

The Holy War



Week 5

The captains resolve for battle

to

A fight within the town

Goals

- To gain a greater understanding of the **spiritual warfare** in which we are engaged.
- To develop a greater awareness of the **methods employed by Satan**.
- To deepen our appreciation for the **grace of God** in saving sinners.
- To learn more about ourselves through empathizing with Mansoul (**Mansoul = me**)

Key Questions

- What primary Bible passages come to your mind as you read this assignment?
- To what degree does the story accurately depict Bible teaching?

Synopsis

The captains battle long against Mansoul then retreat and employ other tactics that are effective in causing a mutiny against Diabolus within the town.

The 4 Captains

Captain	Color	Scutcheon	Significance	Place
Boanerges	Black		Awakened preaching of the Word with boldness	First
Conviction	Pale		Exposure to offenses against the Law of God	Middle
Judgment	Red		Terror produced in an informed conscience	Middle
Execution	Red		Finality of the penalty of rejection	Last

The Assault Begins

- What significant cry marks the beginning of the assault by Shaddai's army?
 - "YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN"
 - (from John 3 - Jesus with Nicodemus)
- What is the significance of the cry?
 - It clearly states the conditions of surrender
 - The necessity ("Ye must")
 - The nature ("be born again")

Defense of the Town

- What were the names of the two guns that were positioned above Ear-gate and trained on Shaddai's men?
 - High-mind
 - Heady
- What do these guns signify?
 - The men of the city "trusted much" in themselves, rather than in the words from Shaddai.
 - These represent man's pride in himself and his own way.
 - These guns were forged in Diabolus' foundry by Mr. Puff-up.
- Should the Gospel messenger be afraid of these?
- What do the battering rams of Shaddai's army signify?
 - The forceful thrusts of the Word of God

New Recruits

- As the captains had travelled across the land to the town of Mansoul, they met “three young fellows that had a mind to go for soldiers”
 - Mr. Tradition
 - Mr. Human-Wisdom
 - Mr. Man’s-Invention
- What happened to these 3 during the battle?
 - “They did not so much live by religion as by the fates of fortune”
- These represent elements of human effort and reliance
 - They are poor substitutes for true spiritual power or a relationship with God.
 - In the heat of the battle they will prove unreliable.
 - When they “change sides” to join Diabolus, they are finally wearing the correct uniform.

Exploits of the Town

- What “exploits” did the town make against the armies of Shaddai?
 - Protected ear-gate
 - Captured the 3 men
 - Caused great expense and much loss
 - Forced a retreat to a winter camp (less intense interaction)

Exploits of the Captains

- **What exploits did the armies of Shaddai make against the town?**
 - Bravely attempted to open ear-gate with slings and battering rams
 - Destroyed the roof of Mayor Incredulity so that he was “more open” than before
 - Hit Lord Willbewill with a sling and almost killed him
 - Killed 6 aldermen with one shot (Swearing, Whoring, Fury, Stand-to-Lies, Drunkenness, Cheating) (quote p. 31)
 - “Dismounted” the 2 great guns and “laid them flat”
- **What is significant about each of the above gains in relation to the Word of God at work chipping away at man’s stubborn resistance to God’s calling?**

3 Summons

- Summons 1: Words of peace
 - Summons 2: A little more roughly
 - Summons 3: Yet more roughly
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- Then what happens?
 - Lord Willbewill calls for a parley
 - He says the townsmen can come to agreement with the captains under certain conditions
 - Describe the conditions



Conditions

- **We want to:**
 - Retain our old leadership
 - Retain all aspects of our present rebellion without penalty
 - Retain our former practices engaged in under Diabolus
 - Have veto power over any new authority
- **Basically:**
 - “We will surrender to you if we can do it without surrendering.”

Responses

- **What is Boanerges' response?**
 - He was initially glad but then his gladness was turned to sorrow
 - He said the captains reject the terms "with the highest disdain"
 - He insists that they trust Shaddai to make the terms for them (quote p. 34)
- **What is the towns response?**
 - Incredulity:
"I, for my part, will never yield to so unlimited a proposition."
 - His speech "undid all, and threw flat to the ground their hopes of an accord."

Mutiny

- **Diabolus is happy with incredulity yet all is not well for Diabolus in the town**
 - Mr. Recorder (Conscience) begins to sound like his old self again
 - He and the old mayor Lord Understanding begin to agitate the people
 - They rush upon Incredulity's house and try to tear it down
 - The people in the town are now split between Diabolus and Shaddai
- **The tumult comes to blows**
 - Mr. Benumbing almost takes out Mr. Conscience
 - Mr. Rashhead has his brains beaten out by Mr. Mind
 - Mr. Prejudice is "kicked and tumbled about in the dirt" and his crown is cracked
 - Mr. Anything has one of his legs broken

Change in Willbewil

- **How does it end?**
 - Lord Willbewill is indifferent to the mutinee
 - He actually smiles to see Mr. Prejudice kicked about

Application

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