

The Holy War



Week 6

Imprisonment of Understanding and Conscience

to

Mansoul barricades Ear-gate against Emmanuel

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

Unable to make any further progress against the town, the Captains petition Shaddai who sends Emmanuel with reinforcements. Yet Emmanuel Himself is rejected by Mansoul.

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?

Conditions

- **We want to:**
 - Retain our old leadership
 - Retain all aspects of our present rebellion without penalty
 - Retain our former practices engaged in under Diabolus
 - Have veto power over any new authority
- **Basically:**
 - “We will surrender to you if we can do it without surrendering.”

First Move

What does Diabolus do first in today's section?

He imprisons Lord Understanding and Mr. Conscience

Strategy

- The town continues to resist
- The captains decide to trumpet further appeals to the town.
Why did they continue with this strategy?
 - There was a possibility of response
 - The town seemed “more inclinable than heretofore”
 - They desired to do nothing that would harden the hearts of the townsmen unnecessarily

Trumpeter's Message

- The captains send the trumpeter with a message
- In response, Diabolus makes a speech to the town
- What does he say about Shaddai?
 - The greatness of God is to be shunned rather than enjoyed.
 - If the thought of a distant Shaddai is distasteful, what must it be like in His presence?
 - The subjects of Shaddai are all “enslaved”, “unhappy”, and “trampled.”
- What does he say about himself?
 - “I, your prince, am familiar with you, and you may play with me as you would with a grasshopper.”
 - This implies that the townsmen have more control and less to fear in their relationship with Diabolus than with Shaddai.

Response

- What was the result of this speech by Diabolus?
 - The townsmen “did again harden their hearts yet more”
 - “The thoughts of his greatness did quite quash them”
 - “The thoughts of his holiness sunk them in despair”
 - They sent back word that:
 - They were “resolved to stick to their king”
 - “It was . . . vain to give them any further summons”
 - “They had rather die upon the place than yield”
- Do we have any Scripture that speaks against this response by the townspeople?

Hebrews 4:12-16 (NASB)

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.

Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Petition

- With the hardening once again of the town the captains resolve to:
 - Continue peppering the town with stones to hinder it from growing in its wickedness
 - Petition Shaddai for reinforcements to help finish the work the soldiers had begun
- The petition was delivered to Emmanuel. What was His reaction?
 - “He took it and read it”
 - “He mended, and also in some things added to the petition himself”
 - “He carried it in to the King . . . [and] with obeisance delivered it”
 - “He put on authority, and spake to it himself”
- What aspect of Christ’s ministry does this reflect?

- Romans 8:34 Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.
- Hebrews 7:24-25 but Jesus, on the other hand, because He continues forever, holds His priesthood permanently. Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.
- Hebrews 9:24 For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:
- I John 2:1b And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous

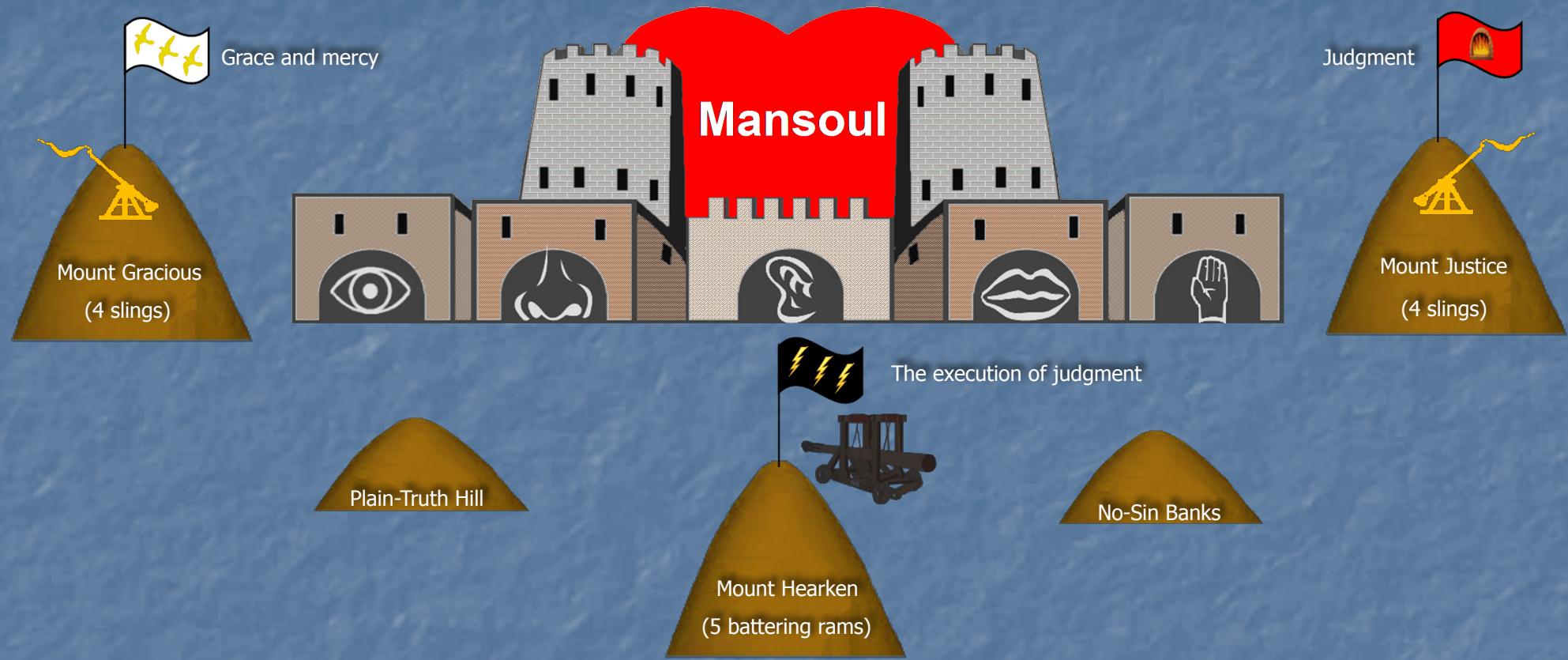
The 5 Additional Captains

Captain	Color	Scutcheon	Standard Bearer	Significance	Place
Credence	Red		Mr. Promise	Belief in God's promises	First
Good-Hope	Blue		Mr. Expectation	Assurance in belief	Middle
Charity	Green		Mr. Pitiful	Role of love in faith	Middle
Innocent	White		Mr. Harmless	Simplicity of the Gospel	Middle
Patience	Black		Mr. Suffer-Long	Shaddai's patience and call to steadfast following	Last

Reinforcements

- The reinforcements:
 - Lifted the soldiers' morale
 - Made a total of nine regiments now
 - Surrounded not only the gates, but now the entire city

Reinforcements



Thus he sends a message to them to explain His meaning and see what they would choose. It says, "We have three burning brazier bolts resisted still, Stoney might be more justly condemned. They ignored this flag as well as the first flag.

Diabolus and Emmanuel

- Despite recognizing who Emmanuel is and conceding His authority, Diabolus claims that the town is rightfully his:
 - By right of conquest
 - By the townsmen's willing submission
- Emmanuel confronts Diabolus
 - For using deceit in his conquest of Mansoul
 - For defacing the image of Shaddai in Mansoul
 - For setting Mansoul against its own deliverance
- Emmanuel then shows that Mansoul truly belongs to Him
 - By right of inheritance
 - By donation from His Father
 - By right of purchase
 - Because He left none of Mansoul's debts unpaid
 - Because He is under His Father's orders to reclaim the town

Emmanuel to the town:

“Poor Mansoul! What shall I do unto thee?”

“Shall I save thee?”

“Shall I destroy thee?”

“Hearken to my word . . . I am merciful”

“Shut me not out of thy gates”

About Diabolus:

I could, would I now put forth my might, cause that forthwith he should leave you and depart; but I have it in my heart so to deal with him, as that the justice of the war that I shall make upon him may be seen and acknowledged by all. He hath taken Mansoul by fraud, and keeps it by violence and deceit, and I will make him bare and naked in the eyes of all observers.

All my words are true. I am mighty to save, and will deliver my Mansoul out of his hand.

Response

- The townsmen respond
 - By barricading Ear-gate
 - By setting guards at the gate
 - By forbidding that any should go out to Emmanuel or come in from Him.

Application

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