

Castles for Keeps



What's the most magnificent kind of home you can imagine? I think of a **Castle**. Castles are **majestic** and **beautiful**.

Not too many people live in castles nowadays, although some **kings and queens** still do.

Hundreds of years ago, castles were built in many countries. **Kings**, and **noble lords** – who were the king's representatives – lived in huge castles. The lords were powerful and rich. They and their **knights** defended the towns from invaders.

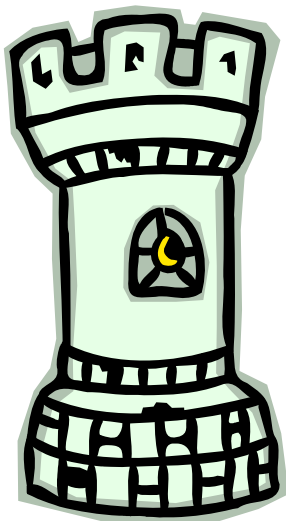


The castles were **fortresses** – built for defence. They were beautiful places to live in too, with many rooms, views from **high towers**, and even gardens inside the walls where food was grown.

(The **high towers** provided a **fine view of attackers**.)



Castles were usually built of **stone** to last a very long time. They often had a **drawbridge** that the lord would pull up and **slam shut** to keep out the enemy. Some had a **moat** – a ring of water that surrounded the castle – for even more protection. Many castles were **built on hills**, making it very difficult for invaders to climb.



The castle's defenses meant that **enemies** had to be very determined to launch a successful attack. They often used a **battering ram** to try to break down the door. Or they used **catapults** to throw heavy stones at the walls to make an opening. Sometimes they lobbed **fire bombs** over the walls. But the nobles inside were usually pretty good at fighting back and protecting the castle against such things.

And then gunpowder came along. **Cannons** could now be used to break down the walls. The once impenetrable castles became **vulnerable** – and many were damaged beyond repair. Few castles were built after that. Now, they are like **museum pieces** that we can visit and admire as special relics of the past.



Even the most ingenious things
built by man can't last forever.

Castles crumble.

Some things – like cars, trains,
and ships – will **rust**.

Only God can build something
that lasts forever.

His mansions in heaven
will **never** crumble.

No enemy can damage or take
over what belongs to God. He
is the **Lord and King** over all.
And the life that He offers us
through His son **Jesus Christ**
will last forever. It's for keeps!

***"Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed,
we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven,
not built by human hands."***

– 2 Corinthians 5:1