



SUNDAY YOUNG PEOPLE'S READING

The HOLY WAR

Made by Shaddai Upon Diabulous for the
Regaining of the Metropolis of the World

or

The Losing and Taking Again of the
Town of Mansoul

by John Bunyan

Retold in Modern English
by Jon Cardwell

April 18th, 2021
(Episode 9)

"I have given symbols..." Hosea 12:10

....This faithful messenger also proceeded to tell what sort of new burgesses Diabolous had made; that he had also built several strong forts, towers, and strongholds in Mansoul. He told, too, the which I had almost forgot, how Diabolous had armed the town of Mansoul, the better to capacitate them, on his behalf, in order to resist Shaddai their King, should He come to reduce them to their former obedience.

Now this tidings-teller did not deliver his recital of things in private, but in open court. The King and His Son, high lords, chief captains, and nobles were there, all present to hear. And as they had heard the entire story, it would have amazed one to have seen, had he been there to behold it, the sorrow and grief, and compunction of spirit, there was among all sorts of those in attendance, to think that famous Mansoul was now captured. The King and His Son, however, foresaw all this long before. Yes, and they had sufficiently provided for Mansoul's relief, though they had not released this information to everyone there. Because they would also share in grieving over Mansoul's misery, which they did, and with the highest degree pain, they wept bitterly over losing of Mansoul. The King said plainly that it grieved Him in His heart, and you can be sure that His Son was not a whit behind him. Everyone around them were convinced of the love and compassion the King and His Son possessed for the famous town of Mansoul. Well, when the King and His Son retired into their private chambers, they took counsel together again over what they had planned before, to wit, that as Mansoul should in time suffer loss, it must most certainly be recovered again; recovered, I say, in such a way, as that both the King and His Son would get for themselves eternal fame and glory because of it. For this reason, after they discussed the matter, the Son of Shaddai (a sweet and comely Person, and One who always possessed great affection for those who were afflicted, but One who had holy hatred in his heart against Diabolous, because he was destined for it, and because he sought the Son's crown and dignity) —this Son of Shaddai, I say, having shaken hands with His Father and promised that He would be His Servant to recover His Mansoul again, stood by His resolution, nor would He repent of the same (Isa 49:5; 1 Tim 1:15; Heb 13:14). The design and intent of their counsel was this: to wit, that at a certain time, established by both Father and Son, the King's Son should take a journey into the country of Universe, and there, in a way of justice and equity, by making amends for the follies of Mansoul, he should lay a foundation of

perfect deliverance from Diabolous and from his tyranny.

Moreover Emmanuel resolved to make war upon the giant Diabolous, at a convenient time, even while the giant still possessed the town of Mansoul; and that He would conveniently, by strength of hand, drive him out of his hold, his nest, and take it to Himself to be His habitation.

This now being determined, the Lord Chief Secretary was ordered to draw up an accurate record of what was determined, and to cause that it should be published in all the corners of the kingdom of Universe. An abridged version of the contents thereof you may, if you please, take here as follows:

"Let all men know who are concerned, that the Son of Shaddai, the great King, is engaged by covenant to His Father to bring his Mansoul to Him again; yes, and to put Mansoul, too, through the power of His matchless love, into a far better and more happy condition than it was in before it was taken by Diabolous."

These papers, therefore, were published in several places, which annoyed the tyrant Diabolous to no end: "For now," thought he, "I shall be molested, and my habitation will be taken from me."

But when this matter, that is, I mean this purpose of the King and His Son, was first heard in court, who can tell how the high lords, chief captains, and noble princes that were there, were taken with the business! First, they whispered it one to another. Afterward, it began to ring out through the King's palace, all wondering about the glorious plan the King and His Son put into motion for the miserable town of Mansoul. Yes, the courtiers could hardly do anything either for the King or kingdom, but they would join together in a clamoring uproar concerning the love the King and His Son had for the town of Mansoul.

Nor could these lords, high captains, and princes be content to keep this news at court. Indeed, before the records were perfected, they came down and told it in Universe. At last it came to the ears, as I said, of Diabolous, which caused him enormous discontentment; for you must think it would perplex him to hear of such a plan against him. Well, but after a few considerations in his mind, he concluded upon these four things....

To Be Continued....

For Your Consideration

Review:

What does the town of Mansoul represent?

Who is King Shaddai?

Who is the giant, Diabolous?

What is an allegory?

From the first few episodes, from what truths in the Bible does Mr. Bunyan's allegorical story represent?

Today's Episode:

The tidings-teller was the “faithful messenger” of our last episode. What did he tell King Shaddai, His Son, and all those who gathered in the open court? Who do you suppose are represented in the persons of the high lords, chief captains and nobles?

What is the Son of Shaddai's name in the third paragraph? Who is the Son of Shaddai?

John Bunyan calls the Son of Shaddai “a sweet and comely Person... who possessed a great affection for those who were afflicted.” What did Mr. Bunyan mean by this? Read Matthew 12:20 and 1 Timothy 1:15. How does this help you understand what the old puritan meant in his story?

Read the fifth paragraph again, which is the “abridged version” of the “accurate record” of Shaddai's counsel with His Son. In short, this is the gospel. How so? What is the power of the Son's “matchless love”? Why will the condition of Mansoul be a “more happy condition” after being rescued by Shaddai's Son “than it was in before it was taken by Diabolous?”