

## A NOTE TO PARENTS

This book is an allegory that follows the biblical story of the fall and redemption, but is not meant to be a detailed retelling. Instead, it vividly depicts the spiritual battle that every human faces in believing in the destructive lies of Satan instead of the loving commands of God (Galatians 5:17). As this is a story about a war, some of the themes and illustrations in this book may be slightly intense for children under six. Each child is different, so we recommend you look through the book before reading to younger children.

John Bunyan used the town of Mansoul as a picture of the human heart. In one sense, it is a picture of Adam and Eve's hearts as they fell into sin. But it also demonstrates what happens in our own hearts today when we face temptation and give in to sin. As the apostle Paul warns in Romans 6:12, "Do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires."

When we see the way that Diabolus, who represents the devil, deceives the creatures of Mansoul and ruins what was once good and pure, we are reminded of the devastating effects of sin in our own lives (James 1:15). Likewise, when we see the incredible grace of Shaddai towards his rebellious creatures, our eyes are opened to the heights and depths of God's love for us in Christ (Ephesians 3:18-19).

Many characters in this book represent different biblical ideas, like our conscience and will. We chose to use animal characters to help children keep track of the various roles each one has in the city. The beauty of allegory is it allows these concepts to be discussed and visualized in a memorable way. Our hope is that the discussion pages will help to further cement gospel truths in the hearts and minds of many families.





Many years ago, as I drifted to sleep, I dreamed a dream.  
In my dream, I traveled through many lands,  
until I came to a place called Universe.

There I saw the great and immortal lion, King Shaddai,  
the ruler over that realm.

I heard Shaddai speak, and at his voice many stars,  
planets, and worlds came into being.

Of all that Shaddai had created, the town of Mansoul was his greatest delight. It is said in many old and trusty records that Shaddai instilled the glory of his heavenly city in the town. So beautiful was this town to behold that even the celestial beings came down and sang for joy at its creation.

Shaddai filled Mansoul with the highest of hills and deepest of valleys. The sun shone warmly in the day, and the stars sparkled in the sky at night. The trees in that town blossomed and bloomed beautifully without a thorn or thistle anywhere in sight. The air was sweetly perfumed by the many flowers that grew, and the land was rich in gold and gems.





King Shaddai filled Mansoul with all kinds of creatures who could enjoy all of its goodness. He gave these animals the ability to think and love and speak, so they could know him and walk with him.

The creatures of Mansoul had everything they could ever need or want. Everyone in the town was good and lovely. There was no evil or sin within this town. There was no sadness or death or disease.



The greatest joy in Mansoul was each day when their great king would come down from his heavenly city to walk among them. The creatures would play harps and lyres and sing to him.

At the center of the town, King Shaddai placed a large golden statue called Remembrance. Shaddai said, “This statue is a reminder of my promise to you. One day, I will send my son, Prince Emmanuel, to dwell with you. He will always be with you as your prince and protector.”



Shaddai built a glorious palace  
in Mansoul called Heart Castle.

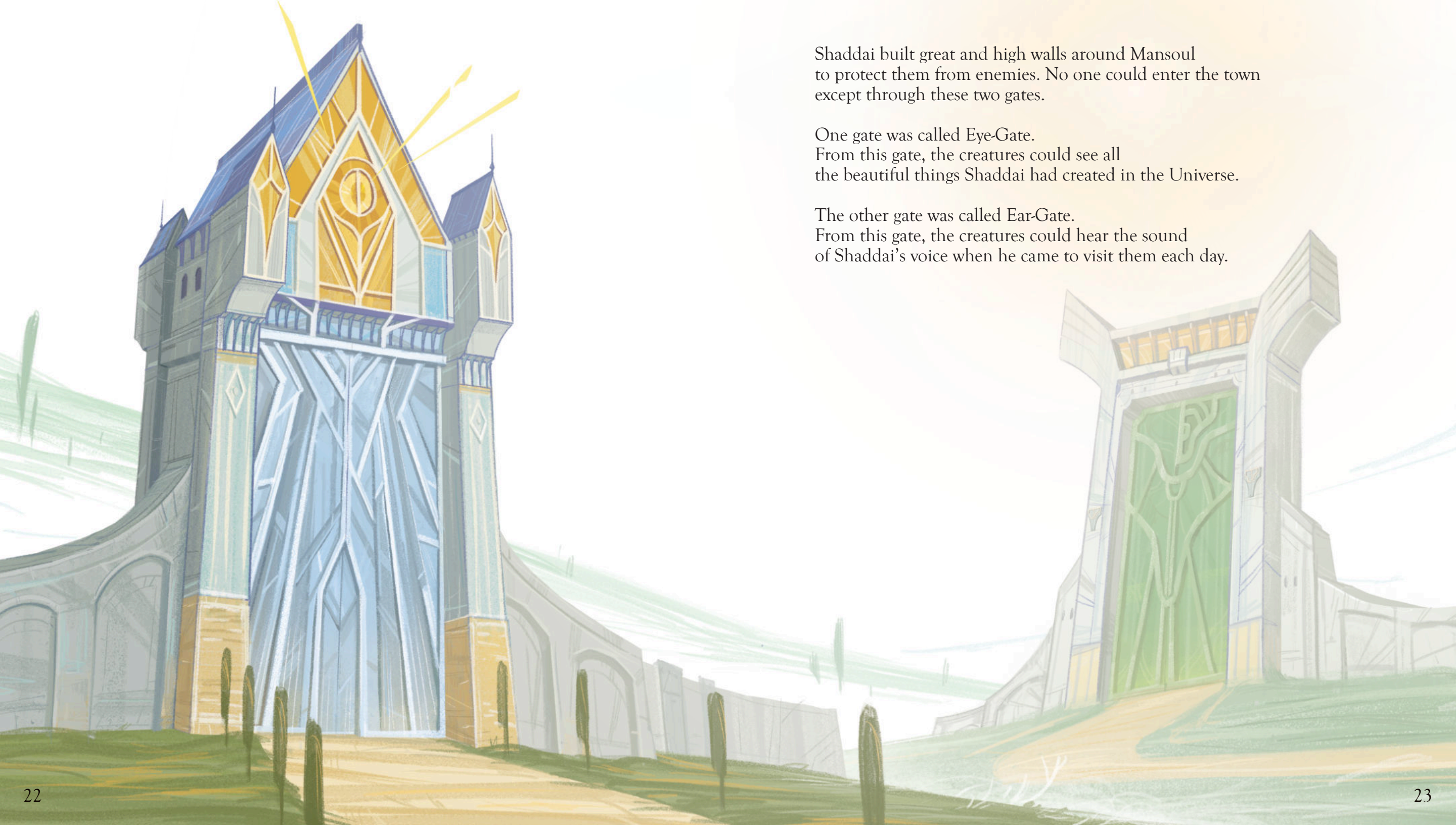
He blessed all his creatures and said,  
“All that I have made, I give to you.  
Rule and reign over this town.  
Cultivate the ground and fill  
this world with beauty.”



Shaddai instructed the creatures, “Never forget who you are and who I am. You are my beloved creatures, and I am your faithful king. Live as my children and follow in my path.”

“How can we know what it means to follow you?” Sir Will the rhino asked.

Shaddai said, “Two commands I give you: that you love me with all your heart and soul, and that you love your fellow creatures as yourself. I have written my commands upon these walls and written them on your hearts. If you follow my ways, you will have abundant life and freedom. But if you turn from me and follow crooked paths, that will lead to death and slavery.”




Shaddai built great and high walls around Mansoul to protect them from enemies. No one could enter the town except through these two gates.

One gate was called Eye-Gate.  
From this gate, the creatures could see all the beautiful things Shaddai had created in the Universe.

The other gate was called Ear-Gate.  
From this gate, the creatures could hear the sound of Shaddai's voice when he came to visit them each day.





As Shaddai prepared to return to his heavenly city, he said,  
“Right now the world is good and your town is pure.  
But days are coming when wicked creatures  
will seek to deceive you. They will tempt you with things  
that may delight your eyes, and speak words that tickle your ears.  
Do not listen to them. Do not let them in.”

Then the creatures became afraid.  
Sir Innocence the lamb asked,  
“Who would do such a thing?  
And how will we defend ourselves?”

“Fear not!” Shaddai said.  
“No creature can enter this town  
unless you open the gates for them.  
You must only open the gates  
to me and my son.”

## CHAPTER 1 SUMMARY

King Shaddai represents God in this story. The name El Shaddai is one of God's names in the Bible, which means "God Almighty." God uses this name throughout the Bible to remind his people that nothing is impossible for him (Genesis 17:1).

We see Shaddai's incredible generosity and love as he creates the town of Mansoul and fills it with creatures to enjoy its goodness. Mansoul is a picture of Adam and Eve's hearts in the Garden of Eden when they lived in perfect fellowship with God without any shame or sin (Genesis 2:25).

The statue that Shaddai placed in Mansoul is a picture of his promise to the town. Like the "altar of remembrance" that God told Joshua to build (Joshua 4:1-7), it is not an idol meant to be worshiped, but a symbol to remind the creatures of Mansoul that he is always with them.

King Shaddai writes his law on the walls of Mansoul so they can walk in his ways. Romans 2:15 says, "the law is written on their hearts." Eye-Gate and Ear-Gate are pictures of how God has given us the ability to see and understand. Our eyes can behold beautiful and good things, or ugly and evil things. Our ears can hear truth and also lies. We need God's Word to discern between good and evil.

### Understanding the Allegory:

1. Name three ways Shaddai represents God.
2. How does the town of Mansoul represent Adam and Eve's hearts?
3. What laws does Shaddai give the town?

### Applying the Allegory:

4. Where can we see God's power and goodness in the world he created?
5. How do we see God's laws written on hearts?





When King Shaddai created the Universe, he made many winged beings to serve him and his creatures. The winged beings had the great privilege of dwelling near Shaddai's throne in his heavenly kingdom.

One of these beings was named Shahar. Shaddai made Shahar like a bright morning star and gave him much power. Shahar had a position of high authority over many lands in the Universe.



But Shaddai had reserved the highest place in his kingdom for his beloved son, Prince Emmanuel. He promised that one day Emmanuel would inherit all things.

When Shahaar saw the joy and pleasure Shaddai took in his son Emmanuel, and the love they both had for the town of Mansoul, he was filled with jealous pride. “How could he love those filthy creatures down below?” Shahaar said to himself. “They are made of dirt and flesh, but we are made of light.”

As time went on, Shahar grew tired of serving King Shaddai and became bitterly jealous of Prince Emmanuel.


Shahar gathered two other winged beings, named Legion and Belial, and devised an evil plan. “We will capture Emmanuel,” he said, “and force all the other winged beings to join us. Then the kingdoms of this world will come into my power. We will rise up together to steal Shaddai’s throne and rule over the Universe together!”





Shahar waited for his opportunity. When Shaddai left to visit Mansoul, Shahar gathered his rebels and stormed into the king's throne room to attack Emmanuel.

But these rebels were no match for the king's son. He defeated them by his powerful word and placed them in chains, waiting for his father's judgment.



When Shaddai returned, he was filled with righteous anger. “Shahar, you and Legion and Belial shall be cast down from my kingdom. You will wander through the Universe until the day I have appointed. Then you will face my judgment and be cast into the Outer Darkness.”

With a word from the king, the rebels were thrown out of his castle into the Universe below. Shaddai took their glory from them and turned them into ugly and despised creatures. Shaddai said to Shahar, “Since you exalted yourself to the heights of heaven, you will be cast down to your belly to crawl in the dust. Your name will no longer be Shahar. Your name will be Diabolus, for you have a devilish and deceitful heart!”

Diabolus, Legion, and Belial were cast into a desolate desert. Their hearts grew even more malicious and evil, and they schemed day after day how they could get revenge on Shaddai. They wandered for years, until they came to a place where the barren wilderness was suddenly filled with flowers and fruit trees. In the distance they saw a beautiful fortress—it was the town of Mansoul!

At the sight of this, Diabolus and his rebels roared and gloated to each other, “Now we have found the prize, and a way to seek revenge against Shaddai for all he has done to us!”





## CHAPTER 2 SUMMARY

Prince Emmanuel represents Jesus, God's Son, who lived forever in perfect unity and equality with God (John 1:1). The name Emmanuel means "God with us." The prophet Isaiah used this name to speak about Jesus coming to earth to fulfill God's promises (Isaiah 7:14).

The Bible teaches that God created everything in the universe, including angels, through Jesus and for Jesus (Colossians 1:15-20). He is the "heir of all things," which means that God has a plan to place all things under Jesus' rule and authority as the eternal king (Hebrews 1:2).

The winged beings represent angels, which God created to glorify himself and his Son. Shahaar represents Satan, who was once a glorious angel but rebelled against God (Ezekiel 28:12-14). The name Satan means "adversary" and "one who opposes." Diabolus means "devil" and "slanderer."

While Satan first appears as a serpent in Genesis 3, but we are not initially told where he came from or why he desires to tempt Adam and Eve. Other Bible verses give us an idea of why Satan rebelled against God. Isaiah 14:12-15 reveals that Satan's great sin was pride, which caused him to say, "I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high."

### Understanding the Allegory:

1. How does Shaddai feel towards his son, Prince Emmanuel?
2. Why is Shahaar jealous of Prince Emmanuel?
3. What judgment do the rebellious winged beings face?

### Applying the Allegory:

4. What differences do you see between Shaddai's humility and Shahaar's pride?
5. How do we know God is more powerful than Satan?

