

## *The Holy War* Study Guide – Week 4

What primary Bible passages come to your mind as you read this assignment?

To what degree does the story accurately reflect Bible teaching?

The present chapter marks the first approach of Shaddai's men on Mansoul. The detail of the ensuing dialogue between the military delegation from Shaddai and the town of Mansoul gives a heightened understanding of the way the Gospel can be brought to bear on sinful men. Close attention to the messages of Shaddai's four captains can be a useful guide for one desirous of bringing the Word convincingly home to the hearts of the unregenerate. The vividness of the military captains' identities, the speeches that grow out of their individual characters, and the realistic portrayal of the suspense and emotion on both sides all heighten the drama of the story and the import of the verbal exchanges.

Why does Shaddai use His captains to approach the city of Mansoul first, rather than immediately sending His Son, Immanuel, to subdue them?

Describe the four captains, each of whom has 10,000 men under his charge.

Using your best Scriptural understanding of the captains' names, identify what you think Bunyan intended that each captain represent in the presentation of Shaddai's message:

Captain	Color	Scutcheon (shield w/ coat of arms)	Significance
Boanerges (Mark 3:17)	Black	Three burning thunderbolts	
Conviction (Deut. 33:2)	Pale	Opened book of the law w/ flame	

Judgment (Mt. 13:41-42)	Red	Burning fiery furnace	
Execution (Mt. 3:10)	Red	Fruitless tree with axe at the root	

Each captain represents not a separate messenger from God, but a separate component of the Gospel message.

Summarize the commissions that Shaddai gave to each of His captains:

Shaddai's court and Mansoul were "far off" from each other. What is the distance necessary for Shaddai's soldiers to travel intended to communicate?

How do the soldiers initial respond upon reaching their destination at the city of Mansoul?

Diabolus acts quickly to disprove of his townsmen's fixed interest in the delegation from Shaddai, and he reproves them most eloquently and convincingly for gazing at the soldiers of Shaddai. What ironic conclusion can we deduce from Diabolus' restrictive commands?

Captain Boanerges' faithful trumpeter, Take-heed-what-you-hear, approached the Ear-gate and pealed three summons on his trumpet. The first two went entirely unheeded, and only on the third summons, when he coupled it with a severe warning, was any response forthcoming from within Mansoul's walls. Sometimes only the threat of judgment is all that will elicit even a minimal response to God's Word.

In the exchange between Take-heed-what-you-hear and Lord Will-be-will, the trumpeter makes it clear that his message is directed to whom?

When the townsmen arrive to give their response to Shaddai's demands, Captain Boanerges laments the absence of Lord Mayor Understanding. Why did he do so?

Summarize the messages of each of Shaddai's captains:

- Boanerges:
- Conviction: (Romans 3:10-19, 23)
- Judgment: (Malachi 4:1; 2 Peter 2:3; Job 36:17-19; Psalm 9:7; Isaiah 46:15; Ezekiel 32:14)
- Execution: (Matthew 3:7-10; Luke 3:9)

During which of the speeches did Diabolus tremble as Felix had before Paul?

Notice that the importance of the character Ill-pause is made evident again. Shaddai's army wants him thrown out, and Diabolus fears to lose him.

Summarize the messages and threats of the three representatives who speak for Mansoul:

- Lord Incredulity
- Lord Will-be-will
- Mr. Forget-good (Recorder)

As bravely as the men of Mansoul talked, and as warmly as they threatened violence to Shaddai's army, they go to great lengths to further secure the doors at Ear-gate. What is the significance of placing Mr. Prejudice and his retinue of 60 deaf soldiers to guard Ear-gate?

**Vocabulary:**

cap-a-pie \cap-uh-PEE\, *adverb*: From head to foot; at all points