



CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
NINILCHIK

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 11th, 2021

(Episode 8)

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

...When the giant had thus far proceeded in his work, in the next place, he began to build some strongholds in the town, and he built three that seemed to be impregnable. The first he called the Hold of Defiance, because it was made to command the whole town, and to keep it from the knowledge of its ancient King. The second he called Midnight Hold, because it was built on purpose to keep Mansoul from the true knowledge of itself. The third was called Sweet-Sin Hold, because by it he fortified Mansoul against all desires of good. The first of these holds stood close by Eye-gate, that, as much as possible, light might be darkened there. The second was built next to the old castle, in order to blind the townfolk even more, if possible. The third stood in the market-place.

The fellow Diabulous made governor over the first of these strongholds was Spitegod, a most blasphemous wretch. He came with the whole rabble of them that came against Mansoul at first, and was himself one of their number. He who was made governor of Midnight Hold was one Love-no-light. He was also numbered with those who first came against the town. And he who was made the governor of the hold called Sweet-Sin Hold was one whose name was Loveflesh. He was also a very lewd fellow, but he did not come from the same country as the other two. He was a converted resident of Mansoul. This fellow could find more sweetness when he stood sucking from a lust than he did in all the paradise of God.

And now Diabulous thought himself safe. He had taken Mansoul, he had fortified himself therein, he had put down the old officers, and he set up new ones. He had defaced the image of Shaddai and set up his own in its place. He had spoiled the old law books and had promoted his own vain lies. He had appointed new magistrates and set up new aldermen. He built new strongholds and had manned them for himself. He did it all to make himself safe and secure, in case the good Shaddai, or His Son, should come to attack him.

Now you may well think, that long before this time, word, by someone or another, could have been carried to the good King Shaddai, of how His Mansoul, in the continent of Universe, was lost; and that the renegade, giant Diabulous, once one of His Majesty's servants, had, in rebellion against the King, seized the town for himself. Yes, these sad tidings were carried and brought to the King, informing Him of every detail (Matt 10:29-30).

King Shaddai was told how Diabulous came upon the simple and innocent people of Mansoul with craft, subtlety, lies, and guile. First item: that he had treacherously slain the right noble and valiant captain, their Captain Resistance, as he stood upon the gate with the rest of the townsmen. Second item: how my brave Lord Innocent fell down dead—with grief, some say, or by being poisoned with the stinking breath of one Ill-Pause, as others say—at the hearing of his just Lord and rightful Prince, Shaddai, so abused by the mouth of so filthy a Diabulian as was that varlet Ill-Pause. The messenger further told, that after Ill-Pause had made a short oration to the townsmen in behalf of Diabulous, his master, the simple town, believing what was said was true, with one consent opened Ear-gate, the chief gate of the corporation, and let him and his crew enter the famous town of Mansoul. He further showed how Diabulous had served the Lord Mayor and Mr. Recorder; that is, that he had removed them from all positions of power and trust. Third item: he showed also that my Lord Willbewill had become a rebel and renegade, and that was true of Mr. Mind, his clerk; and that they both reveled in teaching the wicked ones their ways all over town. He said, moreover, that this Willbewill was trusted greatly, and particularly that Diabulous had put into Willbewill’s hand all the strong places in Mansoul; and that Mr. Affection was made my Lord Willbewill’s deputy in his most rebellious affairs. “Yes,” said the messenger, “this monster, Lord Willbewill, has openly disavowed his King Shaddai, and has horribly given his faith and pledged his troth to Diabulous” (Isa 28:15).

“Also,” said the messenger, “besides all this, the new king, or rather the rebellious tyrant, had set up a Lord Mayor and Recorder of his own over the once famous, but now perishing, town of Mansoul. For Mayor, he had set up one Mr. Lustings; and for Recorder, Mr. Forget-Good; two of the vilest of all the town of Mansoul.” This faithful messenger also proceeded to tell what sort of new burgesses Diabulous 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 Diabulous 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.

To Be Continued....

For Your Consideration

Review:

What does the town of Mansoul represent?

Who is King Shaddai?

Who is the giant, Diabulous?

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:

Diabulous appointed three governors for each of the three strongholds. Consider the names of those strongholds and names of the governors of each stronghold. What three characteristics do these portray in fallen man's nature?

Read Matthew 10:29-30 and explain why this was used as a Scripture reference to illustrate the omniscient (all-knowing) immanence (intimately involved) of our Sovereign God.

In the second to the last paragraph, the messenger tells King Shaddai that Lord Willbewill "has horribly given his faith and pledged his troth to Diabulous." Mr. Bunyan wrote in the original "plighted his troth" which is a term used when speaking of marriage—this is why a marriage is called a "betrouthal." What insights into Lordwillbewill's relationship with Diabulous can you gain from reading Isaiah 28:15?