

PETER CARTWRIGHT VERSUS PRESIDENT ANDREW JACKSON

Peter Cartwright [1785-1872] was a great circuit-riding Methodist preacher in Illinois. An uncompromising man, he had come north from Tennessee because of his opposition to slavery. One Sunday morning when he was scheduled to preach, his deacons told him that **President Andrew Jackson** [1767-1845, President from 1829 to 1837] **was in the congregation.** Knowing Cartwright was used to saying whatever he felt God wanted him to say, regardless of how people might react, they warned him not to say anything that would offend the chief executive. He stood up to preach and said, "I understand President Andrew Jackson is here. I have been requested to be guarded in my remarks. Andrew Jackson will go to Hell if he does not repent." The audience was shocked. They wondered how the President would respond to this, but after the service he told Cartwright, "Sir, if I had a regiment of men like you, I could whip the world."¹

¹ R. Kent Hughes, *Acts : The Church Afire*, Preaching the Word (Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, 1996), 64.