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PROMINENCE AND PEACE. "SEVEN WOMEN TAKE HOLD OF ONE MAN."

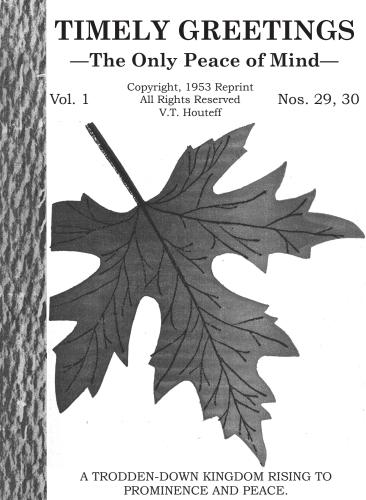


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of God at the present time.

outer darkness, there to gnash your teeth? His inspection? or will you find yourself cast into Me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the Devil and his angels"? Will your garments pass world?" or will it be said unto you, "Depart from Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the write: These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the beginning of the creation of God: I self at His right, or at His left? Will it be said to you "Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the day? or will it be a dreadful day? Will you find your-"And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans Brother, Sister, are you prepared to abide the day of His coming? Will it be to you a great and glorious

in His salvation." Isa. 25:9. waited for Him, and He will save us: this is the Lord; we have waited for Him, we will be glad and rejoice less before an angry God. May every one of us be able in that day to say "Lo, this is our God; we have now, then we will have to answer by standing speech-These are solemn questions that each of us must now answer to himself. If we do not answer them

will facilitate our filling your order without delay. Leaflets," please state the volume and the number of the study rather than the date or the title. This When ordering extra copies of these "Antumn

> "The Lord here shows us that the message to be miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.' rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot. I would thou wert cold or hot. So then, because thou

> blind, and naked.' thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with be in an exalted condition of spiritual attainments. They are at ease, believing themselves to .virupos message to the Laodiceans as in a position of carnal particular. The people of God are represented in the It is not merely theoretical, but practical in every to warn the people, is not a peace-and-safety message. borne to his people by ministers whom he has called

> poverty, and wretchedness. The testimony, so cutting ciation of their true condition of spiritual blindness, Witness breaks their security by the startling denunexalted spiritual condition, the message of the True dressed are flattering themselves that they are in an in that deception. They know not that their condition is deplorable in the sight of God. While those adfinds the people of God in a sad deception, yet honest they are all wrong! The message of the True Witness minds than a confidence that they are right, when "What greater deception can come upon human

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shall receive.

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How reassuring to us sinful human beings ought this thrice-repeated promise be! The Lord lays down no complicated and hard-to meet conditions. He merely says, "Ask." By asking for the blessings we need in order to perfect our characters in Christ, we manifest our desire for His counsel and His help, we thereby demonstrate that we actually realize our helplessness without Him. When we do this, then we need have no fear that the Lord will fail us. Indeed not, for He is the Person of His word. In view of this, what shall be our prayer this afternoon?—Simply that we may realize our needs, that

we may desire to be cleansed from all sin, and that we may in faith ask, knowing for certainty that we

except that you hunger for His mercy, desire His counsel, and long for His love. 'Ask.' The asking makes it manifest that you realize your necessity; and if you ask in faith, you will receive. . . . When you ask for the blessings you need, that you may perfect a character after Christ's likeness, the Lord assures you that you are asking according to a promise that will be verified. That you feel and know you are a sinner, is sufficient ground for asking for His mercy and compassion. The condition upon which you may come to God is not that you shall be holy, but that you desire Him to cleanse you from all sin, and purify you from all iniquity. The argument that we may plead now and ever is our great need, our utterly helpless state, that makes Him and His redeeming power a necessity."

be opened unto you." M. B., p. 187—"The Lord specifies no conditions

TEXT FOR PRAYER

I shall read from "The Mount of Blessing," page 187, the second paragraph. This paragraph is based on the scripture which says: "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall - Notes -

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RISING TO PROMINENCE AND PEACE А ТКОРРЕИ-РОWИ КІИЄРОМ

WACO, TEXAS MT. CARMEL CHAPEL SABBATH, FEBRUARY 22, 1947 MINISTER OF DAVIDIAN 7TH-DAY ADVENTISTS TEXT OF ADDRESS BY V. T. HOUTEFF,

subject that we are to study today. dom in the latter days. Specifically, it is this latter chapter, deals with the re-establishment of the Kingwell know, deals with the sins of ancient Israel, while the latter part of the chapter, along with the second second chapter. The first part of chapter one, you with the first chapter, and continuing on into the We are now to study the book of Isaiah, beginning

on the subject you will detect throughout the Bible.) people in our time. (This same dual-view practice unfolds the fact that the Lord at the same time had in as well as in the latter days of their history, quickly The prophet Isaiah's being instructed to record what was to befall the people of God in the early days

"Testimonies," Vol. 3, pp. 252, 253. our record as a people better or worse than that of the Jews? This can be readily settled by reading In this connection we should raise the question, Is

We shall read right now—

31 startling denunciation, and is applicable to the people "The message to the church of the Laodiceans is a

"For I, saith the Lord, will be unto her a wall of fire round about, and will be the glory in the midst of her." Zech. 2:5.

Verses 4-6-"When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning. And the Lord will create upon every dwelling place of Mount Zion, and upon her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night: for upon all the glory shall be a defence. And there shall be a tabernacle for a shadow in the daytime from the heat, and for a place of refuge, and for a covert from storm and from rain."

coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: and he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offer-ing in righteousness." Mal. 3:1-3.

not have. The prophet Isaiah had sad news for God's people

in his day: He told them that if they continued in their erroneous ways, all of them, good and bad alike,

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that today there is to be a message borne to the people of God; that that message is to be borne not by ordinary men, but by ministers called especially for that purpose; and that it is not a message of peace and safety as the ministry in general would naturally have it. The author endeavors to impress us with the fact that the people of God are deceived in imagining that they are in an excellent condition. Yes, God's people at this time are every bit as deceived as were the Jews in the days of Christ's first advent. In fact, they are perhaps even worse, for they have had the types and the examples of the past as well as added light shining on their pathway which the ancients did

I need not read more. Inspiration plainly states

"It is difficult for those who feel secure in their attainments, and who believe themselves to be rich in spiritual knowledge, to receive the message which declares that they are deceived and in need of every spiritual grace. The unsanctified heart is 'deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked.' I was shown that many are flattering themselves that they are good Christians who have not a ray of light from Jesus. They have not a living experience for themselves in the divine life. They need a deep and thorough work of self-abasement before God, before they will feel their true need of earnest, persevering effort to secure the precious graces of the Spirit." —"Testimonies," Vol. 3, pp. 252, 253.

and severe, cannot be a mistake, for it is the True Witness who speaks, and his testimony must be correct.

TAKE HOLD OF ONE MAN" "SEVEN WOMEN

WACO, TEXAS MT. CARMEL CHAPEL SABBATH, MARCH 1, 1947 MINISTER OF DAVIDIAN 7TH-DAY ADVENTISTS TEXT OF ADDRESS BY V. T. HOUTEFF,

.rajqsho Isaiah, beginning with the first verse of the fourth Today we are to continue our study of the book of

wear our own apparel: only let us be called by Thy name, to take away our reproach." of one man, saying, We will eat our own bread, and Isa. 4:1-"And in that day seven women shall take hold

blamed on You; You get the credit for it. is, if we be called Christians, then what we do can be Your name because it takes away our reproach; that want nothing from you but Your name. Just let us be called Christians is all we want from You. We want actions they are in reality saying to the Lord: "We to the day in which we are now living, to the Judgment day, the scripture figuratively reveals that all (for that is what the Biblical number "seven" indicates) the churches have arrived at the place where by their scripter than are in reality to the Lord. "We (the church) is cleansed—the harvest day. So, pointing is the Judgment day, the day in which the sanctuary a continuation. These verses point out that "that day" the preceding chapters of which the fourth chapter is the words "that day" is found in verses 13 and 14 of cated by the term "in that day." The antecedent of The first thing we need to know is the time indi-

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this coming Kingdom (the church "cleansed," purified). "ahall the gathering of the people be" (Gen. 49:10). (the church purified) that breaks the great image. To is to be set "in the days of these kings," not after their days. Moreover, note that it is this Kingdom Note that the Kingdom which Daniel is speaking of break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever." Dan. 2:44.

a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall

the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up

The Prophet Daniel, too, plainly declares: "... In

.b991 of implements—rather than work to kill, they shall farm mtsi otni ebrowe bns ersege riedt tsed besteni llsde pruning hooks into instruments to kill human beings, multitudes rather than beat their plowshares and When the Headquarters of the gospel are thus established, then it becomes certain that the work is to be finished without delay. The gospel of Christ is then to reap an abundant harvest, and the converted multiples rather than heat their pleuroperes and

thing?—even blind and naked, and themselves about to of nothing more when in fact they are in need of everytill He comes imagine that they are rich and in need while those whom He is using to teach advancing Truth His church? How can He lead the world into all Truth from its sine while sin is flourishing in the midst of How can He possibly by His church lead the world out unreasonable if we ask ourselves these questions: world by a lost church. The very thought will appear and enlightening. Certainly God cannot save the The prophecies are simple and logical, instructive

above the nations.

ment, and her converts with righteousness. And the destruction of the transgressors and of the sinners

iniquity: every man that eateth the sour grape, his teeth shall be set on edge." Jer. 31:27-30. Verses 27, 28-"Zion shall be redeemed with judg-

"Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of man, and with the seed of beast. And it shall come to pass, that like as I have watched over them, to pluck up, and to break down, and to throw down, and to destroy, and to afflict; so will I watch over them, to build, and to plant, saith the Lord.

"In those days they shall say no more, The fathers

have eaten a sour grape, and the children's teeth are set on edge. But every one shall die for his own

Rather than let all as a people suffer the consequences of sin, the Lord at this time promises to avenge only His enemies, His adversaries that are within His church. He will purge and purify His church, and then restore His judges and counsellors as at the first. Then she will indeed be called "The city of righteousness, the faithful city."

Isa. 1:24-26-- "Therefore saith the Lord, the Lord of hosts, the Mighty One of Israel, Ah, I will ease Me of Mine adversaries, and avenge Me of Mine enemies: and I will turn My hand upon thee, and purely purge away thy dross, and take away all thy tin: and I will restore thy judges as at the first, and thy counsellors as at the beginning: afterward thou shalt be called, The city of righteousness, the faithful city."

would be dispersed and assimilated by the nations. But for the faithful of today, he has good news:

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This verse clearly shows that while none of the wicked in the church will survive the purification, yet none of the righteous will perish. Indeed, all that are left, will be called holy, and will enjoy even greater security than did His ancient people at the time they left Egypt. "Behold, . . . the Lord, Whom ye seek, shall suddenly

come to His temple, even the messenger of the cove-

nant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith

the Lord of hosts. But who may abide the day of his

Verse 3-"And it shall come to pass, that he that is left in Zion, and he that remaineth in Jerusalem, shall be called holy, even every one that is written among the living in Jerusalem."

Plainly this is the final harvest of the earth, the gathering of the people from all countries. It is the day in which to sing the song of Moses and the Lamb. This is to be the second and last Exodus Movement. So great will it be that it will entirely eclipse the Movement of Moses' day. Do we, then, realize that we are on the verge of a new day?-a great day for the faithful and a dreadful one for the unfaithful?

Yes, the day is here when God's vengeance is to fall upon His adversaries, and the once trodden-down kingdoms of Judah and Israel are to rise to prominence and power. "Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that they shall no more say, The Lord liveth, which brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; but, The Lord liveth, which brought up and which led the seed of the house of Israel out of the north country, and from all countries whither I had driven them; and they shall dwell in their own land." Jer. 23:7, 8.

"·pəɯnsuoɔ əq shall be together, and they that forsake the Lord shall

rogerner. habitual and the occasional sinners shall be destroyed gressors must be those who sin only occasionally. Nevertheless their end shall be the same: Both the are those who continually live in sin, while the trans-In these verses a distinction is made between the transgressors and the sinners. No doubt the sinners

"·աәці կշսәոb strong shall be as tow, and the maker of it as a spark, and they shall both burn together, and none shall fadeth, and as a garden that hath no water. And the have chosen. For ye shall be as an oak whose leaf and ye shall be confounded for the gardens that ye [the great and popular men] which ye have desired, Verses 29-31—"For they shall be ashamed of the oaks

it possible to have something better. It is the best God can give them, for they do not make This is just what the wicked may rightly expect.

is to say, I shall omit reading it, and begin withverse one is but an introduction to what the prophet prophecy, for it is a continuation of the first. Since Now we shall go on to the second chapter of Isaiah's

be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow be established in the top of the mountains, and shall last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall Chapter 2, verse 2-"And it shall come to pass in the

emerge a Kingdom and a people which shall be exalted Out of the ruins of both Judah and Israel, is to

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give the answer. could that be?-The remaining verses of the chapter brought about by the first Advent of Christ. And what to do something as great and as revolutionary as God, in order to save the Church, is finally compelled

Accordingly, the world has reached the day when

cellent and comely for them that are escaped of Is-Verse 2—"In that day [when seven women take hold of one man] shall the branch of the Lord be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth shall be ex-

Pentecost. harvest of souls as did the Apostles on and after the vengeance of a great God. The faithful shall reap a glory and prosperity for all the saints who escape the chaos, but by glorious revival and reformation, by one. So this great apostasy is to be followed not by that a dark cloudy day is always followed by a bright world. Let us remember that history repeats, and glorious revolutionizing of the church and of the This verse shows that the time is now ripe for this

73:2' 0' safely: and this is His name whereby He shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS." Jer. era] Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell justice in the earth. In His days [in the Christian reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will

Israel shall be saved, and they shall dwell safely. the day the "righteous branch" is raised, Judah and "Righteousness by Faith" to them that believe. In This very message, therefore, is the message of

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Our very desire to come to Him, is the prompting of His Spirit. To this drawing we must yield. Let us now pray for unwavering faith in His promise that if we seek, we shall find: if we knock, it shall be opened to us.

we are assured that our seeking shall not be in vain.

with a hurried conversation with Him by the way; they said, 'Rabbi, where dwellest Thou? . . . They came and saw where He dwelt, and abode with Him that day.' So we may be admitted into closest intimacy and communion with God. 'He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.' Let those who desire the blessing of God, knock and wait at the door of mercy with firm assurance, saying, For Thou, O Lord, hast said, Every one that asketh receiveth, and he that seeketh findeth, and to him that knocketh it shall be opened." Not only that we are invited to seek the Lord but

" 'Seek.' Desire not merely His blessing, but Himself. 'Acquaint now thyself with Him, and be at peace.' Seek, and you shall find. God is seeking you, and the very desire you feel to come to Him, is but the drawing of His Spirit. Yield to that drawing. Christ is pleading the cause of the tempted, the erring, and the faithless. He is seeking to lift them into companionship with Himself. If thou seek Him, He will be found of thee.' " 'Knock.' We come to God by special invitation, and

He waits to welcome us to His audience-chamber. The

first disciples who followed Jesus were not satisfied

OPENING PRAYER THOUGHT I shall read two paragraphs from page 188 of "The Mount of Blessing." The first paragraph elucidates on the statement, "Seek, and ye shall find," the second on the words, "Knock, and it shall be opened unto

> The answer to all these questions is simply this: There must be an awakening to spiritual poverty and earnestness in searching Truth. There must be a stop to sin, there must be a sinless place and people —an ark of safety, so to speak, if we are ever to be saved from the plagues. "Achans," too, must be put away before Israel can triumph and take the land. God

moved.

in His wisdom knows that it is better to destroy com-

paratively few enemies of Truth, than to lose the whole world. All the stumbling blocks must be re-

Then the church will have a second Pentecost. Then every church member will be filled with the

Spirit: "And it shall come to pass afterward [after

the "latter rain"], that I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your

young men shall see visions: and also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out My Spirit." Joel 2:28, 29.

Let us now solemnly and diligently heed the Lord's

Verse 5-"O house of Jacob, come ye, and let us walk

plea to His people at this very time:

in the light of the Lord."

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be spued out. How can He say to His people that are in "Babylon," "Come out of her My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues," if He is to bring them into a church wherein sin is practiced? In view of the fact that the church with sin and sinners in her midst is just as vulnerable to the plagues as is Babylon, how much worse off would His people be if they were left in Babylon?

small as they behold the power of a Great God. above God, the day is upon us in which they will see themselves as they actually are. They will feel very Though men are now exalting themselves even

shake terribly the earth." and for the glory of His majesty, when He ariseth to the bats; to go into the clefts of the rocks, and into the tops of the ragged rocks, for fear of the Lord, Verses 20, 21—"In that day a man shall cast his idols of silver, and his idols of gold, which they made each one for himself to worship, to the moles and to

but it will then be too late to profit them. and to the bats, as it were, will have to do so later, Those who do not now cast their idols to the moles

nostrils: for wherein is he to be accounted of?" Verse 22-"Cease ye from man, whose breath is in his

мро they be. and judgments of others, no matter what they are, or own decisions-never, never rely upon the decisions actually inspired teachers of God, and make their study God's Word for themselves with the aid of instead hear what Inspiration has to say. They should should cease listening to "soothsayers," they should Here is God's simple remedy for His people. They

Never again will I trust in a man." the Spirit than so and so, and I intend to stay by him. Said she: "So and so prays more, and has more of leaving one man's teachings and embracing another. Just recently a certain sister gave her reason for

one's teaching, not because of the teachings them-It is obvious that this sister chooses to stay by

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her statement, "Never again will I trust in a man," selves, but because of the man's appeal to her. Then

ing are all praying men, for the Devil knows that the were, but for what they wrote. Men that are deceiv-We believe in the Bible writers not for what they .nsm that she knows even less what it means to "trust in a positively proves that she does not know herself, and

where they could be seen, that none of the prophets were deceiving the common people by much praying fore, know not that the Jews who crucified the Lord much attention what the Bible really says and, therehave nothing else anyway. The majority do not pay play, the more will the people fall for them. They more they put themselves and their religion on dis-

rather than Truth. the people for that is what people are looking for

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on the weight of Truth. For this reason the adveriace value of men's purported reputation rather than know that the laity are making their choice on the bear the message of the hour. The adversaries well pin something against the characters of those who the enemies of Truth carefully and studiously try to to men that appeal to their taste, that because of this It is because the laity are as a rule quick to listen

corner of a public toilet! Anything to sell himself to

though, I know a man making a prayer room in the

record that He prayed with anyone. On the contrary,

but plainly told them what Truth is. There is no

not pray with Nicodemus, or with the rich young ruler,

Jesus Himself reaffirmed the same pattern: He did

very careful not to make a display of themselves themselves, but God and His Truth; that they all were

what they were anxious to sell to the people was not

endeavored to thus sell themselves to the people; that

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15.

Of all the nations in the world today, America, the nation in which are the headquarters of the church is the richest. Especially so at this particular time -the time in which this Truth is unfolding. Moreover, no other nation has as many church leaders (horses) and as many churches (chariots). No other nation in the world has for every one of its citizens room in its "chariots." These are the designating marks which These are the designating marks which the Lord employs to point out the land and the people to whom He is speaking.

Verses 8-10-"Their land also is full of idols; they worship the work of their own hands, that which their own fingers have made: and the mean man boweth

Verse 7—"Their land also is full of silver and gold, neither is there any end of their treasures; their land is also full of horses, neither is there any end of their chariots."

His people as an organization are forsaken of Him, but as individuals who come to walk in His light to follow Him in Truth and righteousness are re-accepted. When the present controversy over the message of the hour is ended, then those who survive the purifying process, the Judgment for the Living in the house of God (1 Pet. 4:17), the cleansing of the sanctuary (Dan. 8:14), will be the inhabitants of Zion and of Jerusalem, the members of the church, the body of Christ.

Verse 6-"Therefore thou hast forsaken Thy people the house of Jacob, because they be replenished from the east, and are soothsayers like the Philistines, and they please themselves in the children of strangers.

Very obviously this verse implies that heretofore God's people have been walking in the light of man.

the Truth. It is like an anvil: When the hammers of the adversaries are all worn out, the Anvil will still stand.

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.991gssib which to char the characters of those with whom they And so, since they cannot refute the Truth, they desperately resort to Pharisaical falsehoods with saries of Truth are taking advantage of the situation.

implements. They will turn from warring to farming. converted nations will beat their swords into farm To repeat, the work will be finished without delay. are established in "the mountain of the Lord," then shall be exalted above all the kingdoms and nations of the earth. When the Headquarters of the gospel lsrael, shall emerge a Kingdom and a people that in a day when out of the ancient ruins of Judah and solemn rejoicing that we are privileged to be living We nevertheless have good cause for great and

hesitancy embrace the Truth for this time. with the Spirit, and as a result thousands will without second Pentecost every church member will be filled process, then it shall be clearly seen by all that a lost church could not save a lost world. During the After God's church passes through the purifying

.dturT lls ot searching one God will give His Spirit to lead him inwith the promise that to any God-trusting and Truthmen, and to make our own decisions in accordance so later, but as we said before, it will then be too late to profit them. Now is the time to turn from those who do not now cast aside their idols, will do men shall see themselves as they actually are. True, There is no time to lose. The day is upon us when

triumphs, and God's people with It. Nothing can hurt every perfidy to harm the cause, yet Truth always Even though the enemies of Truth may resort to

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become our God. Eventually all will come to the end of their idolatry, for when the Lord manifests His power, they will leave their idols and run for the nothing wrong in progress but progress should never The nation referred to, evidently brags much about her achievements. The great and small are all alike in this respect, says Inspiration. True, there is

the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day." and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and Verse 11—"The lofty looks of man shall be humbled,

in the dust, for fear of the Lord, and for the glory of His majesty."

forgive them not. Enter into the rock, and hide thee

down, and the great man humbleth himself: therefore

pəldmund Those who now exalt themselves will have to be

ribly the earth." glory of His majesty, when He ariseth to shake terthey shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the Lord, and for the shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be made low: and the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day. And the idols He shall utterly abolish. And they apply an into the holes of the reals. upon all pleasant pictures. And the lottiness of man tenced wall, and upon all the ships of Tarshish, and lifted up, and upon every high tower, and upon every all the high mountains, and upon all the hills that are lifted up, and upon all the oaks of Bashan, and upon and upon all the cedars of Lebanon, that are high and every one that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low: be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon Verses 12-19-"For the day of the Lord of hosts shall

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