

## **The President and the Scriptures**

President Lyndon B. Johnson, on the seventh of May 1964, in an address at Knoxville, Tennessee, outlined his plan to abolish poverty, ignorance, and war. He closed his remarks with this statement: "Above all else help to bring about a day 'when nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.' " On an earlier occasion, President Johnson used the language of Scripture when he said that, "We would produce a world where men would beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks." He is also on record as being determined to abolish poverty so that no man will be poor.

Since President Johnson quotes from the Scripture in support of his program, we present those Scriptures for careful consideration. Isaiah 2:1-4 is the declaration of a warless world based upon the literal reign of Christ upon this earth. Micah 4:1-5 presents not only a warless world, but a world in which every man will own his own property without being molested. The declaration is based upon the literal, personal, reign of Jesus Christ. Isaiah 65:20 declares that there will come a day when a person 100 years old shall be considered to be a child. This is based upon the fact of the presence of the Lord in His millennial reign.

We regret that President Johnson, by misunderstanding and misinterpreting Scripture, is indicating that human government and scientific ingenuity will become the benefactors of the world and establish the kingdom of God. As Christians, we share President Johnson's desire for a world without war and without poverty, but we do not believe that the extravagant expenditures of our government will better the condition of America but worsen it.

The General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, in sessions at Winona Lake, Indiana, June 21-26, calls upon our President and all associated with him to read these Scriptures in their proper context and to turn their hearts to the God Who will aid us in our present distress and will Himself ultimately establish a kingdom of righteousness and peace and plenty by His Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

*June 21-26, 1964  
Winona Lake, Indiana*