

THE JOURNEY—Book Four



Run for the Reward!



Chris Soldier has learned many great lessons on his long journey to help Mr. O'nary. He has learned to travel light and trust God to care for him. He has learned to hear the cheers of encouragement from those who have run before him. And best of all, he has learned to keep looking to Jesus for strength to endure. These valuable lessons have taught him to run with endurance the race set before him.



As Chris climbs over the last mountain of his journey he comes upon a very frightful sight! He spots a ragged and savage looking man sitting all alone amidst a rubbish heap of rusty armor!

"I can't believe my eyes", thinks Chris, *"it's Mr. O'nary!"*



Suddenly, the man spots Chris Soldier and charges at him with angry shouts and curses!

“Mr. O’nary stop! It’s me, your old friend Chris Soldier.

I have come to help you. Please, calm down!

Why are you so angry?” Chris asks.

Mr. O’nary paused to look at Chris with amazement in his eyes.

As his voice calmed he said, *“Chris, you are very far from home. Why would you travel so far just to help me? Go back home, Chris. I have given up on my faith and nobody can help me now.”*





*“But Mr. O’nary,
don’t give up!”
says Chris, “You
are still breathing
aren’t you?”*

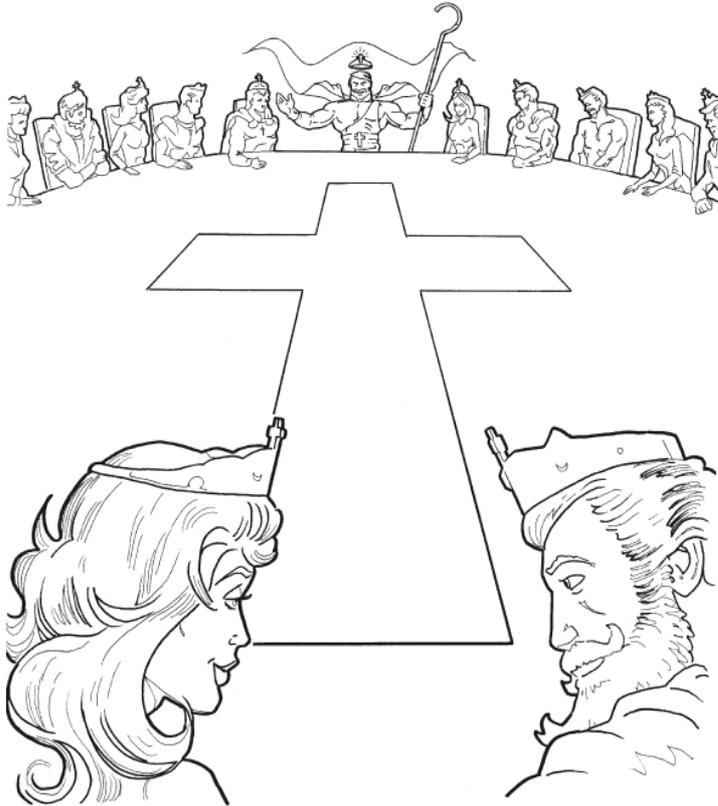
*If you are still
breathing God still
has a plan for your
life!*

*God has a race for
you to run, and he
wants you to run
with faith and en-
durance.”*

*“Remember
Mr. O’nary, no
suffering can
compare to the
glory God has
waiting for us in
eternity if we
run our race
well.”*

2Cor 4:17, 18





“Many other believers have faithfully run their race before us.

They are the cloud of witnesses cheering us on.

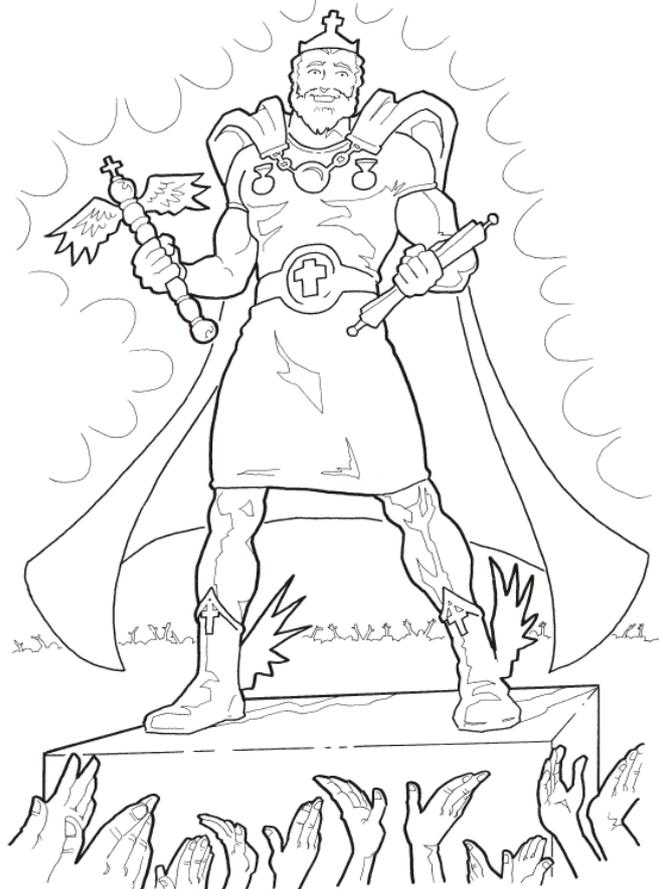
Even now they are in Heaven waiting for us to join them when our race is through.

Mr. O’nary, if they could run strong to the end then so can you!”

“Think of the suffering The Lord Jesus Christ went through to die on the cross for our sins.

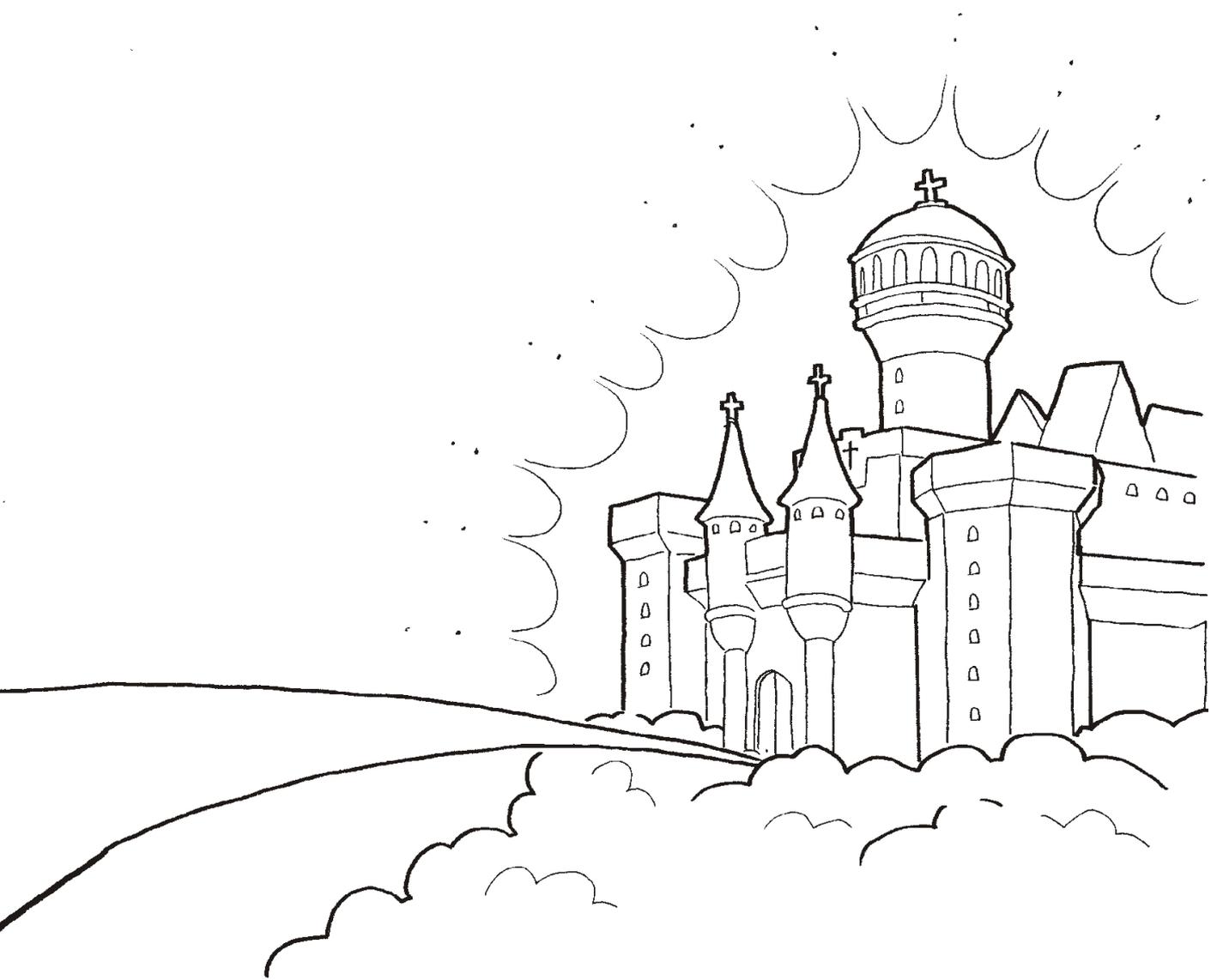
But now His suffering is over. He is raised from the dead and seated at the right hand of God in glory and honor.

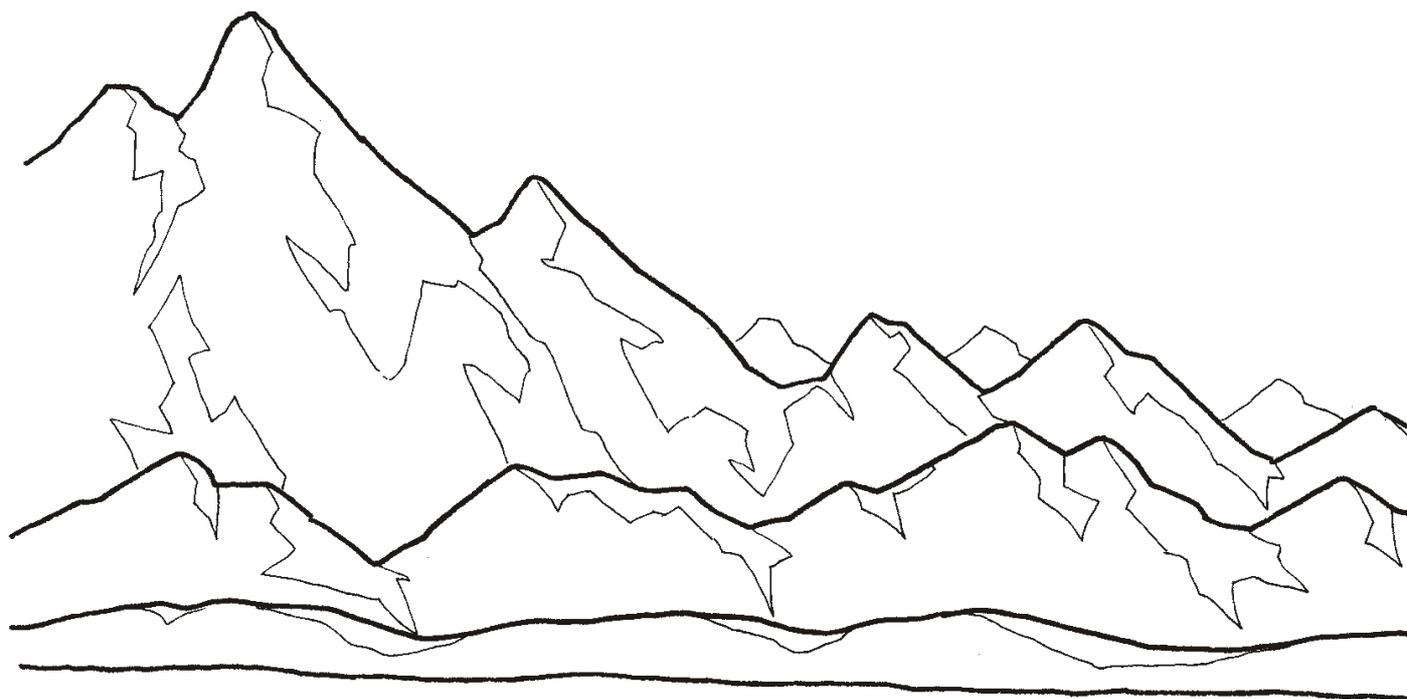
He is the victor over sin and death, and He wants to share the victory with us.





"Mr. O'nary, The Lord Jesus Christ is waiting in Heaven for us to join Him. He longs to share his glory and honor with others who have run their race well. He wants to share His glory with us!" John 17:22-24





Mr. O'nary confessed his lack of faith to God. He picked up the old rusty armor he had layed aside for so many years. With love and courage springing new in his heart he was ready to get back into the race of faith. He carefully put on each piece of his armor to prepare himself for the long journey ahead.



“Thanks a million, Chris,” said Mr. O’nary. “You have rescued me from a wasted life! Come along, my friend, we must get running. There are others that need our help and encouragement. Let’s run with endurance the race before us. Let’s run for the glory of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ! Let’s run strong to the finish! Let’s run for the reward!”

Hebrews 12:1-3

“ Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. **For consider him who has endured such hostility of sinners against himself, that you may not grow weary and lose heart. ”**

