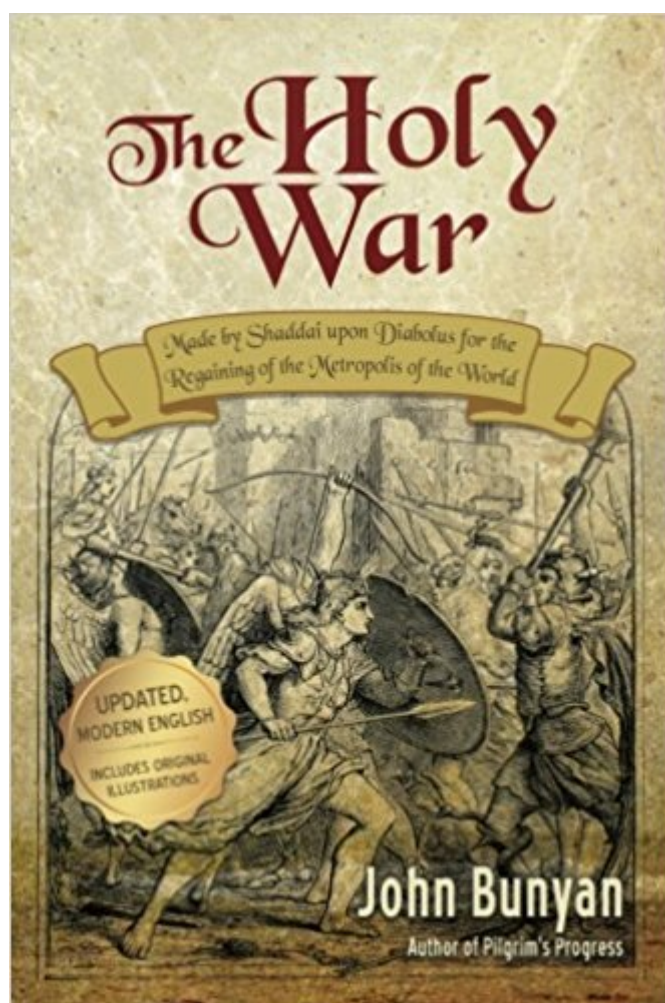


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The Holy War: Updated, Modern English. More Than 100 Original Illustrations.



Synopsis

More than 100 Original Illustrations Bonus Content: The Life of John Bunyan, by William Brock For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the lords of this age, rulers of this darkness, against spiritual wickedness in the heavens. (Ephesians 6:12) What if you were able to see your life from a spiritual perspective and see the actual reality of the verse above? How does our enemy, Diabolus, plan and carry out his attacks? How do his demons help, and what are their objectives? Why and how must we petition Emmanuel to get His attention and help in this great, holy war? Written four years after *The Pilgrim's Progress*, John Bunyan followed up with this second allegorical classic, which has touched hearts and minds of readers for generations. The epicenter of this book is the town of Mansoul, its people (such as Conscience, Self-Denial, and Do-Right), and its gates (Eye-gate, Ear-gate, Mouth-gate, Nose-gate, and Feel-gate). The attack by Diabolus and his demons, all of whom have appropriate names, is carefully planned and executed. As still happens to men today, Mansoul fell hard. Emmanuel is of course willing to help, but can only do so on special, seemingly strict terms. As you watch this intense battle unfold, you'll be emboldened to fight with new vigilance, to guard the gates with tenacity, and to rely on Emmanuel's sovereignty like never before. It should be noted that John Bunyan focused not so much on biblical sequence or even perfect accuracy in every aspect. Instead, he honed in specifically on the spiritual battle being waged for each individual soul, filling in other details as needed to create the scenes. In this edition, we updated the text to clarify the meaning of each scene and inserted Bible verses in key areas to bring to light the depth and spiritual meaning of this powerful allegory.

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Customer Reviews

John Bunyan was born in November 1628, in Elstow, England. A celebrated English minister and preacher, he wrote *The Pilgrim's Progress* (1678), the book that was the most characteristic expression of the Puritan religious outlook. His other works include doctrinal and controversial writings; a spiritual autobiography, *Grace Abounding* (1666); and the allegory, *The Holy War* (1682).

The Holy War: Made by Shaddai upon Diabolous for the Regaining of the Metropolis of the World by John Bunyan published by Aneko Press would be a beautiful addition to any bookshelf. It is updated to modern English to add in the ease of reading for multiple age levels and includes original illustrations which enhance each page. In the preface, A. R. Buckland writes, "The characters and incidents are, in effect, the characters and incidents of any age" and as I read through this work, I truly believe this to be true. The first edition was published in 1682 but the idea that man's soul is still under attack is true to this day. In *The Holy War*, Diabolous is looking for his revenge on King Shaddai and Mansoul for the wrongs he feels they (king, man, and city) have done upon him and his companions. The rebels decide to take over Mansoul and this work is the story of the fight for control of the city. During the first fight for Mansoul, King Shaddai sends four captains and eventually the King's Son, Emammuel, is sent to "prosper and prevail and conquer the town of Mansoul" (93). During the second fight, the residents of Mansoul petition Emmanuel for aid after realizing the error of their ways. Scattered throughout the story, intertwined with the tale of such interesting characters named Captain Resistance, Mr. Conscience, Mr. Incredulity, and Captain Conviction, are quotations from the Bible directly linked to the text. In addition to the direct quotations, this edition contains a biography of John Bunyan and a glossary of names which is extremely useful in reading this allegory. I found *The Holy War* a pleasure to read. It is both uplifting and enjoyable as a story. I would recommend it without hesitation. I believe the book will appeal to several different types of readers: those interested in religion, history, and classical literature. I received a free copy from Aneko Press for my honest opinion.

As a homeschool mom, I have to say the John Bunyan books are a wonderful addition to our home library! *The Holy War* is a great read-aloud for the family and perfect for long discussions about the deeper meaning woven throughout the text. This is a classic Christian book that is probably geared more for older students and adults, but with a bit of guidance, can be easily used for the younger

family members as well. As a matter of fact, I've found that they soak up more than we realize when reading out loud. John Bunyan is an eloquent and descriptive writer whose imagination is only overshadowed by his love for the Lord - both characteristics come through loud and clear in this updated version of the book. If you liked Pilgrim's Progress, you will love this story!

"The Holy War" is an allegorical tale of how the town of Mansoul deals with the deceptions and attacks of Diabolus and his demon cohorts. I've read this story three times in the original, once as a read-aloud to my children. Now, I understand Bunyan was attempting to make a point, but it bothered us how Emmanuel promises the Mansoulans he'll never leave them, but when they get distracted and don't give him the attention he wants, he withdraws to his father's palace. It was because of this that the children sympathized more with Diabolus than with Emmanuel. Under Diabolian rule, the Mansoulans are prosperous and happy. Then Emmanuel comes along and makes them jump through hoops to keep his favor. Where's the grace in that? But I love this book and how it makes you think. E.g., Feel Gate is the weakest gate in the city. And where do our doubts plague us most but in our feelings? We know better; we believe otherwise; but those pesky feelings can really throw our faith for a loop. As far as this updated edition goes, when I was reading the original to my children, there were times I had to pause and paraphrase what Bunyan meant. A modernized version might have made it easier. Either way, it's a good book.

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