

The Holy War



Week 13

The remaining Diabolonians plot the ruin of the town

to

The mixture of Diabolonians and Mansoulians

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**)

Synopsis

Because the townsmen did not obey the command to seek out and destroy all remaining Diabolonians, those still residing within the town communicate with Diabolus to plot the town's overthrow.

The Meeting

- When the Diabolonians who were left in Mansoul perceived how weak the town had become, they met together to plot the town's ruin. Where did they meet?
 - In the house of Mr. Mischief
- How did this meeting go and what was decided?
 - **Lord Lasciviousness:** Let some of the Diabolonians offer themselves in service to some of the townsmen.
 - **Lord Murder:** This cannot be done at this time for they are still in a rage from the incident with Mr. Carnal Security.
 - **Consensus:** Let us send a letter to Diabolous to let him know of our intentions and to ask his advice.

Letter #1

- **What were the contents of this letter?**
 - We are hopeful that this town may become yours once again
 - The town is in a ripe condition
 - It has declined from Emmanuel
 - He has departed
 - They continually send to Him, but cannot prevail with Him
 - The townsmen are sick and fainting
 - Only we remain lively and strong
 - “We judge they lie open to thy hand and power”
- **By whose hand did they send this letter?**
 - Mr. Profane

Delivery of Letter #1

- Mr. Profane delivers the letter to Hell-Gate Hill and was opened to by the porter. What was his name?
 - Cerberus
 - "In Greek mythology, Cerberus was the hound of Hades, a monstrous three-headed dog with a snake for a tail and snakes down his back like a mane."
 - "Cerberus guarded the gate to Hades and ensured that spirits of the dead could enter, but none could exit (additionally, no living person was to come into Hades)."
(Wikipedia)
- Name some of the "rabblement" that came together along with Diabolous to read the letter.
 - Beelzebub
 - Lucifer
 - Apollyon

Diabolical Joy

- In what way did the denizens of hell express their joy at the reading of the letter?
 - They commanded that dead-man's bell should be rung
 - The clapper of the bell cried: "The town of Mansoul is coming to dwell with us: make room for the town of Mansoul."

Reply to Letter #1

- The group leaves it to Diabolus to compose a letter in reply. What were the contents of this letter?
 - An expression of gladness to hear the “good news” of Mansoul’s weakened condition
 - The following promises:
 - To fully engage all hellish resources in concocting a plan
 - To come with far more strength this time so as not to be cast out again. For “it is the law of that Prince . . . that if we get them a second time, they shall be ours for ever.” (Mt 12:43-45, Heb 6)
 - A list of 3 proposed options for further weakening the town
 - The following commands:
 - Continue to spy out the town’s weaknesses
 - Continue to weaken the town further
 - Be always ready to assault from within when we assault from without

The Signature

- How did Diabolus sign this letter of reply
 - “Mansoul’s enemy, and him that trembles when he thinks of judgment to come”

Evil Options

- What were the 3 options put forward for weakening and thus retaking the town, and which was chosen?
 - Make Mansoul loose and vain
 - Drive them to doubt and despair
 - Blow them up by the “gunpowder” of pride and self-conceit
- What was the reasoning behind choosing this approach?
 - It would make them question the Love of Emmanuel
 - And thus would make them stop sending their petitions to Him
 - For “as good do nothing, as do to no purpose.”

For Hire

- **What did they further propose to do to carry out this plan?**
 - Have 3 Diablonians disguise themselves, change their names, and sell themselves as servants to the townsmen
- **How did they disguise themselves?**
 - They wore sheep's russet which was "now in a manner" as white as the robes of Mansoul.
- **The Diablonians were chosen. Name their pseudonyms, who hired them, and the end result.**

Diablonian	Pseudonym	Master	Result
Lord Covetous			
Lord Lasciviousness			
Lord Anger			

Letter #2

- What day did they agree would be best to try to seize Mansoul and why?
 - Market day because . . .
 - The people will be the most busy and the least likely to fear a surprise.
 - The Diabolonians will be able to gather without arousing suspicion.
 - If their attempt fails, they will be able to hide themselves in the crowd and escape.
- They send a second letter to Diabolous to inform him of their plans and success in weakening the town.
In this letter they also suggest that Diabolous bring what kind of army when he returns?
 - An army of doubters

Despair

- **The town was in a sad state:**
 - They had grievously offended Shaddai and Emmanuel
 - Their enemies had fresh strength
 - They were obtaining no response from their petitioning
 - The sickness greatly raged in the town
- **“Their cloud was made to grow blacker and blacker, and their Emmanuel to stand at further distance.”**

Delivery of Letter #2

- Mr. Profane delivers the second letter to Hell-Gate Hill. How did the “rabblement” discuss this second letter?
 - They consider the approach put forth by the Diabolonians within the town.
 - Some suggest that they wait a bit longer to draw the town into yet more sin.
 - But Diabolus does not want to wait: “My furious gorge, and empty paunch, so lusteth after a repossession of my famous town of Mansoul, that whatever comes out, I can wait no longer to see the events of lingering projects.” (I Peter 5:8)
- Thus they approved the plan.

Hint of Fear

- What does Lucifer say is the only thing that can cause their plan to fail at this point?
 - “Nothing can make this to fail but grace, in which I would hope that this town has no share.”
- How do they plan to keep the town from grace?
 - Drive them into sin.
 - For “two or three Diabolonians, if entertained and countenanced by the town of Mansoul, will do more to the keeping of Emmanuel from them, and towards making the town of Mansoul your own than can an army of a legion that should be sent out from us to withstand him.”
 - “Yea, why may he not, by their lapse into that sin again, be driven from them for ever?”
- Although Diabolus feared the potential power of the people’s petitioning of Emmanuel, why was he not greatly concerned?
 - They “regarded iniquity in their heart” (Psalm 66:18)
 - They “cried to their King for help, and laid Diabolonians in their bosoms.”

Reply to Letter #2

- **What were the contents of Diabolus' reply to the 2nd letter?**
 - We highly approve and cannot think of a better plan.
 - We are sending an army of 20,000+ doubters.
 - You will be lords of Mansoul.
 - Continue to draw the town into sin "that sin may be finished and bring forth death." (James 1:15)
- **We may come at any time so be ready.**

Bad Mix

- Bunyan notes that there was now a “mixture in Mansoul.” To what does he refer?
 - The townsmen and Diablonians walked the streets together.
 - The townsmen “began to seek their peace” as they thought it “was in vain to go to handygripes [close combat] with them.”
 - The Diablonians were promising the town to themselves.
 - Both seemed to be masters of Mansoul.
 - The Diablonians “increased and grew” while Mansoul “diminished greatly.”
 - There were “more than eleven thousand men, women, and children that died by the sickness in Mansoul.”

Warnings

Matthew 10:16 (NASB)

“. . . be shrewd as serpents, and innocent as doves.”

Romans 16:17-19 (NASB)

17 Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them.

18 For such men are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their own appetites; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting.

19 For the report of your obedience has reached to all; therefore I am rejoicing over you, but I want you to be wise in what is good and innocent in what is evil.

2 Corinthians 2:10-11 (NASB)

10 But whom you forgive anything, I forgive also . . .

11 in order that no advantage be taken of us by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his schemes.

Sin often
takes us further than we want to go,
leaves us longer than we want to stay, and
costs us more than we want to pay.

Next Week

Mr. Prywell to the rescue

The Holy War

