

The Word of Truth (Seven Praises)

Revelation 19 – 20

by Don Falkos

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In a vision, John saw the downfall of empire. Empire claimed to dominate through virtue and good fortune; when in reality that dominance was gained by deception, coercion, and brutality. Empire's motivations and actions were all aimed at self-advancement and the pursuit of wealth. A byproduct was the corruption of others to its way of thinking. That corruptive activity ultimately led to empire's own ruin, although no one had known how long it would endure.

Those who remained faithful to Jesus, just as a bride solemnly commits herself to her groom, experienced victory through their refusal to capitulate to the political and social influences around them. They had every reason to celebrate the downfall of empire even before it happened, knowing God is committed to justice and truth.

John also saw the downfall of Satan, the power behind empire. Rather than acquiescing to the authority of God and the long-established reign of Christ, the Deceiver made one last-ditch attempt to rally the nations of the world around an alternate center of power. But Satan's power was insufficient to the task. In-fighting only hastened the demise of all who followed and of their would-be leader.

John saw the return of the Lord Jesus in all his glory. His word of truth overcame all adversaries. God sat in judgment. The deeds of each person were reviewed. Those who had accepted God's gift of grace through Jesus were granted access to the presence of God. Those who had rejected God's grace were denied access.

Jesus gathered to himself all faithful believers, and they began their eternal reign.