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## THE CELESTIAL CITY

DEATH carries each of us into an entirely different mode of existence unlike any we have ever known on this earth. There is an exchange of worlds, and a new flood of information pours in upon the transported soul.

The expectation and hope of the child of God for centuries has been called the "beatific vision." It is that instant of time when Heaven's glory dazzles the consciousness for the very first time, and the resurrected Christ in His regal beauty fills the adoring gaze.

Christian and Hopeful are greeted by two Shining Ones who accompany them into the City saying, "We are ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for those that shall be the heirs of salvation" (Hebrews 1:14). Here, finally, is a new mode of reality, glory inexpressible, never before known by our pilgrims.

The writer to the Hebrews also expresses it this way:

But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and the church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect (12:22–23).

John Bunyan, the Prince of Dreamers, has also attained his eternal rest. Even as he himself has, in allegory, walked his pilgrims along the Way to the City, so also he in reality has attained the same.

Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them (Revelation 14:13).

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