

God, of whom are all things, and we in him, and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him." It is the service and love of that one God only, through that one Lord Jesus Christ, that can render a nation happy. That God declares that "he is a great king over all the earth; a governor among the nations;" and he challenges their love and service. "Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him." He goes farther, and declares the consequence of disobedience. "At what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to build and to plant it; if it do evil in my sight, that it obey not my voice, then I will repent of the good wherewith I said I would benefit them. If they will not obey, I will utterly pluck up and destroy that nation," saith the Lord.

Thus does the Bible represent true religion as preëminently important to a nation's happiness. It also declares knowledge to be essential to the preservation of freedom and religion. The second text named at the head of this discourse teaches this, at least in part: *Therefore my people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge.* Here the loss of liberty is ascribed to ignorance; and this, as we have seen, corresponds with reason, and, as we shall see, with experience also. In another place, it is said, "For the transgressions of a land, many are the princes thereof," — that is, frequent changes and revolutions occur, — "but by a man of understanding and knowledge, the state thereof shall be prolonged;" that is, its prosperity shall be lengthened out. Again, it is said, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee." Again, "Wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and strength of salvation."