

Lent, Day 38  
Thursday, April 18, 2019

Revelation 20:7–10

One of my favourite childhood movies is Jim Henson's, *The Labyrinth*. This story is about a girl who is growing up and facing the reality of leaving childish things behind, but doesn't want to. One night she is left to care for her fractious baby brother. Exasperated she threatens to ask the goblin king to come and take the child. When she does it she is suddenly plunged into a fantasy world, possibly of her own making.

The remainder of the movie consists of her trying to get her brother back before time runs out and he remains the possession of the goblin king. As the title indicates, her biggest challenge in this endeavour is to work her way through a labyrinth designed to make her fail. At last she makes it through and comes face to face with the goblin king who senses she is on the verge of overcoming him so he throws everything he has at her. It is at this decisive moment she realizes the greatest truth and her greatest weapon. She looks at him and says, "you have no power over me."

The spell is broken. She finds herself safely home, her brother is asleep in his crib, its done before her parents are back, and she has left (mostly) her childish fantasy world behind.

This section of Revelation is similar in nature. As I said yesterday, Satan fulfils of function of bringing out all sin to be dealt with. Here he wants to make war and he ranges the last of evil against God's people to make a final war. But, the battle has already been won in chapter 19. There is no more war. Instead, fire falls from heaven and Satan is consigned to the abyss. For the saints, we are like the girl, knowing that he has no power over us.

In lent we realize in a full way that Satan does not rule us, Jesus does. We are not to be led by his demonic power, but by the Spirit of God. We do not need to follow him, we follow Christ. We are reminded that Satan has no power over us. Praise God!

Prayer

Lord, thank you for delivering us from the powers which once held us captive. Help us to cast off the Devil and his schemes, so we might live in your freedom. Amen.