and happenings in the story, point to corresponding elements in another realm or level of meaning

“The Pilgrim's Progress is a deeply allegorical work about salvation and what the individual believer must undergo in order to attain it.”

Comments on the Book

Spurgeon: *“Next to the Bible, the book that I value most is John Bunyan’s Pilgrim’s Progress. I believe I have read it through at least a hundred times. It is a volume to which I never seem to tire.”*



Comments on the Book

Ken Curtis: *Bunyan captures us with vibrant imagery and creative genius that has crossed cultures, languages and centuries. But I think even more impressive is how Bunyan prompts us to appreciate the gifts & glory of God. It took an uneducated commoner to write this kind of common work that can arrest the attention of children & adults century after century.*

The Pilgrim's Progress

-By 1692, it was estimated that 100,000 copies had been printed in England, as well as editions in France, Holland, New England and Welch.- By 1938, 250 years after Bunyan's death, more than 1,300 editions of the book had been printed.

-Authors who have been influenced by Bunyan include: Charles Spurgeon, C. S. Lewis, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Charles Dickens, Louisa May Alcott, George Bernard Shaw, Charlotte Bronte, Mark Twain and others

The Pilgrim's Progress

-*The Pilgrim's Progress* has reached a wider audience through stage, film, TV, and radio productions. An opera based on *The Pilgrim's Progress*, titled *Morality*, was first performed at the Royal Opera House in 1951 and revived in 2012 by the English National Opera.

-Until the decline of religious faith and the great increase in books of popular instruction in the 19th century, *The Pilgrim's Progress*, like the Bible, was to be found in every English home and was known to every ordinary reader.

Key Takeaways from the Pilgrim's Progress

- Life is a Pilgrimage** *“To go back is nothing but death; to go forward is fear of death, and life everlasting beyond it. I will yet go forward.”*
- This Pilgrimage isn't easy**-Being a Christian is difficult
- The Journey is Spiritual--Not Physical**
- The Promises of God break chains and open locks.** They remind us of His sovereign rule and His providence in the past. They nudge us with hope and longing for the future.
- God is always with us**, although everything around us seems dark and somber.

-Being clothed with righteousness and sealed with the Holy Spirit keeps us grounded and confident in the salvation we have received from Him.

-We find comfort knowing that Christ is working in us so faithfully to keep the fire burning in our hearts. His grace is sufficient in our weaknesses (2 Corinthians 12:9), even working against the devil's plan to smother it.

-There is one gospel and only one way to salvation. Everything else is a trap (Galatians 1:6-10).

-Death Isn't the End!