

The Holy War



Week 4

Shaddai's armies

to

Securing of ear-gate

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**)

Key Questions

- What primary Bible passages come to your mind as you read this assignment?
- To what degree does the story accurately depict Bible teaching?

Synopsis

Shaddai sends his armies to Mansoul under 4 of his captains, and their demand for surrender and offer of peace is rejected.

Discussion

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

- He wants to see the “temper” of Mansoul
- And “whether by them they would be won to the obedience of their King.”

Discussion

What are some verses that relate to God sending in this way?

- **Matt 11:10** "Behold, I send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." (of John the Baptist)
- **Matt 23:34** Therefore, behold, I am sending you prophets and wise men and scribes; some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues, and persecute from city to city,
- **Matt 23:37** Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling.
- **Jonah**
- **Parable of the vineyard**

Discussion

Describe the general characteristics of the captains and the army of Shaddai.

- 40,000 "all true men" and "those of his own choosing"
- "Very stout and rough-hewn men"
- "Fit to break the ice"
- "and to make their way by dint of sword"

Yet as "they marched through the regions of many people" . . .

- They went "not hurting or abusing any"
- But "blessing wherever they came"
- And "lived upon the King's cost in all the way they went"

And when they "came within sight of Mansoul" . . .

- They could "for their hearts do no less than for a while bewail the condition of the town"

Discussion: The 4 Captains

Captain	Color	Scutcheon	Significance	Place
Boanerges	Black		Awakened preaching of the Word with boldness	First
Conviction	Pale		Exposure to offenses against the Law of God	Middle
Judgment	Red		Terror produced in an informed conscience	Middle
Execution	Red		Finality of the penalty of rejection	Last

Matthew 13:41-42

Deuteronomy 33:2

Each captain represents not a separate messenger from God, but a separate component of the Gospel message. The axe is already laid at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. went a fiery law for them.

Discussion

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

- “Offer them first conditions of peace” (Matt 10:11; Luke 10:5)
- Command that they cast off Diabolus and return to me
- If they will submit:
 - Set up a garrison in the town for Shaddai
 - “Nor do thou hurt the least native”
 - “Treat . . . such as if they were thy friend or brother”
 - “Tell them that I will take a time to come unto them”
 - “Let them know that I am merciful”
- If they will not submit:
 - “Make use of all thy cunning, power, might, and force, to bring them under by strength of hand.”

First Sight of the Army

- **What did the townspeople do when they first saw the army?**
 - They stared in wonder over the walls
- **What did Diabolus do?**
 - He brought them into the center of town away from the sight of the army
 - He chided them for even looking upon the army
- **What did the people do after Diabolus' speech to them?**
 - They ran about in panic
 - "The men that have turned the world upside down are come hither also"
 - "The destroyers of our peace and people are come"

Discussion: 4 Summons

Who was Captain Boanerges' faithful trumpeter?

Take-head-what-you-hear

He is the first to approach Ear-gate.

Describe his four summons and any corresponding responses.



- **Summons 1: No answer**
- **Summons 2: No answer**
 - Council of war – determined to give Mansoul one more chance
- **Summons 3:**
 - Very loud summons with severe warning of compulsion by force
 - Lord Willbewill appears and says he will give message to Diabolus and to the town
 - Captains patiently await a reply
- **Summons 4:**
 - The townsmen appear on top of the wall, but make Ear-gate as secure as they can
 - Diabolus challenges Captain Boanerges
 - Speeches are delivered and responded to

Speech 1: Captain Boanerges



- Laments the absence of Mayor Understanding
- Ignores Diabolus *
- Tells his commission and shows his credentials (seal)
- Reiterates offer of peace, yet . . .
- Threatens use of force



Speech 2: Captain Conviction

(Romans 3:10-19, 23)

- Reminds them of their past and present condition
- Stresses submission to Shaddai is in their best interest
- Mentions the power of Shaddai's anger
- Recounts their acts as proof of their rebellion *
- Stresses the need to act quickly *
- Warns them against being deceived by Diabolus into thinking that the Captains seek their own profit
- Highlights Shaddai's amazing grace and mercy *
- Quotes p. 26

Speech 3: Captain Judgment

(Malachi 4:1; 2 Peter 2:3; Job 36:17-19; Psalm 9:7; Isaiah 46:12-13; Ezekiel 32:14)



- Opens by highlighting the length of their rebellion *
- Reinforces that the message and mission is from Shaddai (not their own)
- Warns them against being deceived by Diabolus into thinking that Shaddai is not able to subdue them
- Warns them that He will not be merciful forever and that their judgment is very near *
- Stresses repeatedly their utter helplessness in the day of judgment *
- Diabolus trembles during Captain Judgment's speech *
- Quotes pp. 26, 27

Speech 4: Captain Execution

(Matthew 3:7-10; Luke 3:9)



- Highlights their fruitlessness and need to be hewn down
- Stresses that they are between warning and execution, and this is all the time they have
- Warns that they will not survive the “axe”
- Warns of danger of making light of Shaddai’s words
- Quote p. 27

Reflection

- What complementary yet opposite words would characterize the tenor of all of these speeches?
 - Warning
 - Restraint
- The town asks for time to prepare their answer. What was the captain's reply to this?
 - Only if you throw out Ill-Pause from the town
 - Quote p.28

Discussion: 4 Responses

- **Response 1: Incredulity (Unbelief)**
 - We do not believe your origin, purpose, authority
 - We do not regard your persons, message, and King
 - We do not fear Shaddai's power, greatness, or vengeance
 - We will not yield. Be gone or we will attack you!
- **Response 2: Lord Willbewill**
 - Ditto (shorter version) (be gone in 3 days)
- **Response 3: Recorder (Forget-Good)**
 - We have answered your harsh speeches with gentle words
 - We mercifully allow you to leave without our having used force
- **Response 4: The townsmen**
 - Shouted for joy
 - Rang the bells
 - Made merry
 - Danced upon the walls

Willbewill's Further Actions

- What did Willbewill do to secure ear-gate?
 - 2x the guards
 - 2x the bolts
 - 2x the locks and bars
 - Put Mr. Prejudice in charge of a ward of 60 men. What type of men?
 - 60 deaf men

Application

Witnessing

The dialogue between the captains of Shaddai and the town of Mansoul gives a heightened understanding of the way the Gospel can be brought to bear on sinful men.

What can we learn about witnessing from these speeches?

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