

GOD'S OWNERSHIP AND AUTHORITY PROVED FROM SCRIPTURE.

"The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof; the world and they that dwell therein." Ps. 24th, 1. God here claims possession of the whole earth, its fulness—everything with them that dwell on it; recalling the creation to our minds and shewing the inalienable claim of the great maker and owner of all things, and who among the wealthiest or most powerful of potentates is in position to dispute or gainsay this claim, or consider himself as really owning anything. "Who hath prevented me that I should repay him." Job 41st, 11. What can man give to Him; who possesses all things including man himself? (again) "If I were hungry I would not tell thee; for the world is mine and the fulness thereof." Ps. 50th, 12. "The silver is mine, and the gold is mine saith the Lord of Hosts." Hag. 2nd, 8. Thus we see the treasures hidden in the bowels of the earth are His, and men may work and slave to accumulate quantities of those precious metals, they may hoard and look upon them as their chief good, but they can only hold them during the master's pleasure, for they are His and unless used for His glory, will prove a snare instead of a blessing. "Behold all souls are mine." Ezek. 18th, 4. God thus claims the earth and its treasures, and in the passage just quoted, the souls of men as His property. The teaching of this last verse is evident; all are equally subject and accountable to God, and each will be reckoned with separately: for whatever may be the influence of social connections and surroundings, they cannot interfere with personal responsibility, nay more, if the wicked become good or the good become wicked, each shall be treated according to the change in his or her character, and who dare call in question, the action of Him, who owns the souls of men, or what remains for us, but to yield a hearty assent—acknowledge our nothingness, and entire dependence on God, for life, health, home, friends, wealth and every comfort and blessing we enjoy. Man has a right of property towards his fellow man, but certainly none towards God: no matter how wealthy, no matter how hardly earned, we cannot call our property our own as regards Him; for His right is positive and inalienable as the Creator and Owner of "all the ends of the earth." The silver and the gold are His and He gives them to whom He

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