

# The King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

And an Highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The Way of Holiness.—Isa. 35-8

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## CANAAN—OUR SPIRITUAL HOME

By Rev. P. K. Smith

Text—"He brought us out from thence, that he might bring us in" (Deut. 6:23).

How precious to human hearts is the thought of home! The world around, the old home song is sung—"Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home." An earthly home where love and harmony reign is one of the rich heritages of earth. And when our years of earthly toil are ended, how blessed to look forward to our heavenly home! Jesus said, "I go to prepare a place for you." Our hearts swell with rapture as we sing of that home.

But God has provided still another home for His saints. It is Canaan, our spiritual home, a home where we find soul rest. Promised of God to faithful Abraham, Canaan became the home of His ancient people. Under Joshua, God brought His people into possession of that land, and there they dwelt. Before that they had been slaves in an evil land. But God brought them out with "a mighty hand and a stretched-out arm," through the Red Sea into the wilderness. Here they foolishly lingered for forty years. But God purposed to bring them into Canaan. And so it is written, "He brought us out from thence that he might bring us in, to give us the land which he swore to our fathers."

How aptly this illustrates the Christian's life! That generation was born in bondage. Here they served with rigor, even to making bricks without straw. They sighed for relief. God sent a deliverer. He brought them out victoriously by His miraculous power. They were completely delivered. So are we born in bondage to Satan. He holds the lash over us. He makes fair promises but never fulfils. At last we sigh for deliverance, and by God's miraculous, saving power we are brought out of sin's bondage with a mighty hand.

Then came the wilderness life which God designed to be only brief and transitory. Compared with Egypt it was a life of freedom. No longer slaves, they sang of redemption even on the banks of the Red Sea. "The Lord is my strength and my song, and he is become my salvation." They moved on at God's direction, pausing for nearly a year at Mt. Sinai. Organized and instructed they moved forward. In less than two years after leaving Egypt they were at Kadesh-Barnea. God willed that they should go up at once and possess the land. But unbelief did its blighting work, and, turning back, they wandered for thirty-eight years in the wilderness. Redeemed they were, it is true, but still not possessing their promised inheritance. And so it is with the justified person. He repents in sins forgiven, God ever guides him by pillar of cloud and fire, He instructs him in the law of the Lord, but soon he comes to the border of Canaan where his soul may rest in perfect peace. How sad that like Israel many turn back and sadly sing of wandering "weary years, often hindered in my journey by the ghosts of doubts and fears."

But God brought Israel again to the borders of Canaan, even though they at first doubted Him. And this time they doubted not. Strong in faith they crossed the Jordan and possessed the land. God drove out their enemies before them, and under Joshua they settled down in Canaan, their home.

The wilderness was past, life now took definite form, and they settled down a contented, happy people. God's purpose was now accomplished. He brought them out of Egypt that He might bring them into Canaan. And this is His purpose in our lives. Canaan is the normal Christian life. Anything less than this is beneath God's will for us. Let us note *the blessings of this home*.

After crossing our Jordan under our heavenly Joshua, God gives us first of all victory over our enemies. In fact, He drives them out before us—those inside enemies of hatred, pride, covetousness, jealousy, anger. They are giants, it is true, and live in walled cities. But God's hand slays them before us and we enter into our land of perfect rest. Now, too, we settle down to dwell in the land. Just as Joshua divided the land by lot to the twelve tribes, so our heavenly Joshua gives to us a settled portion—a lot of love. No more complaining children now—we become happy, contented dwellers in our land of perfect bliss. No more weary wanderers now, shifting hither and thither—we dwell in perfect safety in Canaan, our spiritual home.

But this does not mean that all growth is over; for the land is before us. Exploration now begins, and every foot of that land holds its charm. There is the Plain of Jordan with beautiful Galilee and winding Jordan; the Plain of Sharon and memorable Mt. Carmel; Mt. Tabor and the Judaeen hills, one of which David says is "beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth." Surely it is "a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valley and hills." This was Israel's home. No doubt their souls exulted as they viewed the land. And so do our souls rejoice in the Lord when we reach our land of Canaan. Here we get new visions of God. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." The beauties of His salvation appeal to our souls with increasing delight. Our souls cry out,

"Plains unexplored before me spread;  
New mountain heights loom just ahead;  
Their summits soon my feet shall tread;  
Bless God, I'm going on."

But to God's ancient people the land of Canaan was a bounteous land. It was "a land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of oil olive, and honey." The leeks and onions and garlic of Egypt were forever forgotten; never once did they sigh for the flesh-pots of that land of bitter memories. No, they had found something better—something that satisfied. Even in the wilderness they grew tired of the manna. But never did they tire of the corn and wine and oil of Canaan. How true this all is spiritually! Those who remain in the

wilderness have longing toward Egypt. But once they taste the fruits of this goodly land they sing:

"I am drinking at the fountain,  
Where I ever would abide;  
For I've tasted life's pure river,  
And my soul is satisfied."

It is this satisfying portion that appeals to our hearts. Not only are our sins gone, but the love of sin is gone and the love of God fills every niche of our souls. What a blessed land is this where our hearts are filled with the riches of His grace! Honey out of the rock, butter of kine and milk of sheep and fat of lambs and the pure blood of the grape. Any wonder that our souls are filled with "joy unspeakable and full of glory"?

How good to be at home! Why remain away when God has provided, Jesus has purchased, and the Holy Spirit has come to lead us in? Here we find soul rest. Out of gratitude to our heavenly Father, who has provided this land of rest at such infinite cost, should we not every one live constantly in full possession of Canaan, our spiritual home?—*The Free Methodist-Sarnia, Ontario.*

## WHAT RELIGION DOES

One of the greatest benefits that religion brings to a man grows out of the fact that it, more than any other thing in his life, keeps him from turning in on himself and becoming narrow and selfish and self-centered. It is true that religious people are sometimes accused of being narrow and self-centered, and perhaps there may be something in the accusation at times, but in so far as there is point to the charge it is due to the fact that the religion of the people indicated is not of a genuine and good type, or is not functioning properly. Religion of the right sort in active operation links a man to God and opens up before him the great plans and purposes and programs of the Eternal.

There is a strange paralysis of the forces of righteousness. I believe it has been brought about by false teachers in schools and pulpits. The assaults that have been made on the Bible and our Lord Jesus Christ by modernistic teachers have had a deadening effect upon the church. There is an appalling lukewarmness. It seems that many ministers have little to say on the subject of prohibition. There is a sad lack of holy enthusiasm that should arouse the Church and stir the nation to a tremendous battle for sobriety and righteousness. The prohibition forces of this country must put up the battle of their lives, or suffer defeat that will carry with it a horror of wickedness and ruin beyond description.—*Pentecostal Herald.*

"Laugh and the world laughs with you,  
Weep and you weep alone,  
For the sad old earth must borrow its mirth,  
But has sorrow enough of its own."

—*Wesleyan Methodist.*

Mrs. C. K. Short, Dec. 22  
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