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Faith Theological Seminary

ELKINS PARK, PHILADELPHIA 17, PA.

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Miss Virginia Krauss
 Assistant Editor
 His Magazine
 2136 Darby Road
 Havertown, Pa.

Dear Miss Krauss:

Thank you for your letter of October 2 with its question about the relationship between Isaiah 26:18 and the quotations in the New Testament at Romans 9:33, 10:11, and 1 Peter 2:4-6.

Mr. Bayly is correct in suggesting that the New Testament reading is based on the Septuagint.

In order to understand the situation it is important to have the background of the quotation in mind. Isaiah 28 is principally devoted to discussing the plan of King Ahaz and his nobles to protect Judah from the attack by Ephraim and Syria by hiring Tiglath-Pileser, King of Assyria, to attack these other nations in the rear. The same situation is described at the beginning of Isaiah 7 and in the parallel passages in Kings and Chronicles. Isaiah tells the king and his nobles that this plan will not bring lasting safety. He calls it "your covenant with death, and...your agreement with hell" (Isa.28:15 and 18), and declares in verses 19-20 that only frustration can result from it. He assures the king and the nobles that they are utterly wrong in seeking such alliances with wicked forces, and asserts that they can find true safety only through trust in God. In verse 16 Isaiah emphasizes the fact that true safety is only to be found in trusting God's promises, of which the greatest is the coming of the Messiah. He declares that the one who trusts in God will not be forced to flee in haste from the dangers that surround him.

While this is the natural thought of the words "make haste" in this verse, they also convey a secondary meaning that the man whose eyes are firmly fixed on the promises of God can move forward calmly and unhurriedly to do the work that God has set before him, without becoming ruffled or disturbed by needless fears.

The Septuagint has brought out the primary thought of the words as they stand in the context. Regardless of the terrible dangers they face, those who place their trust in God and His Messiah will