

HOUSE DEMAND EASES?

Premium demand for housing— including low-cost housing— has eased considerably. The market has slumped fast in the past year. Even renters are quibbling, reports The Financial Post.

The Sunday School Lesson

SUNDAY, APRIL 2nd THE EARLY CHURCH FACES ITS WORLD (Continued) THE CHURCH SUFFERING AND TRIUMPHANT

Golden Text—If we endure, we shall also reign with him. Tim 2:12. Lesson Text—1 Pet. 4:12-13; Rev. 7:9-17. Exposition—1. Courage and Trials 1 Pet. 4:12-13.

The epistle of Peter was written shortly before the second terrible persecution of the Christians under Nero, a time of calamity foretold by our Lord (Matt. 24:8, 10). It was addressed to Jewish Christians everywhere, to encourage them to endure patiently their sufferings for the sake of Christ. Christ had specially commissioned Peter to strengthen his brethren (Luke 22:32).

In these verses we have a picture of something going on in heaven during "the great tribulation here on earth. There is to be a 'great multitude' who are gathered in heaven at that time. This is a multitude so vast that 'no man could number it.' They are Gentiles, they are 'out of all nations, and kindreds and peoples, and tongues.' They have immediate access to God, they 'stand' (i.e., are there in a place of acceptance and recognition) 'before the throne.' They also stand 'before the Lamb.' The title by which the Lord Jesus is spoken of here is significant. 'The Lamb'—this is a Johannine name for Jesus and is one of the many indications that the book was written by the author of the Fourth Gospel. He is spoken of as 'The Lamb' because He is an atoning Sacrifice for sin, the paschal lamb (1 Cor. 5:7; Jno. 1:29).

They are arrayed in 'white robes' the symbol of purity, and with 'palms in their hands,' symbol of victory. They have overcome their enemies. They are very earnest in their expressions of praise and thanksgiving. 'They cried with a great voice.' The cry is poetical in its form, and is apparently a loud song or chant. They ascribe all the honor for their salvation to God, 'which sitteth on the throne,' and also 'unto the Lamb' who is the Lamb which God Himself has provided (Gen. 22:8). There were there also a vast multitude of angels, 'all the angels,' these too were standing but not before the throne, but 'around about the throne.' The elders are the representatives of the church.

The angels and the elders and the living creatures all fell down on their faces before the throne and worshipped God. Seven things are ascribed unto God as they worship Him. The blessing, and the glory, and the wisdom, and the thanksgiving, and the power and the might. Both the A.V. and the R.V. omit the 'the' before blessing, glory etc., but it is in the Greek and ought to be in the English. This glory is ascribed to God 'Forever and ever.' The Greek words translated 'Forever and ever' mean literally 'unto the ages of the ages'. It is the strongest possible representation for endlessness, by picturing ages which are themselves composed of ages, in endless procession. This expression, or nearly the same expression, is used twelve times in the book of

the existence and the glory of God, which are arrayed in the white robes, who are they, and whence came they? John frankly admits he does not know, saying, 'My Lord thou knowest.' Then the elder explains who they are. 'These are they which came out of the great tribulation.' The A.V. makes it 'Out of great tribulation' but the R.V. has the correct translation, 'out of the great tribulation.' They had not only passed through tribulation as all believers shall but they had passed through 'tribulation,' that is the time of tribulation that is coming upon this earth after the capture of the church, when the anti-Christ will be fully manifested (Jno. 16:33; Ac. 14:22; Matt. 24:15-21).

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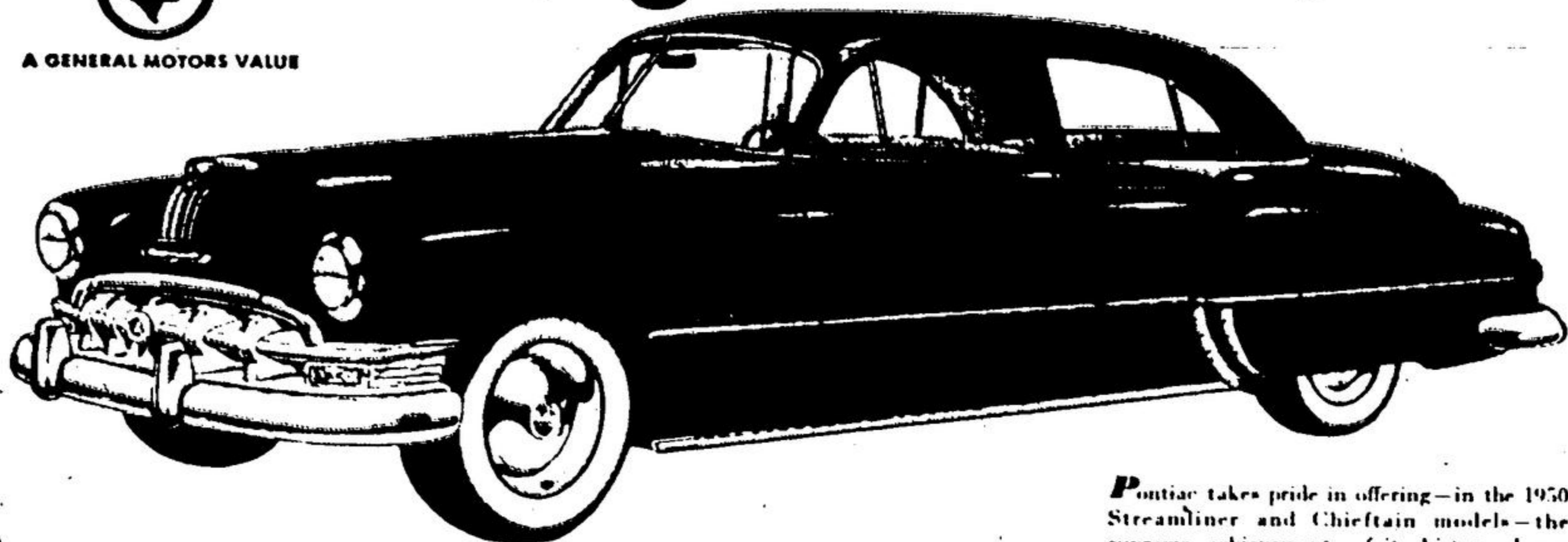
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