

Lent, Day 30  
Tuesday, April 9, 2019

Revelation 18:1–3

The world around us seems so solid and secure. I try to really see things; to look and see what is in front of me. When I look at the world that I inhabit, it seems so permanent and strong. It's that seemingly indestructibility that makes me feel secure. Until I get a glimpse of how frail the world actually is.

December 2013, days before our departure from Ontario to Saskatchewan, Toronto had a major ice storm. We woke up to the horrific sounds of the limbs of the giant maple trees in the backyard giving way to the thick ice. It wasn't quite a squealing sound. It sounded more like a long unused rusty dungeon door being forced open. And then, an incredible snapping sound followed by the sounds of snapping branches as it fell. Finally the thud as it hit the ground. The next morning we stepped outside to a world transformed. No power, branches everywhere, damage to houses, and property.

Babylon and Rome, those cities which represent the powers that range against God, seem so strong and indestructible. They look this way especially to those who suffer at their hands. But, God pulls back the curtain and shows us that they are fragile. Their day is done, they have become a wasteland, and are left desolate. Their power is broken when they thought it permanent.

Let's face it, we can feel like sin has an impossibly strong hold in our world and in ourselves. But the truth is, sin is fragile not powerful. God's promise is to ultimately eradicate it. In fact, through Jesus, the victory is already won. That's why the angel can declare, like Jesus, "it is finished!" It is this sure knowledge which keeps us fighting against the hold sin has on us. Because, the truth is, its hold is only gossamer not granite.

Prayer

Lord you are the one who has set us free, so we are free indeed. Give us eyes to see and ears to hear that we are no longer ruled by sin and death, but by Christ and the Spirit. Amen.