

~ The End of Tyranny ~

Sweet is the taste of liberty. Guaranteed rights and assured freedom are universal desires of the human family. So deeply rooted is the love of liberty that, when denied it, the masses rise in defiance of threatened death to restore it. We are thrilled with the visions of heroism portrayed in the media. A lone man wins a confrontation with a tank and crowds of unarmed people face the weapons of a despotic state – all to attain liberty. We, who enjoy so much liberty, perhaps felt a vicarious thrill in the downfall of two tyrants.

Much rejoicing was displayed over the ousting of Romania's Ceausescu and Panama's Noriega. Hatred for them flared as details of their exploits were publicized. Genocide, theft on a massive scale, drug dealing, fraud, and political corruption were only a few of the crimes for which they were hated. But the most ardent wrath towards them was from robbing their people of liberty. Both leaders were confident to the point of arrogance. Both seemed so strong and secure in their position

of power. Surely these were mighty tyrants indeed.

In contrast to their seeming strength are the pitiful and weak images we saw at their respective ends. The lifeless corpse of Ceausescu lying rumped in the dirt, and the manacled, broken, and dazed Noriega were symbols of the victory humankind had won for liberty. However, this victory is only a small patch on the real problem. As surely as history records the rise of ruthless rulers to tyranny, so surely we can expect the rise of tyrants in the future. More Ceausescus, Noriegas, Stalins, Hitlers, Caesars, and Khans will oppress humanity until the *real tyrant* is vanquished.

The tyrant of tyrants is Satan, and the record of Scripture is very clear regarding his character and power. He is the "prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience". (Ephesians 2: 2) "The god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ...should shine upon them." (2 Corinthians 4: 4)

“He was a murderer from the beginning and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.” (John 8: 44) Satan has the power (the *dominion* – Greek) of death. (Hebrews 2: 14)

What a tyrant! This great usurper so desired his own dominion that he lied deceitfully to alienate humanity from God. It was he who introduced the reign of death that enslaved Adam and Eve and all their posterity. But a quiet revolution is underway to overthrow the tyrant Satan, and bring true lasting liberty to this world.

The Current Revolution against Satan

This revolution is being led by the Captain of our Christian salvation – Jesus Christ. (Hebrews 2: 10) His revolutionaries must fight the good fight of faith. (1 Timothy 6: 12) They need to put on the whole armor of God. (Ephesians 6: 13) The weapons of their warfare are not carnal but mighty. (2 Corinthians 10: 4) They do not render evil for evil, but overcome evil with good! (Romans 12: 21) By suffering with Him they will reign with Him. (2 Timothy 2: 12) Through all their valiant struggles the world knoweth them not. (1

John 3: 1) Yet this quiet revolution will be victorious – the Scriptures assure future victory over the cruel tyrant Satan.

Revelation 20 foretells of Satan’s thousand-year imprisonment. During the devil’s exile, the Spirit (Jesus) and the Bride (His Church) will say to the imprisoned, blinded, dying masses, “Come. And let him that [now] heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And *whosoever will*, let him drink of the water of life freely”. (Revelation 22: 17) Then the sufferings and sacrifices of Christ’s revolutionary band will not seem worthy of comparison with the glory they shall have received. As the Apostle tells us, “Because the creation itself *also* shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God”. (Romans 8: 18-21)

Dear Friend, our prayer is that all of Christ’s followers will be bold in His service. The revolution against the tyrant Satan and his kingdom will be victorious. Therefore, “Be thou strong and very courageous” (Joshua 1: 7) for God will never leave thee nor forsake thee”. (Hebrews 13: 5) “Be thou faithful until death and I will give thee a crown of life.” (Revelation 2: 10) Then we shall reign with Him, Jesus Christ the

righteous, the promised seed of Abraham who will bless all nations with the glorious liberty of sonship with God. (Galatians 3: 18; Romans 8: 21)

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