

The Holy War Study Guide – Week 11

Immanuel's Provision for Mansoul's Maintenance

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

To what degree does the story accurately reflect Bible teaching?

We continue to see Immanuel's heart for the townsmen of Mansoul unveiled. How attentively He anticipates their needs and makes provision for them in ways beyond what men can conceive! His skillful, far-seeing knowledge is on public display, and the people delight in discovering more of His character manifested in the precision of His attention and in the delight He manifests in surprising His people with the abundance and timeliness of His provision. In this reading, we see specifically how He provides teachers for them: a teacher from above (Holy Spirit), a teacher within (conscience), and teachers alongside (pastors); and we come to realize the authority structure and inter-connected ministry of these teachers.

Immanuel's first provision is to promote a new captain, joining him to the ranks of the other nine who had led in the battle for Mansoul. He elevates Mr. Experience, a humble, honorable native to Mansoul, to this role. Mr. Waiting plays a role in the process, calling our attention to Paul's words in Romans 5:3-4, "patience worketh experience." In God's plan, the experiences He sows in a Christian's life are designed to produce a persevering endurance – a strengthening of his faith not only for the present trials, but for ones still to come. Spiritual patience or endurance in life situations yields a most valuable asset – tasting of experiences of God at work and His promises coming true. These experiences prove to be a ready resource as one journeys with the Lord, and they themselves bear fruit in the believer by producing proven character, and that proven character produces hope – a confident expectation of blessings God has guaranteed – in spite of circumstances that seem to contradict those promises. Captain Experience's crest of the dead lion and the bear suggest two such experiences – to what do these images probably refer?

Another of Immanuel's provisions was the renewal of their charter. The language of the new charter reflects what Reformed theologians typically understand as the "covenant of grace," a covenant that in some senses is an early start on the new covenant with Israel prophesied later in the Old Testament and implemented through the New Testament. They contend that a covenant of works existed before the Fall, but that God instituted a covenant of grace following the fall. Most of the biblical language Bunyan

incorporates to discuss the covenant of grace actually comes from passages describing the new covenant. The Scriptures provide three primary features of the New Covenant, and Bunyan develops the features of the covenant into seven facets. The three primary features include (cf. Hebrews 8:10-12):

- The internalization of the law of God (includes an alteration of heart, the giving of God's Law to their minds, and the establishment of a permanent relationship with God (Hebrews 8:10))
- A uniformity of knowledge of God – the focus is not on giving His people more revelation, but on increasing their understanding (Hebrews 8:11)
- The complete dismissal of sin (Hebrews 8:12)

The seven facets delineated by Bunyan include:

1. Free and full forgiveness of all wrongs against God and men
2. The provision of the law of God for their edification
3. The provision of God's character – transforming them into the likeness of God in whom no darkness dwells
4. The provision of the world for their enjoyment and wise stewardship
5. The provision of direct and constant access to Immanuel coupled with the promise of a hearing
6. The permission to seek aggressively the riddance of all Diabolonians still living in Mansoul, or of any who might visit
7. The exclusive provision of the above blessings

Where does Immanuel order the tenets of the covenant to be written?

Jeremiah 31:31 & 33 *"Behold, days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, . . .³³ "But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the LORD, "I will put My law within them and **on their heart I will write it**; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people" (NASB).*

2 Corinthians 3:2-3, *You are our letter, written in our hearts, known and read by all men;³ being manifested that **you are a letter of Christ, cared for by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts** (NASB).*

Hebrews 8:10 (quoting Jeremiah) ***"FOR THIS IS THE COVENANT THAT I WILL MAKE WITH THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AFTER THOSE DAYS, SAYS THE LORD: I WILL PUT MY LAWS INTO THEIR MINDS, AND I WILL WRITE THEM ON THEIR HEARTS. AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE"*** (NASB).

Hebrews 8:12 – *For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.*

Hebrews 8:13 – *When He said, "A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear.*

I John 1:9 – *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

Intent on helping the townsmen to know and comprehend the will of Shaddai, Immanuel provides them with teachers. They had already experienced the preaching ministry of the captains, exhorting them previous to and during the battle, but Immanuel pulls back the curtains to two other invisible teachers on whom visible teachers depend, and on whom hearers must also rely. Who are these two teachers?

The teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit

What elements about the Holy Spirit's teaching ministry does Bunyan teach?

1. He identifies Him once more as Shaddai's chief secretary and chief dictator of Shaddai's laws
2. He alone knows and has authority to communicate supernatural revelation
 - a. 2 Peter 1:20-21, ²⁰ *But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation,²¹ for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God* (NASB).
 - b. 1 Corinthians 2:10-13, ¹⁰ *For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God,¹³ which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words* (NASB).
3. He alone has the capability of helping us remember the words of God
 - a. He had this ministry with the disciples of Jesus
 - John 14:25-26, ²⁵ *"These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you. ²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you"* (NASB).
 - John 16:13-14, ¹³ *"But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you"* (NASB).

b. He has this continuing ministry with Jesus' followers

- I John 2:20, 27 – ²⁰ *But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know. . . .* ²⁷ *As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him. 27 As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him (NASB).*

4. He must be our pre-eminent Teacher

Bunyan says, "This teacher, therefore, must have the pre-eminence (both in your affections and judgment) before your other teacher; His personal dignity, the excellency of His teaching, also the great dexterity that He hath to assist you to make and draw up petitions to my Father for your help, and to His pleasing, must lay obligations on you to love Him, fear Him, and to take heed that you grieve Him not."

The teaching ministry of the Conscience

What elements about the ministry of the conscience does Bunyan teach?

1. He must confine himself to civil and natural duties, the teaching of moral virtues ("all things human and domestic"); he is never to presume to provide revelation
2. He must himself be taught by the Secretary of Shaddai, the Holy Spirit; he must never presume to fill the unique role Shaddai intends for His Secretary to fill; failure to be content with his divinely-appointed station only imitates the discontentment exhibited by Diabolus and his followers.
3. He has authority to chastise the soul when it offends
4. He must himself be purged by the blood of Christ

Hebrews 10:13-14, ¹³ *For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh,* ¹⁴ *how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, **cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*** (NASB)

"Admirably judicious is this charge to the Rev. Mr. Conscience, ordained a preacher in Mansoul. The office of Conscience is to compare the heart and walk of the Christian with the word of God, and so to judge whether it be good or bad; but Conscience is not to decide on the secret decrees of God, nor pretend to reveal new doctrines; Conscience is not the legislator, but the minister of the law, and must ever look up to the Holy Spirit for His teaching. Yet Conscience is here armed with great authority, and permitted to chastise the soul when it offends. But conscience itself needs purifying by the blood of Christ, and refreshment also from the same source" (*The Holy War*, Illustrated with notes by George Burder, Reiner edition, 272).

The Responsibility of the Townsmen to Their Preachers (Captains)

Immanuel's (Bunyan's) charge is sobering and maybe even unexpected:

"I charge you, therefore, said He, that you carry it not untowardly [to be hard to guide or control] to my captains and their men; since they are picked and choice men, men chosen out of many for the good of the town of Mansoul. . . . for though they have the hearts and faces of lions, when at any time they shall be called forth to engage and fight with the King's foes, and the enemies of the town of Mansoul, yet a little discountenance cast upon them from the town of Mansoul, will deject and cast down their faces, will weaken and take away their courage. Do not, therefore, carry it unkindly to my valiant captains, and courageous men of war, but love them, nourish them, succour them, and lay them to your bosoms, and they will not only fight for you, but cause to fly from you all those Diablonians that seek, and will, if possible, prove your utter destruction. . . . for they are your fence and your guard, your walls, gates, locks and bars. . . . Remember also, that if they be sick, they catch that disease of the town of Mansoul itself."

Immanuel's Warnings Concerning Diablonians

1. Some Diablonians remain in Mansoul, including: Lord Fornication, Lord Adultery, Lord Murder, Lord Anger, Lord Lasciviousness, Lord Deceit, Lord Evil-eye, Mr. Drunkenness, Mr. Revelling, Mr. Idolatry, Mr. Witchcraft, Mr. Variance, Mr. Emulation, Mr. Wrath, Mr. Strife, Mr. Sedition, and Mr. Heresy.
2. All Diablonians are sturdy and implacable while Immanuel is present and will prove much more so when He departs (foreshadowing)
3. Diablonian's intention is to bring you to desolation
4. Their ways must be studied, avoided, and they must be put to death

"It is absolutely necessary for Christians to watch and pray against their remaining corruptions, the sin that dwelleth in them; for though their lusts do not possess the castle of the heart, yet they have their private lurking places. They are therefore to be diligently sought after, and may be known by their physiognomy (the distinguishing cast of their face). They are truly wise who study this scriptural physiognomy, and so detect the true character of sin" (*The Holy War*, Illustrated with notes by George Burder, Reiner edition, 276).

Immanuel's Bestowal of a Badge of Honor – the white robes

Bunyan borrows the imagery of the white robes from the book of Revelation (Revelation 7:14-17; 19:8) and incorporates the spiritual realities represented by the white robes into the story. The robes represent believers having been made pure through Christ, and reflects the dual realities represented by our justification and the process of our sanctification.

1. What specific purposes for the white robes are given?
2. How were the townsmen to care for the white robes, remembering the significance of them?

How can believers today give conscious attention to remembering our standing in Christ and the reality of our having been washed clean in Christ's blood?

The reading comes to an end with our witnessing yet further displays of Immanuel's gracious dealings with His people – He welcomes them with lavish reception into His affectionate presence, distributes His royal foods to them to nourish them continually and effectually, and He hunts them up should He notice they have been delinquent. Immanuel also installs Mr. God-peace to rule (Colossians 3:15 – *Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts*, NASB; cf. Philippians 4:6-7).

However, once again, a foreshadowing of looming trouble surfaces – “But there was a man in the town of Mansoul, and his name was Mr. Carnal-security; this man, after all the mercy bestowed upon this corporation, brought the town of Mansoul into great and grievous slavery and bondage. A brief account of him, and of his doings, take as followeth.” [and will make up the portion for next week's reading]

Vocabulary:

Livery – the uniform worn by some menservants and chauffeurs