

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

July 17th, 2022 (Episode 47)

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

[The decision for quartering Emmanuel's captains, officers, and soldiers had been made, and after that, Emmanuel sets a feast before Mansoul while revealing to them wonderful riddles of His kingdom. Moreover, the Prince remodeled the town for its defense; and after having done so, He called the Lord Willbewill and gave him by commandment...] to take care of the gates, the wall, and towers in Mansoul. The Prince also gave the militia into his hand, and a special charge to withstand all insurrections and tumults that might be made in Mansoul against the peace of our Lord the King, and the peace and tranquility of the town of Mansoul. He also gave him this commission: if he found any of the Diabolonians lurking in any corner of the famous town of Mansoul, he should immediately apprehend them, and arrest them or commit them to safe custody until they may be tried and judged according to the law.

Then He called the Lord Understanding to come before Him. The Lord Understanding was the old Lord Mayor, who was removed from his place of office when Diabulous took the town. Prince Emmanuel put him into his former office again, and it became his place for his lifetime. The Prince also commanded him to build himself a palace near Eye-gate; and that he should build it in fashion like a tower for defense. He also ordered him to read in the Revelation of Mysteries all the days of his life, that he might know how to perform his office rightly.

The Prince also made Mr. Knowledge the Recorder, not out of contempt for old Mr. Conscience, who had been Recorder before, but because it was in His princely mind to confer upon Mr. Conscience another employ, of which he told the old gentleman he should know more sometime in the future.

Then He commanded that the image of Diabulous be taken down from the place where it was set up, and that they should utterly destroy it, beating it into powder, and casting it into the wind outside the town wall; and that the image of Shaddai, His Father, should be set up again upon the castle gates, along with His own; and that it should be more clearly and beautifully drawn than ever, since both His Father and He had come to Mansoul with more grace and mercy than before the rebellion. He also desired that His name be beautifully engraved in the best of gold upon the front of the town, for the honor of the town of Mansoul.

After this was done, Emmanuel commanded that those three great Diabolonians should be apprehended, namely, the two late Lord Mayors, to wit, Mr. Incredulity, Mr. Lustings, and Mr. Forget-Good, the Recorder. Besides these, there were others whom Diabulous made burgesses and aldermen in Mansoul. They had been committed to ward by the hand of the now valiant, and now right noble, the brave Lord Willbewill. And these were their names: Alderman Atheism, Alderman Hard-Heart, and Alderman False-Peace. The burgesses were, Mr. No-Truth, Mr. Pitiless, Mr. Haughty, with the like. These were committed to close custody, and the jail keeper's name was Mr. True-Man. This True-Man was one of those Emmanuel brought with Him from His Father's court when He first made war upon Diabulous in the town or Mansoul.

After this, the Prince charged that the three strongholds the Diabolonians built in Mansoul at the command of Diabulous should be demolished and utterly pulled down; of which holds and their names, with their captains and governors, you read a little before. But this was long in doing, because of the largeness of the places, and because the stones, the timber, the iron, and all rubbish, had to be carried outside the town.

When this was done, the Prince gave order that the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of Mansoul should call a judicial court for the trial and execution of the Diabolonians in the corporation now under the charge of Mr. True-Man, the jail keeper.

Now, when the time had come, and the court set, commandment was sent to Mr. True-Man, the jail keeper, to bring the prisoners down to appear before the court. So the prisoners were brought down, bound and chained together, as the custom of the town of Mansoul was. When they were presented before the Lord Mayor, the Recorder, and the rest of the honorable bench, first, the jury was empanelled, and then the witnesses sworn. The names of the jury were these: Mr. Belief, Mr. True-Heart, Mr. Upright, Mr. Hate-Bad, Mr. Love-God, Mr. See-Truth, Mr. Heavenly-Mind, Mr. Moderate, Mr. Thankful, Mr. Good-Work, Mr. Zeal-for-God, and Mr. Humble. The names of the witnesses were Mr. Know-All, Mr. Tell-True, Mr. Hate-Lies, with my Lord Willbewill and his man, if the need should arise.

So the prisoners were set to the bar. Then said Mr. Do-Right, for he was the town-clerk, "Set Atheism to the bar, jail keeper." So he was set to the bar. Then said the clerk, "Atheism, hold up your hand. You are here indicted by the name of Atheism, an intruder upon the town of Mansoul, for you have perniciously and doltishly taught and maintained that there

is no God, and so no heed need be taken to religion. This you have done against the being, honor, and glory of the King, and against the peace and safety of the town of Mansoul. What do you say? Are you guilty of this indictment, or not?"

ATHEISM. "Not guilty."

CRIER. "Call Mr. Know-All, Mr. Tell-True, and Mr. Hate-Lies into the court."

So they were called, and they appeared.

CLERK. Then said the clerk, "You, the witnesses for the King, look upon the prisoner at the bar; do you know him?"

KNOW. Mr. Know-All answered, "Yes, my lord, we know him. His name is Atheism. He has been a very pestilent fellow for many years in the miserable town of Mansoul."

CLERK. "You are sure you know him?"

KNOW. "Know him! Yes my lord. In times past, I have too often been in his company to be at this time ignorant of him. He is a Diabolonian, the son of a Diabolonian. I knew his grandfather and his father."

CLERK. "Well said. He stands here indicted by the name of Atheism, etc., and is charged that he has maintained and taught that there is no God, and so no heed need be taken to any religion. What say you, the King's witnesses, to this? Is he guilty or not?"

KNOW. "My lord, he and I were once in Villain's Lane together, and he at that time briskly talked of diverse opinions, and then and there I heard him say that, for his part, he believed that there was no God. 'But,' said he, 'I can profess one, and be as religious too, if the company I am in, and the circumstances of other things,' said he, 'shall put me upon it.'"

CLERK. "You are sure you heard him say this?"

KNOW. "Upon my oath, I heard him say it."

Then said the clerk, "Mr. Tell-True, what say you to the King's judges touching the prisoner at the bar?"

TELL. "My lord," answered Mr. Tell-True, "I formerly was a great companion of his, for which I since repented, and I have often heard him say, and that with very great, perverse stubbornness, that he believed there was neither God, angel, nor spirit."

CLERK. "Where did you hear him say so?"

To Be Continued...