

I came to America, not because I wanted to, but because God wanted me to. And since I knew not my future work, and as God could then no more make me understand than He could at first make Joseph understand his trip to Egypt, I was therefore driven out of the country at the point of a gun as was Moses driven out of Egypt, although I

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Yes, hundreds and thousands of things may happen, but he that trusts in God and does His work well shall find all these so-called hindrances or mishaps, wonderful deliverances, and avenues to success, all carrying out God's marvelous plans, and God's way toward your promotion from one great thing to another. When you are in God's care and in His control never say the Devil did this or that regardless what it be, for he can do nothing except he is allowed to do it. Always give God the credit.

Moreover, when this takes place there will be 4.

thoroughly converted Christians. They shall inhabit the land. These, you see, are not unbelieving Jews, but also for dwelling safely in their own land, their dispersion, and for their gathering, and He had driven us. "They give Him the credit for brought us up out of all the countries whither "out of Babylon," but "the Lord liveth that Lord liveth that brought us up out of Egypt," or (Isa. 11:11)—"naturally they will not say, "The Christian period,—to their deliverance from all Having come to the great gathering day in the and they shall dwell in their own land.

and from all countries whither I had driven them; of the house of Israel out of the north country, liveth, which brought up and which led the seed Israel out of the land of Egypt; but, The Lord Lord liveth, which brought up the children of saith the Lord, that they shall no more say, The Verses 7, 8—Therefore, behold, the days come, Righteousness."

They are to call Jesus THE LORD OUR RIGHT- EOUSNESS: They will clearly see that their own righteousness is but filthy rags, and will fully make Christ's righteousness their own. Otherwise they could not rightfully call Him "the Lord our Righteousness."

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Scriptures is in the main made up of the descend- sand of the sea for multitude.

In joining the Christian church, have through rael who as a result of the dispersion, and also the centuries lost their racial identity. The Christian church, therefore, according to the ants of Jacob, whose seed was to be as the

and to tell the Ishmaelites to carry you into Egypt and to put you working in Potiphar's house. He may even have to take you into prison before He seats you with Pharaoh on the throne. Or He may cause you to run away from Egypt and have you keep sheep around Mt. Horeb. He may bring you against the Red Sea while the Egyptians are pursuing you. He may bring you into the desert where there is neither water nor food. The lion and the bear may come to take your lambs, Gold- ath to kill your people, and the king may cast you in the fiery furnace, or in the lions' den.

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email: upa5453@gmail.com

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TIMELY GREETINGS

—The Only Peace of Mind—

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V.T. Houteff

Vol. 2 No. 35



"THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS"

Remember now, that whatever may stand in your way, be it the Red Sea or the River Jordan, be it a mountain or be it a desert, it shall become your very stepping stone.

Such as this is the righteousness of the

No, nothing but you yourself can defeat God's plans for you. Be it your friends or your enemies, be it beasts or kings, you will find them all unwittingly or wittingly working for your good rather than for your harm if you are doing God's bidding. What a rich resource Heaven is! And who knows it!

When things go contrary to one's will and way today, most Christians give credit to the Devil. Only when things go according to their liking do they give credit to God! Balaam, too, was happy when the way opened for him to go to Balaak, but when the angel of the Lord blocked the road he was traveling on, then Balaam, became as mad as a dog and smote the ass.

At that time I knew not what my going away from home to such a distant land was about, but now I know as well as Joseph knew that his brethren's hope to defeat God's plan for him was but God's plan to get him down into Egypt. And so rather than to thwart the plan, they really caused the plan to be carried out!

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Lord, and you can have it at the cost of your own righteousness. Then you will find the Lord's ways as much higher than yours as the Heaven is higher than the earth. When this happens, then only you will understandingly say, "The Lord our Righteousness."

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee: because he trusteth in Thee. Trust ye in the Lord for ever: for in the Lord JEHOVAH is everlasting strength; for He bringeth down them that dwell on high; the lofty city, He layeth it low; He layeth it low, even to the ground; He bringeth it even to the dust. The foot shall tread it down, even the feet of the poor, and the steps of the needy." Isa. 26: 3-6.

3.

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Nevertheless these Christians, we are here told, are the descendants of both Judah and Is-

"In his days:" that is in the days the Righteous Branch is raised, in the days of Jesus, in the Christian era. Plainly, then, some day in the Christian period, Inspiration makes known, the Christian shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely on the earth. This promise, therefore, is made, not to unbelieving Jews, but to believing Christians, to those who have made the Lord's righteousness their own.

Verse 6—*In His days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is His name whereby He shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHT-*

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Jer. 23:5—*Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.*

Our text is found in Jeremiah 23, beginning with the fifth verse down to the eighth, inclusive.

"THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS"

*Text of Address by V. T. Houteff,
Minister of D. Seventh-day Adventists
Sabbath, April 24, 1948
Mt. Carmel Chapel
Waco, Texas*

TEXT FOR PRAYER

Live Not Unto Self

I shall read from *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 67, the first and second paragraphs—

"The wheat develops, 'first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.' The object of the husbandman in the sowing of the seed and the culture of the growing plant is the production of grain. He desires bread for the hungry, and seed for future harvests. So the divine Husbandman looks for a harvest as the reward of His labor and sacrifice. Christ is seeking to reproduce Himself in the hearts of men; and He does this through those who believe in Him. The object of the Christian life is fruit-bearing,—the reproduction of Christ's character in the believer, that it may be reproduced in others. The plant does not germinate, grow, or bring forth fruit for itself, but to 'give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater.' So no man is to live unto himself. The Christian is in the world as a representative of Christ, for the salvation of other souls."

We shall now pray that we let Christ reproduce Himself in us, and that through us He may work to reproduce Himself in others; that we live not unto ourselves; that we remember that the Christian is to be a representative of Christ in all things.

pieces from the impact, but my ribs were in my coat pocket had broken into half a dozen

Just then I discovered that the pencil I had away from the car.

It is the best you can do." When she said to myself, "Now lady you can keep on going arm around the car's left headlight! Then I me on the bumper of the car, and I put my left car's radiator! After having made about half the my right side ahead, and my left side against the car, lightly sliding my feet on the pavement with an unseen hand carried me on ahead of the

took place:

this did not happen because something greater flat on the street, and did it run over me? No, to me when the car struck me? Did it lay me street to the middle of the alley. What happened so she kept on going from the corner of the before she reached the middle of the block. And being overly excited she could not stop her car into me. Yes, she struck me from my left, and by. She nevertheless turned her car right square ger for there was plenty of room for her to drive most to the middle of the street, I saw no dan-saw a woman driving toward me. But as I was al- afternoon, and while walking across a street, I Having finished my business quite late in the drove to the business section of Los Angeles. took place about that time. One Wednesday I

Now let me relate to you another miracle that have been accidental, but strictly Providential. events of the day, closely tied one to another with nothing else in between, could not possibly Anyone can see that all these sequential

Texas, where we had neither friend nor believer in the message, the church elders were glad, and thought our work would then die out for sure. It nevertheless grew more than before, although this took place in the midst of the depression, in 1935, while hundreds and thousands of businesses were going bankrupt, and while well-to-do men were becoming poor. Yet we who started out with nothing, grew and prospered. We, moreover, never took collections in any of our meetings anywhere and never made any calls for money. This holds good still. Then, too, our free literature that goes out week by week amounts to hundreds and thousands of dollars week after week, and year after year, besides the cost of building the Institution.

And today after going through the nightmare of supposing I might live a life of poverty, as I explained before, my credit is unlimited, and the checks I write amount to thousands of dollars week after week, and year after year, although I am not bonded, own no property, and have no personal bank account! Furthermore, I pay my secretaries as much as I pay myself and some of my workmen I pay twice as much. Yes, there are as great miracles today as there ever were.

Jacob, too, had no righteousness of his own but he had a great zeal and respect for the righteousness of the Lord. Esau, though, who had no regard for the righteousness of the Lord sold his birthright only for a mess of pottage. What a bargain was Jacob's! As a result, though, Jacob became a fugitive. The first night away from home, however, God met him, and having given him a vision, Jacob put his whole trust in God and pledged to be faithful in all his duties.

me as good a picture of poverty as he gave the nightmare of getting poorer. Yes, the Devil gave me. My hopes of getting rich someday became a Truth's sake. Indeed, I had no other encourage- you may know that I joined the church only for Imagine now what went through my mind, and for it if I had to drive it.

out Ford that I would not have given a dollar one that was driving a car, and he had a worn poor. Aside from the preacher I was the only for a church. The people appeared to be very meeting in a rented hall, not too attractive Seventy-day Adventists. They were at the time in religion, and providentially joined the west back in 1919, I became intensely interested While running a small hotel in the middle

what God does when we let Him. first give you my own as a concrete example of in, which after all counts most to us. Let me experience which God wants us personally to be recommends, then we are ready to enter into the we enter into the belief which the Bible permit me to speak of more than a few. When experience as Paul. Time, however, will not Many of God's faithful people had the same

vain. *Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in they labour in vain that build it: except the Psa. 127:1—Except the Lord build the house,*

to protect and keep both body and soul. is futile to trust in man and self, but that it Paul learned by personal experience that it

but in God which raiseth the dead.

righteousness, so that "all these things be added unto you"? Why work to feed yourself? Why not work for God and let Him feed and clothe you? He is far more capable of providing for you than you will ever be. Why not let Him take charge of your work, of your home, of your body?

While you do His bidding, He will never fail you. Why not do this and be an altogether Christian? Why be a Christian in name, but a Gentile in heart and faith? Work no longer for self, work for God and be free of worry, free of having to make your own living in your own way. The fishermen of Galilee while fishing in their own way failed, but when they cast the net where Jesus said they should cast it, it was instantly filled with fish.

Know first that God is not interested in your selfish business, but in you and His saving business. There is therefore no need of you serving mammon (self), and at the same time expecting His blessing on mammon's interests. No man even in the world can work for his own interest and still expect his firm to promote him, or keep him at any post of duty. No employer hires persons because he wants his employee to make a living, but only because he wants his own business cared for. Know that God's business is of greater importance and of further-reaching consequences than any man's business, and that God is more particular than any man ever was or ever will be.

Matt. 11:28-30—*Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.*

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ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, life: but we had the sentence of death in strength, inasmuch that we despaired even of Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in 2 Cor. 1:8, 9—For we would not, brethren, have

about God's care over him:
chapter, and see what Paul knew by experience Let us now turn to 2 Corinthians, the first

the stars, you shall happily fly along with God. the world should fall into space and collide with If you wholeheartedly trust in God, and if

the Lord JEHOVAH is everlasting strength. Isa. 26:4—Trust ye in the Lord for ever: for in

in your trials and afflictions.
credit for it, not murmuring, but glorying even you, you will be happy in it and give God the bodies and souls, then regardless what details believe that He is God and the Keeper of your will for your own good. I say, if you know and heads; that whatever details you is but God's own notice even of the hairs that fall from your moment of the day and of the night; that He takes that He knows all about you, my friends, every Israel neither sleeps nor slumbers (Ps. 121:3, 4); do God's bidding, if you know that He who keepeth take your life or cheat you of promotion if you No, there is neither beast nor man that can

his life, nor deprive him of the throne.
lamb. By faith he knew that Saul could not take overcame the lion and the bear, and saved the pie from the power of the giant. By faith he could not harm him. By faith he freed his peo- kingdom, and he was confident that the giant

Always remember that God has not called you to your post of duty in order to feed you or to make you rich, but to save you and to save others through you. Therefore, whatever you do, do it for the glory of God. Then and then only will He provide "all these things," the things God sees fit to give. He will see that you earn your needs one way or another. Nothing less than the faith of Noah, of Job, and of Daniel will pay the bill, Brother, Sister, because anything short of this is an insult to God. It is the same as to call Him a deceiver. Doubt in the promises of God completely robs the doubter of all God's blessings and promises. Only when you learn to trust Him will He be to you "as an hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land." Isa. 32:2.

"Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." This promise held good in David's time, and it will hold good now:

Ps. 4:5—Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and put your trust in the Lord.

By personal experience David knew God's faithfulness: Having done all that was to be done in serving God, he was confident that when the bear and the lion came to devour his lambs, God would deliver him if he did all he could to spare them.

Moreover, believing that God had promised the kingdom to him, and having been anointed to be king over God's people, David doubted nothing. Recognizing his duty, he fearlessly went after the giant Goliath who was defying God and His

22. Some were for us and some were against us. So among the people around the church premises. For the meetings, and there was a great uproar right across from the church offered her place of the sisters who was living in a big house meetings, and they made us all get out. But one church refused to let us use the church for our noon. Then came the time that the elders of the stayed in my special meetings each Sabbath after- ing and as a rule about 30 members of the church on me and to stop my activities, but found nothing They tried every hook and crook to pin something sure that they were not turning down Truth. For something against me, rather than to make sage then left nothing unturned in their search take to the Laodiceans. The enemies of the mes- came the message which we are now endeavoring to After all these and other experiences, then

in the days of miracles, you see.
accident and the results. We are still living in our season of testimonies I told them of the prayer meeting in Exposition Park church, where walked three blocks to my car, and drove to caused of driving at 30 miles per hour. Then I "He is made out of rubber!" The woman was ac- and down, several times, after which one shouted, Then they made me raise my legs and arms up

condition."
be hurt but is too excited and does not know his that I was not hurt, I heard one say, "He must take me to the hospital, and when I told them it was I who had been run over! They wanted to or pinned under the car, I told them that as they found no one lying on the street, searching for the man that got run over. But surrounded with people, and three policemen untouched! By that time the car and I were

it was that the house across from the church was filled that afternoon and many listened from the outside through the windows. The enemies failed to break up our meetings, and the victory was ours.

Next they forbade us to attend their church services, and they began to disfellowship those who still wanted to attend our meetings. They tried to deport me, too, but failed. Then they endeavored to get a court order against any of us going to the church on Sabbath, but lost out. Once they called the police to have me arrested on false charges that I was disturbing the meetings, but after the officers in the police station heard my story and the deacon's charges against me, he commanded the two policemen who brought us to the station to put us in their car again, and to take us right back to the church where they picked me up!

After this the elders endeavored to put me in an insane asylum. The "city manager" of Glendale himself (a Seventh-day Adventist) had come to this church that Sabbath morning to lay down the charges and to see me carried away and locked in the asylum. After talking with me for a few minutes, though, the officer did nothing but to tell me that he would not bother me again! Then the 200 lb. city manager felt smaller than my 135 lb. weight.

They did all these unbecoming things and many others; besides, they talked and preached against me. And though I had no one but the Lord to defend me at any time, yet in all these the victory was mine!

When we moved our office from California to

"Oh, I could not keep the Sabbath and my job, too," he replied.

I said, "Why?"

"You do, but I could never be a Seventh-day Adventist."

About that time the head bookkeeper, too, became interested in discussing religion with me. As time went on, I discussed the same I had discussed with Mr. Harney, and at last he, too, said, "Houteff, it must be wonderful to feel as you do, but I could never be a Seventh-day Adventist."

I said, "It is better to lose your job than to lose your life." And the conversation ended. But the next time I went into the office I saw a wreath hanging on the door, and everything seemed to be upset. Then I was told that Mr. Harney, the sales manager, had suddenly taken sick the night before and died early that morning.

do, I will lose my job."

"Because if I begin to keep the Sabbath as you then asked why could he not be, and he replied: I could never be a Seventh-day Adventist." I talked with him he said to me: "Houteff, it must be wonderful to believe as you do, but you know very inquisitive about my religion. The last I machines, of course, was used as a boost pump to My unexpected success in selling washing

will tell you a little later.

As to how their prosperity ended I feel wide. As to how their prosperity ended I out, one block deep and something like sixty their own which looked like a bank inside and of Los Angeles, and then erected a building of they opened branch offices all over the vicinity while Jacob worked for him. In three years' time

thought it was in answer to my prayer, and I was anxious to meet you. And that is why you found me so open-minded to your religion. But now," he said, "I know that God sent you."

I asked him if he would like to sell washing machines, and he replied, "I am ready to do anything you suggest." I took him to the company I was working for, and he went to work immediately, trucking with his own pickup. His wages, and a few sales occasionally brought him over \$200 monthly.

He owned the house he was living in, and as living was not so high in those days, he was able to save a good share of his wages. After a time he sold his house, bought a five-acre plot and built a new house and a good poultry shed on the plot. Then he told me that he intended to work for the company about 18 months longer, and by that time he would have his house and land all clear, or somewhat clear, and then he could make a good living on his five-acre plot.

Well, it all looked fine. But one Sabbath morning he met me in church and told me that the company was to be taken over that day. He wanted to know if I would go with him and listen to the speeches while the transfer was being made. I reasoned with him that it was not the place to spend the Sabbath in, but he argued that if he were not present they might hire another man in his place, and he could not afford to lose his job. He therefore attended the business meeting. Shortly after, though, the new company discharged him. Consequently he could not keep the payments on the property and the trust company foreclosed on it! Then his wife died!

Moreover, this Maytag agency was new, and when I went to work for them, they had but a small place. All the while I worked for them, though, they prospered and grew as did Laban

My own as promised in Malachi 3:10.

I had paid! Here I had a real experience all of they offered was more than double the price which would like to sell it back to them, and the price letter in which the corporation inquired if I was worthless, but to my surprise I received a I had bought stock which I had made up my mind another surprise overtook me. Some years before, was about \$425. But this was not all, just then lasted, and my first check from the company the side. This went on all the while the camp sold a washer a day and a few vacuum cleaners on the neighborhood. And what do you suppose? I between meetings to try to sell Maytag washers in Los Angeles. And so I decided to attend and be-ventists were having their 1923 camp meeting in-chine agency, and just then the Seventh-day Ad-

In the meantime I got a job in a washing ma-covered how it happened.

great surprise they had inclosed a check for written to the bank I heard from them, and to my the altar of God. Just a few days after I had turned around as much as it turned with Abraham after he had done all but slay his son Isaac on At this point of my life, though, the table

and other papers to my address in California.

and that they should send the cancelled checks in the middle west that I was closing my account no prospect of a job. Then I wrote to the bank west, I was left with \$3.50 in my pocket, and with balance and sent it to the church in the middle

Lord a picture of the glory of the kingdoms. I nevertheless resolved to stay by the Truth I had learned regardless what happened.

Then the time came that I sold the hotel and accidentally got into a grocery business. But after a time I found that I did not want to be in it, and I sold it at a loss. Then that dark and gloomy picture of coming poverty enlarged itself a hundred-fold, but I did my best to keep happy in the Lord.

Some time after I had disposed of the grocery store, I left the city, and six months later I landed in California. There I took sick, and after doing all I knew what to do, one of the retired Seventh-day Adventist ministers that lived in the same place where I was living, said, "Let me take you to the Glendale Sanitarium, and I will recommend you as of good and regular standing with the church, and they will give you good service and a lower rate, too."

When we got to the desk, and after the minister told him all he had to say, the sanitarium clerk asked me what kind of a deposit I could leave for admission. I said, "A check." (It somewhat surprised me, for I had been in a hospital before but was never asked to pay anything in advance,—no, not even when I was dismissed. They sent me the bill by mail.) When he saw that the check was drawn on an Illinois bank, I had to explain that I was somewhat new in the west and had not yet transferred my bank account. The clerk reluctantly took the check, and I was assigned to a room, and politely told that I had to wait for the doctor until he should come around.

