

## 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

October 22nd, 2023

(Episode 87)

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

[The good and eternal Prince, Emmanuel, spoke to the Mansoulians gathered at the market-place by His appointed decree. He told them how He had invented and performed it all as sovereign King, and finally told them of a day to come when they would be taken to another kingdom. "There," He told them, "you shall not need captains, weapons, soldiers, and men of war. There you shall meet with no sorrow, nor grief, nor shall it be possible that any Diabolonian should again, forever, be able to] ...creep into your skirts, burrow into your walls, or be seen again within your borders all the days of eternity. Life shall last longer there, than you are able to desire it should here; and yet it shall always be sweet and new. Nothing shall hinder or obstruct its peace forever.

"There, O Mansoul, you shall meet with many of those who have been like you, and who have been partakers of your sorrows; even such as I have chosen, and redeemed, and set apart, just like you, for My Father's court and city royal. They will all be glad in you, and you, when you see them, shall be glad in your heart.

"There are things, O Mansoul, even things of My Father's providing, and Mine, which were never seen since the beginning of the world; and they are laid up with My Father, and sealed up among His treasures for you, until you shall come there to enjoy them. I told you before, that I would remove My Mansoul and set it up elsewhere; and where I will set it, there are those who love you and those who rejoice in you now; but how much more, when they shall see you exalted to honor. My Father will then send them for you to fetch you; and their bosoms are chariots to put you in. And you, O My Mansoul, shall ride upon the wings of the wind. They will come to convey, conduct, and bring you to that, when your eyes see more, which will be your desired haven.

"And thus, O My Mansoul, I have shown you what shall be done to you in the future, if you can hear, if you can understand; and now I will tell you what at present must be your duty and practice, until I come and fetch you to Myself, according as is related in the Scriptures of truth.

"First, I charge you that you, from now on, keep the garments which I gave you before My last withdrawing from you more white and clean. Do it, I say, for this will be your wisdom. They are in themselves fine linen, but you must keep them white and clean. This will be your wisdom, your honor, and will be greatly for My glory. When your garments are white, the world will count you Mine. Also, when your garments are white, then I am delighted in your ways; for then your goings to and fro will be like a flash of lightning, so those who are present

must take notice; also their eyes will be dazzled by them. Dress yourself, therefore, according to My bidding, and make yourself straight steps for your feet by My law; so shall your King greatly desire your beauty, for He is your Lord and you must worship Him.

"Now, that you may keep them as I command you, I have, as I told you before, provided for you an open fountain to wash your garments in. Look, therefore, that you wash often in My fountain, and do not go around wearing defiled garments; for as it is to My dishonor and My disgrace, so it will be to your discomfort when you walk around in filthy garments. Let not, therefore, My garments, your garments, the garments I gave you, be defiled or spotted by the flesh. Keep your garments always white and let your head lack no ointment.

"My Mansoul, I have often delivered you from the designs, plots, attempts, and conspiracies of Diabulous; and for all this I ask you nothing except that you do not render to Me evil for My good; but that you bear in mind My love and My continual kindness to My beloved Mansoul, so as to provoke you to walk in your measure according to the benefit bestowed on you. Of old, the sacrifices were bound with cords to the horns of the golden altar. Consider what is said to you, O My blessed Mansoul.

"O My Mansoul, I have lived, I have died, I live, and will die no more for you. I live, that you may not die. Because I live, you shall live also. I reconciled you to My Father by the blood of My cross; and being reconciled, you shall live through Me. I will pray for you; I will fight for you; I will yet do you good.

"Nothing can hurt you but sin. Nothing can grieve Me but sin. Nothing can make you vile before your foes but sin. Take heed of sin, My Mansoul.

"And do you know why I at first, and do still, allow Diabolonians to dwell in your walls, O Mansoul? It is to keep you awake, to test your love, to make you watchful, and to cause you to always value My noble captains, their soldiers, and My mercy.

"It is also, that still you may be made to remember what a deplorable condition you were once in. I mean when, not some, but all did dwell, not in your walls, but in your castle, and in your stronghold, O Mansoul.

"O My Mansoul, even if I should slay all of them within, there are many without who would bring you into bondage; for were all these within cut off, those without would find you sleeping; and then, as in a moment, they would swallow up My Mansoul. I therefore left them in you, not to do you harm—which they yet will, if you hearken to them and serve them— but to do you good, which they must, if you watch and fight against them. Know, therefore, that whatever they shall tempt you to, My design is, that they should drive you, not further off, but nearer to My Father, to teach you war, to make petitioning prayer desirable to you, and to make you little in your own eyes. Hearken diligently to this, My Mansoul.

"Show Me then your love, My Mansoul, and let not those who are within your walls remove your affections from Him who has redeemed your soul. Yes, let the sight of a Diabolonian heighten your love to Me. I came once, and twice, and thrice, to save you from the poison of those arrows that would have caused your death. Stand for Me, your Friend, My Mansoul, against the Diabolonians, and I will stand for you before My Father, and all His court. Love Me against temptation, and I will love you notwithstanding your infirmities.

"O My Mansoul, remember what My captains, My soldiers, and My weapons have done for you. They have fought for you. They have suffered by you. They have borne much at your hands to do you good, O Mansoul. Had you not had them to help you, Diabulous would have certainly made a hand of you. Nourish them, therefore, My Mansoul. When you do well, they will be well. When you do ill, they will be ill, and sick, and weak. Make not My captains sick, O Mansoul; for if they are sick, you cannot be well. If they are weak, you cannot be strong. If they are faint, you cannot be stout and valiant for your King, O Mansoul. Nor must you think always to live by your senses. You must live upon My Word. You must believe, O My Mansoul, when I am from you, that still I love you and bear you upon My heart forever.

"Remember, therefore, O My Mansoul, that you are beloved to Me: as I have, therefore, taught you to watch, to fight, to pray, and to make war against My foes; so now I command you to believe that My love is constant toward you. O My Mansoul, how have I set My heart, My love upon you! Watch. Behold, I lay no other burden upon you than what you have already. Hold fast what you have until I come."

## AMEN! HALLELUJAH! WHAT A SAVIOR!