

The Eagle and the Lion

2 Esdras 11 - 14

by Don Falkos

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Ezra had a strange vision. He saw an eagle with multiple wings and three heads. The eagle represented the Roman Empire with its many emperors and military leaders vying for power. A lion came out of the forest and roared at the eagle, which burst into flames and disappeared – the Roman Empire was gone.

Then Ezra saw a man come up out of the depths of the sea. The man went to the top of a mountain. Armies from every nation of the earth attacked, charging up the mountain. The man opened his mouth; out came fire and a sword; and all his enemies were subdued.

The man represented the Messiah, the Son of God, as had the lion in Ezra's previous vision. The Messiah defeated the Roman Empire and all the opponents of God. But he did so not through violence but through his words of loving acceptance and peace. His words cut like a sword and scorched like fire. People of every nation, race, and creed bowed to him and became his own.

After experiencing these visions, Ezra heard the Lord speak from a bush. "I revealed myself to Moses and spoke to him from a bush. He presented my Law to the people of Israel at Mount Sinai, and he led them to their new home. Now you must also present my Law to the people and lead them home to me."

Ezra spent a good deal of time recompiling the Word of God – the Law, the Prophets, and the Writings. Now he was ready to be the second great lawgiver for the people of Israel.