

# THE CELESTIAL RAILROAD

January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – The Celestial Railroad  
Part 3

Today's Illustrated Message is taken from pages 3 and 4 on, The Celestial Railroad, where we highlight Mr. Great-Heart and Apollyon. [Please click here to read this part of the script first.](#) Here too are the links to both [Pilgrim's Progress](#) and [Christiana's Progress](#) which we'll be referencing, if you'd like to read them.

In Christiana's Progress, (Part 2 of Pilgrim's Progress), Mr. Great-heart, the guide and bodyguard, is sent by the Interpreter with Christiana and her companions, from his house to their journey's end. Mr. Great-heart is an Angel.

Many say that Psalm 91 was written by Moses, even though it is included in King David's Book of Psalms. Regardless of the author, the truth and promise are very powerful. **Psalm 91:11-12** says; "*For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways. In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.*"

So according to the Bible, the angel of the Lord encamps around those who believe Him, fear Him, those who reverence God and are born again. Even though this is an Old Testament scripture, we know it applies to those who are of the new covenant, those who are spiritually born again, having Jesus as Lord of their lives, belonging to His household. Being born again, we have a covenant with Him that goes beyond that of the Old Testament because Jesus fulfilled all the requirements of the Old Testament.

Mr. Great-heart is the one who destroys the following in Christiana's Progress;

1. **Giant Grim** ~ a Giant who "backs the [chained] lions" near the House Beautiful, slain by Great-Heart. He is also known as "Bloody-Man" because he has killed many pilgrims or sent them on mazes of detours, where they were lost forever. There is a very similar demonic spirit like that now-a-days. The devil's tactics are the same today's as from the beginning of time.
2. **Ill-favoured Ones** ~ two evil characters Christiana sees in her dream, whom she and Mercy actually encounter when they leave the Wicket Gate. These were perverted men who offered them money for sex. The two Ill Ones are driven off by Great-Heart himself.
3. **Giant Maul** ~ a Giant whom Great-heart kills as the pilgrims leave the Valley of the Shadow of Death. He holds a grudge against Great-heart for doing his duty of saving pilgrims from damnation and bringing them from darkness to light, from evil to good, and from Satan, the Devil to Jesus Christ, the Savior.
4. **Giant Slay-Good** ~ a Giant who enlists the help of evildoers on the King's Highway to abduct, murder, and consume pilgrims before they get to Vanity Fair. He is killed by Great-heart.
5. **Giant Despair** ~ the savage owner of Doubting Castle, where pilgrims are imprisoned and murdered. He is slain by Great-heart in the Second Part in Christiana's Progress.

You could put different names on these characters today, but to be sure, there are probably many criminals throughout history whom the devil empowered to kill, steal and destroy Christian pilgrims who are making their spiritual journey to heaven.

**Hebrews 1:14** says clearly; "*Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?*"

There is a specific job for angels to do and that is to protect and minister to those that are inheriting salvation.

In The Celestial Railroad we read the following; "*Where is Mr. Great-heart?*" inquired I. "*Beyond a doubt the directors have engaged that famous old champion to be chief conductor of the railroad?*" "*Why no,*" said Mr.

## THE CELESTIAL RAILROAD

*Smooth-it-away, with a dry cough; "he was offered the situation of brakeman; but to tell you the truth, our friend Great-heart has grown preposterously stiff and narrow in his old age. He has so often guided pilgrims over the road on foot, that he considers it a sin to travel in any other fashion."*

The people on this religious pilgrimage in Celestial Railroad have no need of Great-Heart or any angelic protection. It is simply because there is no spiritual warfare involved, so Mr. Great-Hearts services are not needed. They've already been deceived into thinking that they are eternally secure on this comfortable train to heaven, and outside of our story-teller passenger, they seem not even aware that the engineer of this train to heaven is Apollyon, who in Pilgrims Progress, is described as follows; literally it means, "Destroyer;" the King, Lord, god, Master, Prince, Owner, Landlord, Ruler, Governor, and Leader of the City of Destruction where Christian was born. He is one of Satan's companion archdemons, who tries to force Christian to return to his domain and service.

Since Christian (the character) was enslaved to Apollyon in the City of Destruction, this same destroyer is out to annihilate him now as a born again Christian. It's the same today. Any person who becomes born again of the Spirit of God, the adversary will do anything to get them back into his clutch. If you're not born again, satan has set up one of his fallen angels (demons) as engineer over the pilgrimage you're on, just like we see in this story.

The script continues with Mr. Smooth-it-away saying; *"Besides, the old fellow had entered so heartily into the ancient feud with Prince Beelzebub, that he would have been perpetually at blows or ill language with some of the Prince's subjects, and thus have embroiled us anew. So, on the whole, we were not sorry when honest Great-heart went off to the Celestial City in a huff, and left us at liberty to choose a more suitable and accommodating man."*

Let's read in **2 Corinthians 11:13-15** where the Apostle Paul says this; *"For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works."*

This is exactly what happens on this train ride. Satan disguising himself as light and truth to deceive the thousands on the wide and broad way. How many Bible believers have exchanged their need to be born again with religious tradition, and don't even know that the chief engineer of the pilgrimage that they are on, is one of Satan's demons who has transformed himself into an angel of light?

To bring that thought home, that 'angel of light', may be the one preaching from the pulpit of your church. If it is, I'd leave that church swiftly...and don't forget to take your burdens with you which have been store away on the luggage car, out of sight and out of mind. Find the wicket gate – Jesus Christ – where you can repent and get right with God by asking Jesus to forgive you of your sins. Again, if you're not born again, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

So long as you're on the religious train with a devil as engineer, there is no need for angelic protection from demonic entities such as; Giant Grim, Ill-favoured Ones, Giant Maul, Giant Slay-Good, Giant Despair. That's why those riding on the Celestial Religious Railway are so at ease with no spiritual warfare needed. No wonder it's such a comfortable trip; there is no conviction of sin, no need to be born again, no need to carry the burden, no need of angelic protection, no Apollyon wanting to get you back into his kingdom because you're still in his kingdom.

Let's look at what the Apostle Paul says in **2 Corinthians 10:3-6**; *"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God,*

## THE CELESTIAL RAILROAD

*bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.”*

This is the clear spiritual warfare that you are in when you're born again, it's part of the Christian life. It's what the devil does to try to get you back into his kingdom.

In *The Celestial Railroad*, we read; *“The engine at this moment took its station in advance of the cars, looking, I must confess, much more like a sort of mechanical demon that would hurry us to the infernal regions, than a laudable contrivance for smoothing our way to the Celestial City. On its top sat a personage almost enveloped in smoke and flame, which (not to startle the reader) appeared to gush from his own mouth and stomach as well as from the engine's brazen abdomen. "Do my eyes deceive me?" cried I. "What on earth is this? A living creature? If so, he is own brother to the engine he rides upon.”*

As the eyes of the author of this story are starting to open up in the spirit to what is really going on as Mr. Smooth-it-away always has a comeback to persuade him otherwise. *“Mr. Smooth-it-away, "Poh, poh, you are snippety," said Mr. Smooth-it-away, with a hearty laugh. "Don't you know Apollyon, Christian's old enemy, with whom he fought so fierce a battle in the Valley of Humiliation? He was the very fellow to manage the engine, and so we have reconciled him to the custom of going on pilgrimage, and engaged him as chief engineer.”*

I hope you're catching the imagery of this. The very Apollyon who was out to kill Christian, is now the chief engineer on the train, on which spiritually blind men and women are riding. He's no longer against these train pilgrims, but working for them. So long as the pilgrims are in his kingdom, he's for them and they are no threat. So long as these pilgrims are serving him ~ even if they don't think they're serving him ~ he's no threat. After all, they think their going to heaven, right? They believe in God so why wouldn't they be going to heaven. It's a big smoke show on this train loaded with deception.

**2 Corinthians 4:3-4** says; *“But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.”*

The pilgrims on this train are perishing because the gospel has been veiled to them. How many go to church, week in and week out, who are perishing. They traditionally believe in the Bible but have not made a personal decision for Jesus Christ. So long as you are not born again, you are in the kingdom of darkness, there is no middle ground, you're either a born-again child of GOD, or a child of the devil. There is no 'mid-way'. It's either black or white, no grey to enter into the kingdom of heaven. When you are born again you are delivered from the power of darkness.

**Colossians 1:12-14** says; *“giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.”*

Religious devils are good at smoothing away your need for salvation, your need to be born-again, and replace it with a comfortable belief in the Bible that is void of repentance and therefore void of spiritual battle. Because so long as you're not born-again, you are no threat to his kingdom of darkness and you still remain his daughter or son.

Jesus, speaking to Abrahams descendants says in **John 8:43-45**; *“Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no*

## THE CELESTIAL RAILROAD

*truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me."*

Do you understand that? There is no truth in the devil. Everyone riding this Celestial Railroad to The Celestial City have no truth in them! None, they've been sold a bill of goods, they've been lied to. That's why our storyteller passenger who is not born again is able to say; *"Bravo, bravo!" exclaimed I, with irrepressible enthusiasm. "This shows the 'liberality' of the age. This proves, if anything can, that all musty prejudices are in a fair way to be obliterated. And how will Christian rejoice to hear of this happy transformation of his old antagonist. I promise myself great pleasure in informing him of it when we reach the Celestial City."*

Why was he able to say this? Because his father was the devil. He had engaged in the liberality of the pilgrimage to heaven.

**1 John 3:4-9** says this; *"Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin. Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him. Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose, the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. Whoever has been **born of God** does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God."*

This clearly separates the truth from the lies, you have to be born of God. The fruit of a Christian is to make every effort not to sin. We know that when we do sin, we have Jesus as our advocate and who forgives us when we confess our sin. When someone says that they're born again, you need to be a fruit inspector because their life will show the evidence of it and they'll clearly say that they've received Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour, having repented of their sins.

Are you a passenger on The Celestial Railroad, if so, you need to get off the train now and don't forget your burden of sin that is stowed away in the baggage car? Are you in a church today that resembles The Celestial Railroad that isn't preaching repentance, that you must be born again? You need to repent of your sins, ask Jesus to forgive you and receive him into you heart as Lord and Saviour and become born again. Walk and continue walking the straight and narrow road on your pilgrimage to Heaven, The Celestial City. This walk, which is singular in vision and purpose, will help keep you on track when the devil's fiery darts start flying to get you to backslide, you have to stand firm in your walk all the time.

**Ephesians 6:10-17**; *"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of<sup>[e]</sup>the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."*

That's why Jesus says in Matthew **7:21-23**; *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name? And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!"*

## **THE CELESTIAL RAILROAD**

In essence Jesus is saying, I don't remember you confessing your sins, I don't remember you becoming born again of my Spirit, regardless of all you've said that you've done in my name. I don't know you.