

## *The Holy War* Study Guide – Week 5

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

To what degree does the story accurately reflect Bible teaching?

At the outset of this section, the sides have become more clearly drawn and more clearly disparate and entrenched. As things stand, there can be no agreement without capitulation. With no yielding on either side, the battle begins. Fittingly, battle with Shaddai is what Mansoul wants. There not only is no surrender in the town, but there is fight within her bosom.

What significant cry marks the beginning of the assault by Shaddai's army?

What is the significance of the cry?

By what names were the two guns known that were positioned above Ear-gate and trained on Shaddai's men; and what do the guns signify?

The strategic importance of Ear-gate is once again portrayed. It is the gate around which the heat of the battle rages. Shaddai's men assault them with battering rams that illustrate the forceful thrusts of the Word.

The initial foray is parried by the townsmen and leaders of Mansoul. The combined influence of the hardened Will-be-will, the unbelief of Lord Incredulity, and the debilitated conscience, Mr. Forget-good, enabled the town to resist the advances of the army even though great energy had been exerted against it. Further, the townsmen had captured three noteworthy prisoners of war who rather easily succumbed to change sides in the battle. The very names of these

aspiring soldiers foreshadow their character in the war. What do these men represent?

- Mr. Tradition, Mr. Human Wisdom, Mr. Man's Invention

Though having been withstood, the army is able to make some small but identifiable gains against the town. At least four specific gains are mentioned. What encouragements might be gleaned from these small victories, though the whole tide of the war did not yet seem encouraging?

- Laid open the roof of Lord-mayor, Mr. Incredulity
- Dealt Lord-Will-be-will a stiff blow
- Disabled six of the aldermen
- Dismounted the two great guns in which the townsmen trusted much

What does "winter" represent and what winter strategy did the army employ against the town?

Further evidences of the success of Shaddai's army appear in the rousing of the "old gentleman," Mr. Conscience, whose "words were now to the town of Mansoul as if they were great claps of thunder"; a growing inability for the townsmen to satisfy their appetites in their former indulgences.

Captain Boanerges commissioned his trumpeter (Take-heed-what-you-hear) on three different errands to the city with an appeal to open the gates. Describe the character of each of his messages:

The trumpeter's third message evokes a studied response from Mansoul that shows more bravado than is truly possessed throughout the city. Lord-Will-be-will issues a startling surrender speech. He provides a new definition of submission, when he in essence says, "We will surrender to you, if we can do it without surrendering to you." Summarize the four points of his proposal:

Captain Boanerges' response to the proposal from Mansoul is poignant and powerful. He insists that surrender be absolute and that it be accompanied by trust in Shaddai "to make such terms with you, and for you, as shall seem good in his eyes." However, his response is ardently rebuffed by Mr. Incredulity (Unbelief), who promptly proceeds to malign the character of Shaddai once more. Diabolus promises to reward him lavishly for opportune influence.

Despite the braggadocio in Mr. Incredulity's manner, all is not at rest in Mansoul. Lord Understanding has recovered sufficiently from Diabolus' sway to join his voice with Mr. Conscience, and united they appeal to Mansoul to yield to Shaddai and bravely and "treasonously" withstand Mr. Incredulity (Unbelief) to the face:

When the understanding is somewhat enlightened, and the conscience awakened, unbelief is in danger of destruction. There will then be a party in the soul on the Lord's side. This is called a mutiny. A blessed mutiny it is, when unbelief begins to be opposed, and the sweet hope of pardoning mercy cherished; then . . . Sin and the soul are at odds (*The Holy War*, Illustrated with notes by George Burder, Reiner edition, 116).

The battle within the soul between Understanding and Unbelief is pronounced and proceeds from words to blows. Bunyan portrays the "uphill" battle that must take place in the soul for Unbelief ever to yield ground to Understanding.

The scene ends with Lord Will-be-will oddly seeming oddly neutral or, if anything, inclining toward those speaking for Shaddai. What spiritual process does this suggest is taking place?

**Vocabulary:**

Founder – iron worker; works in an iron foundry

Sallied out or sally forth (verb) – To leave somewhere safe or comfortable

Sally port (noun) – Technically, a sally port is a small, easily secured space between two doors within a wall or other structure being assaulted, from which soldiers “sally forth” for strategic attacks on invaders or weaponry to slow their advance.

Durance (noun) – incarceration or imprisonment

Congee (noun) – a ceremonious bow

Malapert – It’s formed from the equally archaic *apert*, from Latin *apertum*, open, through French. The oldest English sense was “public, plain, unconcealed”, but this shifted over time until it came instead to mean outspoken and later insolent. (Through confusion with another French word, it could also mean clever.) Our word seems to have been created from *apert* in either the sense of a person who is outspoken or clever, since the *mal-* prefix means “improperly, badly, wrongly” (as in *maladjusted* or *malodorous*), so creating *malapert*, of somebody improperly outspoken or inappropriately clever. We still know *apert* in its aphetic form *pert*, which retains the idea of insolence, though weakened into cheekiness or impudence.

Harquebus (noun) – Late medieval small firearm, ancient predecessor of the musket; named after a hook on the barrel which cushions the recoil. The harquebus fires lead balls of 2.5 cm caliber. Larger models and up to 4 cm caliber can only be fired from a stationary position (double hook).