**Pilgrim’s Progress Summary**

“The narrator defends the story he is about to tell, which is framed as a dream. He explains that he fell asleep in the wilderness and dreamed of a man named *Christian,* who was tormented by spiritual anguish. A spiritual guide named Evangelist visits Christian and urges him to leave the City of Destruction. *Evangelist* claims that salvation can only be found in the Celestial City, known as Mount Zion.

Christian begs his family to accompany him, unsuccessfully. On his way, Christian falls into a bog called the Slough of Despond, but he is saved. He meets *Worldly Wiseman*, who urges him to lead a practical, happy existence without religion. Refusing, Christian is sheltered in *Goodwill’s* house. Goodwill tells Christian to stop by the Interpreter’s home, where Christian learns many lessons about faith.

Walking along the wall of Salvation, Christian sees Christ’s tomb and cross. At this vision, his burden falls to the ground. One of the three *Shining Ones*, celestial creatures, hands him a rolled certificate for entry to the Celestial City. Christian falls asleep and loses his certificate. Since the certificate is his ticket into the Celestial City, Christian reproaches himself for losing it. After retracing his tracks, he eventually finds the certificate. Walking on, Christian meets the *four mistresses* of the Palace Beautiful, who provide him shelter. They also feed him and arm him. After descending the Valley of Humiliation, Christian meets the monster *Apollyon*, who tries to kill him. Christian is armed, and he strikes Apollyon with a sword and then proceeds through the desert-like Valley of the Shadow of Death toward the Celestial City.

Christian meets *Faithful*, a traveler from his hometown. Faithful and Christian are joined by a third pilgrim, *Talkative,* whom Christian spurns. Evangelist arrives and warns Faithful and Christian about the wicked town of Vanity, which they will soon enter. Evangelist foretells that either Christian or Faithful will die in Vanity.

The two enter Vanity and visit its famous fair. They resist temptation and are mocked by the townspeople. Eventually the citizens of Vanity imprison Christian and Faithful for mocking their local religion. Faithful defends himself at his trial and is executed, rising to heaven after death. Christian is remanded to prison but later escapes and continues his journey.

Another fellow pilgrim named *Hopeful* befriends Christian on his way. On their journey, a pilgrim who uses religion as a means to get ahead in the world, named *By-ends,* crosses their path. Christian rejects his company. The two enter the plain of Ease, where a smooth talker named *Demas* tempts them with silver. Christian and Hopeful pass him by.

Taking shelter for the night on the grounds of Doubting Castle, they awake to the threats of the castle’s owner, the *Giant Despair*, who, with the encouragement of his wife, imprisons and tortures them. Christian and Hopeful escape when they remember they possess the key of Promise, which unlocks any door in Despair’s domain.

Proceeding onward, Christian and Hopeful approach the Delectable Mountains near the Celestial City. They encounter wise shepherds who warn them of the treacherous mountains Error and Caution, where previous pilgrims have died. The shepherds point out travelers who wander among tombs nearby, having been blinded by the *Giant Despair.* They warn the travelers to beware of shortcuts, which may be paths to hell.

The two pilgrims meet *Ignorance,* a sprightly teenager who believes that living a good life is sufficient to prove one’s religious faith. Christian refutes him, and Ignorance decides to avoid their company. The travelers also meet *Flatterer,* who snares them in a net, and *Atheist*, who denies that the Celestial City exists. Crossing the sleep-inducing Enchanted Ground, they try to stay awake by discussing Hopeful’s sinful past and religious doctrine.

Christian and Hopeful gleefully approach the land of Beulah, where the Celestial City is located. The landscape teems with flowers and fruit, and the travelers are refreshed. To reach the gate into the city, they must first cross a river without a bridge. Christian nearly drowns, but Hopeful reminds him of Christ’s love, and Christian emerges safely from the water. The residents of the Celestial City joyously welcome the two pilgrims. In his conclusion to Part I, the narrator expresses hope that his dream be interpreted properly.” (From Cliff Notes)

**PLACES PEOPLE**

City of Destruction Evangelist and Worldly Wisdom

Slough of Despond (a bog) Goodwill and Interpreter

Wall of Salvation 3 Shining Ones

Palace Beautiful 4 Mistresses of Palace Beautiful

Valley of Humiliation Apollyon / Faithful / Talkative

Valley of Shadow of Death Hopeful / Byends

Vanity (and Vanity Fair) Demas (Faithful is executed)

Plane of Ease Giant Despair

Doubting Castle Ignorance

Delectable Mountains Flattery / Atheist

Treacherous Mountains Error and Caution

Enchanted Ground (sleep inducing)

Land of Beulah

River

Celestial City (Mount Zion)