
MANSIONS OF THE LORD

Do you see the faces of people you loved,
In the flower blooms of His gardens, above?
Clatter over the stone bridge; folks all want to see you!
Enter through the Narrow Gate, this last time through.

In the library, reading back through the old book
Obedience was worth it, on every page you look.
Paintings of people you loved, portraits on walls,
A crown of thorns, and crowns for you in all the halls!

The hearth in the Great Room, such rich décor,
Colorful tapestries and beauty galore!
Golden candelabras, alive in flame
Each candle lit when you shared His name.

The drawing room filled, people full of life
Because you gave your heart, and shared your life.
The banquet hall's ready, name cards in place,
Each chair ready for someone you helped find grace.

Reminiscing, in the quiet drawing room...
Victories won, and what often looked like doom,
Battles of yore, and hard battles won.
The times when you laid your desires down.

The Master of the manor strides through the door,
Smiles because of joys you share and what's in store!
Seeds sown, love shown, in conversations that mattered.
Our Redeemer God took hearts and made them untattered!

Glad remembering!
Grateful recounting!
Grand realizing!
Makes joyful singing,
Filling every room and
Filling every heart!!!!

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Home at Last!!!

Narrow Road – part 8

February 23, 2025

The Narrow Road review:

Matt. 7:13 "Enter through the narrow gate.

- Narrow Road: "Follow Me"
- Beach: We are a new creation
- Forest: A purposeful adventure
- Mountains: Climbing the mountain of relationships and responsibilities, with headwinds
- Valleys: God uses the hard times of life redemptively
- Desert: God takes people to the desert for refining as we learn to find our deepest joy in Him

We are not yet home; we are a people of hope

*Hebrews 11:13 These all died in faith, not having received what was promised, but having seen it and greeted it from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.¹⁴ For people who speak thus make it clear that they are **seeking a homeland**.*

They longed to be "home."

They learned that this world was not "home."

*Hebrews 11:15 If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return.¹⁶ But as it is, **they desire a better country**, that is, **a heavenly one**. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.*

*Romans 15:13 May the **God of hope** fill you with all **joy** and **peace as you trust in him**, so that you may **overflow with hope** by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

The realities of heaven

Revelation 21:1 Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

⁵ He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

The realities of heaven, in images

1. A wedding

2. A great time of singing

3-5. Eastern gate, a city, a new Jerusalem

6. Streets of gold-(Rev. 21:21)

7. No more sadness, sickness, sorrow or pain

8. No more tears

9. Home, a place for you

10. A banquet table

11. Justice and love

12. ...the joy set before Him

13. Paradise – (Luke 23:43)

The realities of hell

Matthew 18:8 If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life maimed or crippled than to have two hands or two feet and be thrown into eternal fire. ⁹ And if your eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell.

Matthew 8:11 I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. ¹² But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Revelation 21:8 But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.

Daniel 12:1 But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered. ² Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt.

“If you want your own way, God will let you have it. Hell is the enjoyment of one's own way forever.” Dorothy Sayers
