
BEULAH LAND

THE WORD *Beulah* means *married*. It may be strange to our way of thinking in this day of rampant divorce and marital infidelity, even within the Christian church, that the highest level of spiritual bliss next to heavenly glory itself is likened to marriage. To be the permanent possession of another surely jangles on the sensibilities of a generation that has learned love from Hollywood and the tabloids. God views things differently:

But you shall be called Hephzibah,
and your land Beulah;
For the Lord delights in you,
And your land shall be married.
For as a young man marries a virgin,
So shall your sons marry you;
And as the bridegroom rejoices
over the bride,
So shall your God rejoice over you.
(Isaiah 62: 4–6)

Bunyan uses the symbol of marriage almost as a foretaste of heavenly things to come. As the Enchanted Ground pictured a state of lethargy and spiritual drowsiness even within sight of the Celestial City, Beulah Land, in contrast, is the possession of the one who

is in a heightened state of joy and expectation at the prospects of forever being joined to the Bridegroom, even Christ the Lord. “But we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is” (1 John 3:2).

The Puritan Christopher Love was beheaded on Tower Hill, having been charged with treason under the rule of Oliver Cromwell. On the day of his execution he lovingly wrote these words to his dear wife:

The will of the Lord be done. Oh,
say ye so when I go to the Tower
Hill. The will of the Lord be done
... . I shall call thee wife no more,
yet I am not much troubled, for I
am going to meet the Bridegroom,
the Lord Jesus, to whom I shall be
eternally married.

The comfort and presence of Christ, the assurance of His love and the joyous anticipation of being forever the permanent possession of Another who sings over us, rejoices over us, leads us in green pastures and at whose right hand are pleasures forever more—this is the eternal Beulah Land.
