

OVERCOMING YOUR FOES

Dear Friend:

One of my favorite Easter hymns is Christ Arose. The first few words of the chorus go like this: "Up from the grave He arose, With a mighty triumph o'er His foes; He arose a victor from the dark domain...Hallelujah! Christ arose!" I don't know what started me thinking about this song the other day, but I began to meditate on the phrase: "With a mighty triumph o'er His foes". When I have sung this phrase, I have always thought only of Satan and his demons as Jesus' foes, but truly Jesus was a victor over many foes. Think about it...He was a victor over the Pharisees and Sadducees who wanted Him dead because the longer He lived the more power they lost. He was also a victor over the crowd who shouted: "Crucify Him". Yes, they were coached and manipulated by the Pharisees and Sadducees, but they still had their own will and still wanted to see Christ on the cross. Jesus was a victor over the powerful and political Rome. An empire so strong it controlled most of the then known world. Rumor was spreading that Jesus wanted to be the new king and Caesar would allow no co-regency. The ultimate foe was Satan, his demons, and death but Christ defeated all of them.

You have foes that rage against you, and you may not be aware of it. If you are a believer, the "world" is against you. I am not talking about planet earth but about a way of life. The way of life from this world's view is: You are #1, the captain of your soul and in charge of your destiny. By "in charge of your destiny", I mean you believe you have ultimate control of all things in your life. The world is your foe but so is the spirit of the world's power. This world's power brings fame and fortune, which in the end are worthless and destructive to the soul. Like Jesus, our biggest foe and the foe behind the world, the power, fame and fortune is Satan, his demons and death. The miracle and the message of Easter is Christ arose, with a mighty triumph (and power) over his foes and all those who follow Christ get the same miracle and are victorious over the dark domain.

Prayer: Easter Focus: Christ, not the Easter bunny, Jon Martindale (heart), David Maynard (upcoming gallbladder surgery)

Events: This Sunday, 8:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast with Sunday School - Starting a new study on Zechariah