W. J. Armstrong

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON QUARTERLY

SENIOR DIVISION

essons From the Days of the PATRIARCHS and PROPHET

hird Quarter 1944	From the Captivity in Babylon to the Restoration of the First Dominion.	Number 197

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DAILY LESSON STUDY PLEDGE

As one who greatly desires to improve my knowledge of the Scriptures, I pledge myself to the careful and prayerful study of some portion of my Sabbath school lesson each day of the week.

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If desired, a record of daily study may be maintained in the blank below.

STUDY RECORD	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1ST DAY'S STUDY													
2D DAY'S STUDY													
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4TH DAY'S STUDY													
5TH DAY'S STUDY													
6TH DAY'S STUDY													
7TH DAY'S STUDY													

Place a check (√) mark in each space above for the days you have studied your lesson. Form the habit of regular daily study and record marking.

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Sabbath School Lesson Quarterly

Lessons From the Days of the Patriarchs and Prophets

FROM THE CAPTIVITY IN BABYLON to the RESTORATION of the FIRST DOMINION

Lesson 1, for July 1, 1944

Trained to Loyalty; the King's Dream

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Daniel 1; 2.

MEMORY VERSE: "Ye are My witnesses, saith the Lord, and My servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe Me, and understand that I am He: before Me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after Me." Isa. 43:10.

STUDY HELP: "Prophets and Kings," pages 479-502.

Trained to Be Loyal

1. When Nebuchadnezzar besieged and captured Jerusalem, what did he do with certain of the children of Israel? What did he propose for their future? Dan. 1:1-7.

NOTE.—"The king did not compel the Hebrew youth to renounce their faith in favor of idolatry, but he hoped to bring this about gradually. By giving them names significant of idolatry, by bringing them daily into close association with idolatrous customs, and under the influences of the seductive rites of heathen worship, he hoped to induce them to renounce the religion of their nation, and to unite with the worship of the Babylonians."—*Prophets and Kings,* page 481.

2. Who early appeared as a leader among them? To what decision did he and his companions come? Verse 8.

NOTE.—"A portion having been offered to idols, the food from the king's table was consecrated to idolatry; and one partaking of it would be regarded as offering homage to the gods of Babylon. In such homage, loyalty to Jehovah forbade Daniel and his companions to join. Even a mere pretense of eating the food or drinking the wine would be a denial of their faith."—*Prophets and Kings,* page 481.

3. What request did Daniel make of the chief steward? With what result? Verses 9-16.

4. What special favor did God show these young men? In what condition did the king find them? How long did Daniel serve Babylon? Verses 17-21.

The King's Dream Troubles Him

5. What startling experience came to King Nebuchadnezzar in the second year of his reign? How did he seek to solve his perplexity? Dan. 2:1-9.

6. What outstanding admission did the wise men of Babylon make? What was the king's angry reaction? Verses 10-13, first part.

7. Who was first sought to be slain? What did Daniel obtain? How did he manifest faith in united prayer? Verses 13-18.

NOTE.—"To this request the monarch acceded. 'Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions.' Together they sought for wisdom from the Source of light and knowledge. Their faith was strong in the consciousness that God had placed them where they were, that they were doing His work and meeting the demands of duty. . . . And they did not plead in vain. The God whom they had honored, now honored them."—*Prophets and Kings,* pages 493, 494.

The Dream Revealed

8. How was the king's dream revealed to Daniel? How did he express his gratitude? Verses 19-23.

9. To whom did Daniel then go? What request did he make and with what result? Relate the conversation which took place before the king. Verses 24-30.

10. What had the king seen in his dream? What was the appearance of the image and its effect upon the one who saw it? Verse 31.

11. Describe the image as portrayed by the prophet to King Nebuchadnezzar. Verses 32, 33.

12. What did Daniel say the king had seen? Verses 34, 35.

The Interpretation of the Dream

13. In the interpretation of the dream how did the prophet trace the course of world history? Verses 36-43.

14. How is the final overthrow of all earthly kingdoms described? What does the prophet say of the certainty of the vision? Verses 44, 45.

15. What acknowledgment came from the king? What action did he take? Verses 46-49.

NOTE.—"As God called Daniel to witness for Him in Babylon, so He calls us to be His witnesses in the world today. In the smallest as well as the largest affairs of life, He desires us to reveal to men the principles of His kingdom. Many are waiting for some great work to be brought to them, while daily they lose opportunities for revealing faithfulness to God. Daily they fail of discharging with wholeheartedness the little duties of life. While they wait for some large work in which they may exercise supposedly great talents, and thus satisfy their ambitious longings, their days pass away."—*Prophets and Kings,* pages 487, 488.

Lesson 2, for July 8, 1944

The Fiery Furnace; Its Significance

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Daniel 3.

MEMORY VERSE: "When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee." Isa. 43:2.

STUDY HELP: "Prophets and Kings," pages 503-513.

A Golden Image Set Up

1. What image did Nebuchadnezzar set up on the plain of Dura? Dan. 3:1.

NOTE.—"The words, 'Thou art this head of gold,' had made a deep impression upon the ruler's mind. The wise men of his realm, taking advantage of this and of his return to idolatry, proposed that he make an image similar to the one seen in his dream, and set it up where all might behold the head of gold, which had been interpreted as representing his kingdom.

"Pleased with the flattering suggestion, he determined to carry it out, and to go even farther. Instead of reproducing the image as he had seen it, he would excel the original. His image should not deteriorate in value from the head to the feet, but should be entirely of gold,—symbolic throughout of Babylon as an eternal, indestructible, all-powerful kingdom, which should break in pieces all other kingdoms, and stand forever."—*Prophets and Kings,* page 504.

2. How many did the king order to be present at the dedication of this image? Verses 2, 3.

3. To ensure the recognition by the entire nation of the perpetual sovereignty of Babylon, what did the king command? Verses 4-6.

4. How many obeyed the command of the king? Verse 7.

God's Servants Disobey the King's Command

5. Who came near and accused the Jews of failure to obey the king's command? After repeating the king's orders, whom did they specifically accuse? Verses 8-12.

6. What effect did this accusation have upon Nebuchadnezzar? When the three men were brought before the king, what question did he ask them? Verses 13, 14.

7. What opportunity to recant did he give them? When thus addressed, what was their bold reply? Verses 15-18.

NOTE.—"In vain were the king's threats. He could not turn the men from their allegiance to the Ruler of the universe. From the history of their fathers they had learned that disobedience to God results in dishonor, disaster, and death; and that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, the foundation of all true prosperity."—*Prophets and Kings,* pages 507, 508.

8. How did this reply affect the king? Verse 19, first part.

Into the Fiery Furnace

9. How fully did the king prepare to ensure that these rebellious subjects should be consumed? Verses 19, last part, 20.

10. With what care were they bound? What was the effect of the fire upon the men who cast the three worthies into the furnace? Verses 21, 22.

11. When the three men fell down bound in the midst of the furnace, what development took place? What startled the king? Verses 23, 24.

NOTE.—"But the Lord did not forget His own. As His witnesses were cast into the furnace, the Saviour revealed Himself to them in person, and together they walked in the midst of the fire. In the presence of the Lord of heat and cold, the flames lost their power to consume."—*Prophets and Kings,* pages 508, 509.

12. What three things deeply impressed the mind of the king? Whom was the fourth figure like? Verse 25.

NOTE.—"How did that heathen king know what the Son of God was like? The Hebrew captives filling positions of trust in Babylon had in life and character represented before him the truth. When asked for a reason of their faith, they had given it without hesitation. Plainly and simply they had presented the principles of righteousness, thus teaching those around them of the God whom they worshiped. They had told of Christ, the Redeemer to come; and in the form of the fourth in the midst of the fire the king recognized the Son of God."—*Prophets and Kings,* page 509.

Deliverance and Promotion

13. By whom and in what way were the three worthies called forth from the furnace? How many observed their condition? Verses 26, 27.

14. What blessing did Nebuchadnezzar pronounce on their God? What decree followed? Verses 28, 29.

15. Instead of disgrace, what favor was shown these men? Verse 30.

16. What assurance is given to God's people today? Matt. 24:13; Rev. 2:7.

NOTE.—"As in the days of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, so in the closing period of earth's history the Lord will work mightily in behalf of those who stand steadfastly for the right. He who walked with the Hebrew worthies in the fiery furnace will be with His followers wherever they are. His abiding presence will comfort and sustain. In the midst of the time of trouble,—trouble such as has not been since there was a nation,—His chosen ones will stand unmoved. Satan with all the hosts of evil cannot destroy the weakest of God's saints. Angels that excel in strength will protect them, and in their behalf Jehovah will reveal Himself as a 'God of gods,' able to save to the uttermost those who have put their trust in Him."—*Prophets and Kings,* page 513.

Lesson 3, for July 15, 1944

A King's Pride Humbled; the Handwriting on the Wall

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Daniel 4; 5.

MEMORY VERSE: "The Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever He will." Dan. 4:25, last part.

STUDY HELP: "Prophets and Kings," pages 514-538.

A King's Pride Humbled

1. With what acknowledgment of God's wisdom and power does Nebuchadnezzar introduce the experience whereby he was humbled by the Lord? Dan. 4:1-3.

2. What was Nebuchadnezzar's state when God spoke to him in a dream? What effect did the dream have upon him? For whom did he call? Verses 4-7.

3. Who was finally called to interpret the dream? What name had the king given Daniel? What did the king acknowledge concerning Daniel? Verses 8, 9.

4. What had the king seen in his dream? Verses 10-12.

5. When the holy Watcher came down from heaven, what did He command? What part of the tree was to be left? What indicates that the subject of the dream was a man? What change was to come to the individual and for how long? Verses 13-16.

6. What importance to himself and his subjects did Nebuchadnezzar recognize in the dream? Why did the king call upon Daniel for help? Verses 17, 18.

7. How was Daniel affected by the dream? With what words did the king encourage Daniel to explain the dream? What answer did Daniel give? Verses 19-23.

NOTE.—"To Daniel the meaning of the dream was plain, and its significance startled him. . . . The prophet realized that upon him God had laid the solemn duty of revealing to Nebuchadnezzar the judgment that was about to fall upon him because of his pride and arrogance. Daniel must interpret the dream in

language the king could understand; and although its dreadful import had made him hesitate in dumb amazement, yet he must state the truth, whatever the consequences to himself."—*Prophets and Kings,* page 517.

8. What was the explanation of the dream? Why had God given the dream to the king? Verses 24-26.

9. What counsel did Daniel give the king? How long afterward was the king, in his pride, found boasting? What did the voice from heaven say? What immediate change came to Nebuchadnezzar? Verses 27-33.

10. At the end of the period what experience came to the king? How did he express his regard for the God of heaven? Verses 34-37.

NOTE.—The Jewish historian Josephus tells the story of Nebuchadnezzar's dream and subsequent humiliation, using the expression "seven years," for the "seven times" of verses 16 and 25 of Daniel 4. Thus is confirmed the interpretation of the prophetic period of a "time and times and the dividing of time," as used in chapter 7:25, where a "time" is used to symbolize a literal year.

The Handwriting on the Wall

11. In the days of Belshazzar, the last king of Babylon, what great feast did he make? Who were invited? While the revelers drank and desecrated the vessels of the temple, whom did they praise? Dan. 5:1-4.

NOTE.—Following Nebuchadnezzar, Evilmerodach his son reigned for a short time. Finally Nabonidus, the son-in-law of Nebuchadnezzar, took the throne. Belshazzar, the son of Nabonidus, later reigned conjointly with his father.

12. What mysterious vision suddenly caught the eye of the king? How deeply was he affected? For whom did he call? What reward did he offer his wise men? Verses 5-8.

13. What effect did the failure of the wise men have on the king and his lords? What counsel did the queen give to the king? Verses 9-12.

Daniel Called to Interpret

14. When Daniel was brought in, what acknowledgments did Belshazzar make and what promises of reward? Verses 13-16.

15. What answer did Daniel give the king? Verse 17.

16. As Daniel recalled the experiences of the past, what did he say Belshazzar had not done? What did he say the king had done that was wrong? Verses 18-23.

17. What words had been written on the wall? What did each mean? Verses 24-28.

18. How fully was the king's promise of preferment carried out? Verse 29.

19. How swiftly did retribution come to Belshazzar? Who took the kingdom? Verses 30, 31.

Lesson 4, for July 22, 1944

A Prime Minister Tested

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Daniel 6.

MEMORY VERSE: "My God hath sent His angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before Him innocency was found in me." Dan. 6:22.

STUDY HELP: "Prophets and Kings," pages 539-548.

Seeking Occasion for Accusation

1. What high office was Daniel given in the Medo-Persian kingdom? Why was Daniel preferred above others? Dan. 6:1-3.

NOTE.—In the first five chapters of the book of Daniel is given an account of Daniel and his companions in the Babylonian kingdom. With the overthrow of Babylon Daniel became subject to the new world power. It was a testimony to the faithfulness and integrity of Daniel for the king of the succeeding empire to put him in this high office. Daniel, as chief of the three presidents who were over the one hundred twenty princes, was directly responsible to the king to see that no loss or damage came to the ruler.

2. According to the testimony of his enemies, how faithful was Daniel? In what particular did they hope to find occasion against him? Verses 4, 5.

3. What plan was laid by his subordinates to destroy Daniel? What punishment was to be given anyone who disobeyed the suggested decree? Verses 6, 7.

4. Not understanding the motives which prompted the writing of the decree, what did the king do? Verses 8, 9.

5. What power was working through these enemies of Daniel and why?

Answer: "In the conspiracy thus formed, Satan had played an important part. The prophet was high in command in the kingdom, and evil angels feared that his influence would weaken their control over its rulers. It was these satanic agencies who had stirred the princes to envy and jealousy; it was they who had inspired the plan for Daniel's destruction; and the princes, yielding themselves as instruments of evil, carried it into effect."—*Prophets and Kings,* page 540.

Daniel's Decision and Its Consequences

6. Although Daniel knew the decree had been signed, what did he do? Verse 10.

NOTE.—"The prophet's enemies counted on Daniel's firm adherence to principle for the success of their plan. And they were not mistaken in their estimate of his character. He quickly read their malignant purpose in framing the decree, but he did not change his course in a single particular."—*Prophets and Kings,* pages 540, 541.

7. What clear distinction between duties to God and duties to earthly governments did Daniel follow in his decision?

Answer: "Although he knew full well the consequences of his fidelity to God, his spirit faltered not. Before those who were plotting his ruin, he would not allow it even to appear that his connection with Heaven was severed. In all cases where the king had a right to command, Daniel would obey; but neither the king nor his decree could make him swerve from allegiance to the King of kings. Thus the prophet boldly yet quietly and humbly declared that no earthly power has a right to interpose between the soul and God."—*Prophets and Kings,* page 542.

8. After the princes had seen Daniel praying, what question did they ask the king? What charge did they make against Daniel? Verses 11-13.

9. How did the words of the princes affect the king? What did he endeavor to do? What rule of the Medo-Persian kingdom was cited as a reason why the punishment should be meted out? Verses 14, 15.

10. When the king ordered Daniel placed in the lions' den, what statement of assurance did he make to his faithful servant? Verse 16.

The King's Unrest—Deliverance

11. After the king sealed the den with his own seal, what did he do? Verses 17, 18.

12. How did the king address Daniel when he called to him early the next morning, and what was his question? Verses 19, 20.

13. With what respectful words did Daniel answer the king? How fully had God protected him? How did Daniel declare his blameless conduct in his duties to his God and to his king? Verses 21-23.

His Accusers Punished—God Exalted

14. How were the accusers of the prophet punished? Verse 24.

15. How extensively was the knowledge of the true God spread as a result of this experience? Verses 25-28.

NOTE.—"God did not prevent Daniel's enemies from casting him into the lions' den; He permitted evil angels and wicked men thus far to accomplish their purpose; but it was that He might make the deliverance of His servant more marked, and the defeat of the enemies of truth and righteousness more complete. 'Surely the wrath of man shall praise Thee,' the psalmist has testified. Through the courage of this one man who chose to follow right rather than policy, Satan was to be defeated, and the name of God was to be exalted and honored."—*Prophets and Kings,* pages 543, 544.

16. What lesson may we learn from this experience?

Answer: "From the story of Daniel's deliverance, we may learn that in seasons of trial and gloom, God's children should be just what they were when their prospects were bright with hope and their surroundings all that they

could desire. Daniel in the lions' den was the same Daniel who stood before the king as chief among the ministers of state and as a prophet of the Most High. A man whose heart is stayed upon God will be the same in the hour of his greatest trial as he is in prosperity, when the light and favor of God and of man beam upon him. Faith reaches to the unseen, and grasps eternal realities."—*Prophets and Kings,* page 545.

Lesson 5, for July 29, 1944

History Unfolded to Daniel

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Daniel 7.

MEMORY VERSE: "The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law." Deut. 29:29.

STUDY HELPS: "Daniel and the Revelation," comments on Daniel 7; "Our Day in the Light of Prophecy," pages 117-157.

A Vision of the Night

1. When Daniel was given the vision of Daniel 7, what king was on the throne of Babylon? In the vision, what first attracted the prophet's attention? What was seen coming up out of the sea? Dan. 7:1-3.

NOTE.—This vision was given about 540 B. C. Chronologically it precedes the fifth chapter of Daniel. This is the same Belshazzar mentioned in that chapter. The first six chapters of the book of Daniel deal particularly with the kingdom of Babylon while the last half of the book deals with prophecies concerning the history of future nations of the world.

2. In symbolic language in the Bible what do winds, sea, and beasts represent?

Answer: Winds represent strife and commotion. Jer. 25:31-33. Sea is a symbol of peoples and tongues. Rev. 17:15. Beasts stand for kingdoms. Dan. 7:17.

3. What peculiar characteristics were particularly mentioned in the description of each beast? What four world empires were symbolized by them? Verses 4-7.

NOTE.—The history of nations covered in these verses is the same as covered in Daniel 2. The lion—Babylon, 606-538; the bear—Medo-Persia, 538-331; the leopard—Grecia, 331-168; the fourth beast—Rome, 168 B. C. to A. D. 476.

The Ten Horns and the Little Horn

4. What was represented by the ten horns of the fourth beast? Verse 24, first part.

NOTE.—"We look to the history of the Roman Empire, and what do we see?—Just the picture of the prophecy. We see the original Roman Empire of the West divided into lesser kingdoms. We see the barbarian peoples of the north sweeping down upon the empire, breaking it up, and establishing within its boundaries the various kingdoms that are to this day represented by the kingdoms of Western Europe."—*Our Day in the Light of Prophecy*, page 127.

"Rome was divided into ten kingdoms, enumerated as follows: The Huns [some expositors list the Alamanni instead of the Huns], the Ostrogoths, the Visigoths, the Franks, the Vandals, the Suevi, the Burgundians, the Heruli, the Anglo-Saxons, and the Lombards. These divisions have ever since been spoken of as the ten kingdoms of the Roman Empire."—*Daniel and the Revelation*, page 132.

5. What came up and uprooted three of the horns? What special characteristics did Daniel see in this new power? Verse 8.

The Judgment Sits

6. As the prophet watched, what was the next great scene that commanded his attention? Verses 9, 10.

7. After viewing the great judgment and the results, how was Daniel affected? What request did he make, and with what response? Verses 15, 16.

"I Would Know the Truth of the Fourth Beast"

8. What part of the vision did Daniel want to understand more fully? What had especially attracted his attention to the little horn? Verses 19-21.

NOTE.—"Wonderful was all this to the prophet; but something still more wonderful appeared. A little horn came up, and, true to the nature of the beast from which it sprang, thrust aside three of its fellows; and lo! the horn had eyes, not the uncultivated eyes of a brute, but the keen, shrewd, intelligent eyes of a man; and, stranger yet, it had a mouth, and with that mouth it uttered proud sayings, and put forth preposterous and arrogant claims."—*Daniel and the Revelation*, page 138.

9. What specific things would the "little horn power" do? How long a time was its power to continue unbroken? Verse 25.

10. What power meets the specifications of this power?

Answer: The question arises, What power has ever arisen in Europe since the fifth century which will meet all the specifications of Daniel 7:25? There is but one, the papacy. Most Protestants are agreed in this. (1) The papacy arose in Europe and made Rome its headquarters. (2) Her power was recognized after the Roman Empire was divided into ten kingdoms. (3) Three of the original ten kingdoms, which were Arian in religion, and opposed to the claims of the bishop of Rome,—the Heruli in A. D. 493, the Vandals in 534, and the Ostrogoths in 538,—were successively overthrown before the rising power of the popes. (4) Beginning in the year 538 A. D., when the last of these opposing powers was overthrown, and counting 1260 years, brings us to 1798, at which time, by the power and authority of France, the then ruling papal pontiff was dethroned, and Italy was proclaimed a republic. (5) During this 1260-year period, known as the Dark Ages, the Christian world was practically under the power of the papacy, and it literally wore out many millions of those whom it was pleased to call heretics, but whom God calls in Daniel 7:25 "the saints." (6) The papacy has thought to change God's times and law, as the following, quoted from one of its own works, will prove: "The pope is of so great authority and power, that he can even modify, explain and interpret the divine laws."—Ferraris' *Prompta Bibliotheca,* art. "Papa, II" in the Venice edition of 1772, vol. 6, p. 29. It has expunged, in much of its teaching, the second commandment, which forbids the worship of images. It has attempted to change the Sabbath from the seventh to the first day of the week, and this has been accepted by most of the Christian world. (7) It differs from other European powers, being ecclesiastical as well as civil. (8) It has assumed the titles and honors which belong only to God, and this is blasphemy.

11. By what name is this same system designated by John the revelator? Rev. 17:5, 6.

NOTE.—"This prophecy [of John's] is more definite than others applicable to the Roman power, in that it distinguishes between church and state. We here have the woman, the church, seated upon a scarlet-colored beast, the civil power, by which she is upheld, and which she controls and guides to her own ends, as a rider controls the animal upon which he is seated."—*Daniel and the Revelation,* comment on Rev. 17:1-5.

In Daniel's prophecy, we have the ten horns and the little horn which should speak great words against the Most High and wear out the saints of the Most High; in John's prophecy, we have the ten horns on the beast and the names of blasphemy, also the woman drunken with the blood of saints.

12. What sentence was pronounced upon this power in the judgment? Dan. 7:26.

13. What then will be given to the saints? How long will this kingdom continue? Verse 27.

Lesson 6, for August 5, 1944

God Answers Daniel's Prayer for Understanding

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Daniel 8; 9.

MEMORY VERSE: "Ye shall seek Me, and find Me, when ye shall search for Me with all your heart." Jer. 29:13.

STUDY HELPS: "Daniel and the Revelation," comments on Daniel 8; 9; "Our Day in the Light of Prophecy," pages 205-237, "Bible Readings," chapters, "The Prophetic Symbols of Daniel 8," and "The Hour of God's Judgment."

The Ram and the He-Goat

1. The year that Babylon fell, what did Daniel see in vision? What special features of each of the beasts are mentioned? Dan. 8:1-7.

NOTE.—"The first year of Belshazzar was B. C. 540. His third year, in which this vision was given, would consequently be 538. If Daniel, as is supposed, was about twenty years of age when he was carried to Babylon in the first year of Nebuchadnezzar, B. C. 606, he was at this time about eighty-eight years of age."—*Daniel and the Revelation,* pages 163, 165.

2. When the goat became strong, what happened to the horn between his eyes? What took its place? Verse 8.

3. What countries were represented by the ram and the goat? What did the horns represent? Verses 20-22.

NOTE.—"The distinguishing feature of the Persian Empire, the union of the two nationalities which composed it, is represented by the two horns of the ram. Grecia attained its greatest glory as a unit under the leadership of Alexander the Great, a general as famous as the world has ever seen. This part of her history is represented by the first phase of the goat, during which time the one notable horn symbolized Alexander the Great. Upon his death, the kingdom fell into fragments, but soon consolidated into four grand divisions, represented by the second phase of the goat, when it had four horns which came up in the place of the first, which was broken. These divisions did not stand in his power. None of them possessed the strength of the original kingdom."—*Daniel and the Revelation,* pages 202, 203.

Within the space of twenty-three years after Alexander's death there were just four; namely, Cassander, Lysimachus, Seleucus, and Ptolemy.

A Little Horn Becomes Great

4. What power was represented by the little horn which became great? What did this power do? Verses 9-12, 23-25.

NOTE.—"The little horn, springing out of the western part of the four divisions, was none other than Rome; for this kingdom was to wax exceeding great, greater than all the kingdoms before it. This horn is a symbol of both Rome imperial, or pagan, and Rome papal; for both carried on a relentless

persecution against the people of God."—*Bible Readings,* ch. "The Prophetic Symbols of Daniel 8."

5. As Daniel beheld the persecuting work of the little horn of Daniel 7, what great event took place? What happened to the persecuting power? Dan. 7:26.

NOTE.—"In the prophecy of the seventh chapter, there is traced the history of the rise and fall of the four great kingdoms, the division of the fourth, as represented by the ten horns, and the establishment of the papacy under the symbol of the little horn, before whom three fell. . . .

"The eighth chapter of Daniel reviews briefly the history of the kingdoms, predicts the persecutions of the chosen people by pagan and papal Rome, and gives a remarkable prophecy of the sanctuary, locating the beginning of the investigative judgment."—*Bible Readings,* ch. "The Prophetic Symbols of Daniel 8."

Understanding Given Daniel

6. In answer to the question asked, what long time prophecy regarding the sanctuary was brought to Daniel? Dan. 8:13, 14.

NOTE.—"The Jewish Day of Atonement was on the tenth day of the seventh month, at which time the sanctuary was cleansed. This Day of Atonement was looked upon by the Jews as a day of judgment, and was, in fact, a type of the investigative judgment in heaven. The 2300-day period, representing 2300 years according to symbolic prophecy, reaches to the cleansing of the sanctuary in heaven, or the investigative judgment. A study of the symbols and time period of this chapter, and of their interpretation in this and the ninth chapter gives a clear understanding of this period."—*Bible Readings,* ch. "The Prophetic Symbols of Daniel 8."

7. As Daniel sought for an understanding, who was instructed to explain the vision? To what time did the angel say the vision belongs? Verses 15-19.

NOTE.—"Since in prophecy a symbolic day represents a literal year (Ezek. 4:6), the 2300-day period would extend down into the time of the end. In the preceding chapter the 1260 years of papal supremacy were seen to terminate in 1798, at which time, according to Daniel 12:4, 6, 7, the time of the end was to begin."—*Bible Readings,* ch. "The Prophetic Symbols of Daniel 8."

8. When Daniel saw the stirring events which were to bring persecution to God's people and desolation to the Holy City and sanctuary, how was he affected? Verse 27.

9. While Daniel studied the prophecies of Jeremiah regarding the captivity, and earnestly prayed and fasted, what heavenly messenger came to him? Why did he say he had come? What word of

encouragement did he bring the distressed prophet? Dan. 9:1-3, 20-23.

NOTE.—"This vision was given in the third year of the reign of Belshazzar, or in 538 B. C. There followed the overthrow of Babylon by Media and Persia; and it was in the first year of the reign of Darius, also in 538 B. C., when the interpretation of the vision was completed, as recorded in the ninth chapter." *Bible Readings,* ch. "The Prophetic Symbols of Daniel 8."

10. What part of the vision had not been explained?

Answer: The time period.

"Unto 2300 Days"

11. What part of the 2300 days was allotted to the Jews? What was to be accomplished during that period? Dan. 9:24.

NOTE.—"The seventy weeks therefore were determined, or cut off. There are two periods of time under consideration, the first the 2300-day period, the second the seventy-week period. They both had to do with the restoration of the Jewish people and the sanctuary, for the Jews were in captivity and the sanctuary was in ruins. The two periods must then begin with the restoration, and at the same time. The full restoration of the Jewish laws and government pertaining to the people and their sanctuary took place in 457 B. C."—*Bible Readings,* ch. "The Hour of God's Judgment."

12. How many weeks after the command to rebuild Jerusalem are there to Messiah the Prince? What events were to take place during the last week of the time allotted to the Jews? Thereafter, how much of the 2300 days or years remained? Verses 25-27.

NOTE.—"As the sixty-nine weeks ended in the fall of 27 A. D., the middle of the seventieth week, or the three and a half years, would end in the spring of 31 A. D., when Christ was crucified, and by His death caused to cease, or brought to an end, the sacrifices and oblations of the earthly sanctuary. Three and a half years more (the last part of the seventieth week) would end in the autumn of 34 A. D. This brings us to the end of the 490 years which were 'cut off' from the 2300. There still remain 1810 years, which, if added to 34 A. D., take us to 1844 A. D."—*Bible Readings,* ch. "The Hour of God's Judgment."

13. What did the angel say would take place at the end of 2300 days? Dan. 8:14.

NOTE.—In other words, the great closing work of Christ for the world, the atonement, or the investigative judgment, would at that time begin.

14. How widely is the judgment hour message to be sounded? Rev. 14:6, 7.

15. What admonition of warning is given us by Paul? Acts 17:30, 31.

Lesson 7, for August 12, 1944

The Days of Queen Esther

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Book of Esther.

MEMORY VERSE: "For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted." Luke 14:11.

STUDY HELP: "Prophets and Kings," pages 598-606.

The Royal Feast—Vashti Deposed

1. In the third year of Ahasuerus (Xerxes), king of Persia, what great celebration took place? Who was present? How long did the celebration last? Esther 1:1-4.

2. Following the feast for the princes, what other feast was given by the king? At the same time what did Queen Vashti do? Verses 5-9.

3. What command did the king send to the queen on the seventh day of the feast? When she refused to come, with whom did the king in his wrath take counsel? Following the advice of his counselors, what decree was sent throughout the kingdom? Why? Verses 10-22.

Esther Chosen Queen

4. Later when the king's anger was appeased, what plan was proposed by the king's servants? What Jew is mentioned as living in Shushan? Whom had he brought up as a daughter? Esther 2:1-7.

5. When Esther was brought to the king's house how was she received? What shows Mordecai's deep interest in Esther at this time? What was the result when she appeared before the king? Verses 8-17.

6. What did the king do to honor Esther? What position did Mordecai hold? What had Esther not revealed concerning herself? Verses 18-20.

7. What plot was overheard by Mordecai and revealed through Esther to the king? What happened to the plotters and where was the account written? Verses 21-23.

Haman Advanced in Royal Favor

8. Who was at this time advanced by the king? What attitude of Mordecai angered Haman? In his wrath what plot was laid by Haman? Esther 3:1-6.

9. What charge did Haman bring to the king against the Jews, and how did he plan their destruction? What authority did the king grant Haman? How widely was the decree circulated? Verses 8-15.

NOTE.—"Misled by the false statements of Haman, Xerxes was induced to issue a decree providing for the massacre of all the Jews 'scattered abroad and dispersed among the people in all the provinces' of the Medo-Persian kingdom. A certain day was appointed on which the Jews were to be destroyed and their property confiscated. Little did the king realize the far-reaching results that would have accompanied the complete carrying out of this decree. Satan himself, the hidden instigator of the scheme, was trying to rid the earth of those who preserved the knowledge of the true God."—*Prophets and Kings*, pages 600, 601.

The Jews Imperiled

10. What effect did the decree have upon Mordecai and the Jews? Esther 4:1-3.

11. To whom did news of Mordecai's fasting come? On the queen's request, what information was sent by Mordecai? What charge did he give her? Verses 4-9.

12. In her reply, of what did Esther remind Mordecai? What warning and admonition did Mordecai send to her? In her answer what request did Esther make of Mordecai and all the Jews in Shushan? Verses 10-17.

NOTE.—"The plots of the enemy were defeated by a Power that reigns among the children of men. In the providence of God, Esther, a Jewess who feared the Most High, had been made queen of the Medo-Persian kingdom. . . .

"The crisis that Esther faced demanded quick, earnest action; but both she and Mordecai realized that unless God should work mightily in their behalf, their own efforts would be unavailing. So Esther took time for communion with God, the source of her strength."—*Prophets and Kings*, page 601.

13. At the end of the fast, how was Esther received by the king? What was her request? When Haman reported the invitation to the banquet to his family, what did they plan for Mordecai? Esther 5:2, 4, 5, 8, 14.

14. While having the book of records read to him, what conspiracy was recalled by the king? What did he find had not been done? Whom did he ask for advice? What suggestion did he receive? Esther 6:1-9.

Haman's Death Decreed—Mordecai Honored

15. At the second banquet, how did Esther reveal to the king the plot laid by Haman? What did the king command them to do with Haman? Esther 7:3-6, 9, 10.

16. On Esther's appeal, what authority was entrusted to the queen and Mordecai? What message of relief was sent throughout the provinces? How fully was Mordecai honored? As a result of this experience, what did many of the people of the kingdom do? Esther 8:8-17.

Lesson 8, for August 19, 1944
The Return From Exile

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Ezra 1 to 7.

MEMORY VERSE: "I will be found of you, saith the Lord: and I will turn away your captivity, and I will gather you from all the nations, and from all the places whither I have driven you, saith the Lord; and I will bring you again into the place whence I caused you to be carried away captive." Jer. 29:14.

STUDY HELP: "Prophets and Kings," pages 551-581, 607-617.

The End of the Captivity

1. What prophecy was fulfilled when Israel and Judah were taken into captivity? Ezek. 17:3, 12; see also Deut. 28:47-49.

2. How long was Judah to remain in captivity? Who is mentioned by name in Isaiah's prophecy as one who would help Israel?

What was a sign that the deliverance was near? Jer. 29:10; Isa. 44:28; 45:1-3.

NOTE.—"The advent of the army of Cyrus before the walls of Babylon was to the Jews a sign that their deliverance from captivity was drawing nigh. More than a century before the birth of Cyrus, Inspiration had mentioned him by name, and had caused a record to be made of the actual work he should do in taking the city of Babylon unawares, and in preparing the way for the release of the children of the captivity."—*Prophets and Kings,* page 551.

3. When the time was fulfilled, what proclamation did King Cyrus issue to all his kingdom? What were the men of Judah who remained instructed to do? Ezra 1:1-4.

NOTE.—"Just at the time God had said He would cause His temple at Jerusalem to be rebuilt, He moved upon Cyrus as His agent to discern the prophecies concerning himself, with which Daniel was so familiar, and to grant the Jewish people their liberty.

"As the king saw the words foretelling, more than a hundred years before his birth, the manner in which Babylon should be taken; as he read the message addressed to him by the Ruler of the universe, . . . his heart was profoundly moved, and he determined to fulfill his divinely appointed mission."—*Prophets and Kings,* page 557.

4. What response came from the people? What articles did Cyrus add to assist in the work? Verses 5-11.

NOTE.—"Tidings of this decree reached the farthermost provinces of the king's realm, and everywhere among the children of the dispersion there was great rejoicing. Many, like Daniel, had been studying the prophecies, and had been seeking God for His promised intervention in behalf of Zion. And now their prayers were being answered."—*Prophets and Kings,* pages 558, 559.

Return to Jerusalem

5. What was the number of the whole congregation that returned from captivity with the first company? What was one of the first projects to which they gave time and means? Ezra 2:64-69.

NOTE.—"As speedily as possible, an altar was erected on the site of the ancient altar in the temple court. . . . The setting up of the altar of daily burnt offerings greatly cheered the faithful remnant. Heartily they entered into the preparations necessary for the rebuilding of the temple, gathering courage as these preparations advanced from month to month. . . . With joyous anticipation they looked forward to the time when, with temple rebuilt, they might behold the shining forth of His glory from within."—*Prophets and Kings,* pages 560-563.

6. When the foundation of the temple was laid, what celebration was held? Why did some of the older men weep? Ezra 3:10-13.

NOTE.—"It was natural that sadness should fill the hearts of these aged men, as they thought of the results of long-continued impenitence. Had they and their generation obeyed God, and carried out His purpose for Israel, the temple built by Solomon would not have been destroyed, and the captivity would not have been necessary. But because of ingratitude and disloyalty they had been scattered among the heathen."—*Prophets and Kings*, page 564.

Offers of Assistance

7. Who offered to help rebuild the temple? What argument did they advance as a reason why they should help? What answer did they receive and why? Ezra 4:1-3.

NOTE.—"Had the Jewish leaders accepted this offer of assistance, they would have opened a door for the entrance of idolatry. They discerned the insincerity of the Samaritans."

"There is constant danger that professing Christians will come to think that in order to have influence with worldlings, they must to a certain extent conform to the world. But though such a course may appear to afford great advantages, it always ends in spiritual loss."—*Prophets and Kings*, pages 568, 570.

8. What did the adversaries then do? During the days of Ahasuerus and Artaxerxes what false reports did they make? Verses 4-16

9. What answer came from Artaxerxes? What occurred as a result of these conspiracies? Verses 17-24.

NOTE.—"During the reign of Cambyses, the work on the temple progressed slowly. And during the reign of the false Smerdis (called Artaxerxes in Ezra 4:7), the Samaritans induced the unscrupulous imposter to issue a decree forbidding the Jews to rebuild their temple and city.

"For over a year the temple was neglected, and well-nigh forsaken. The people dwelt in their homes, and strove to attain temporal prosperity; but their situation was deplorable. Work as they might, they did not prosper. The very elements of nature seemed to conspire against them. Because they had let the temple lie waste, the Lord sent upon their substance a wasting drought God had bestowed upon them the fruits of field and garden, the corn and the wine and the oil, as a token of His favor; but because they had used these bountiful gifts so selfishly, the blessings were removed."—*Prophets and Kings*, pages 572, 573.

Attempted Interference Balked

10. When Zerubbabel and Jeshua began to go forward with the temple building, who came and demanded their authority for the work? Ezra 5:1-5.

11. When these officers reported to Darius regarding the progress of the work, what request did they make? Verses 6-17.

12. What was found when search was made for the decree of Cyrus? Ezra 6:1-5.

13. What command was given by the king concerning the work at Jerusalem? What did Tatnai do when he received the command? Verses 6-13.

The Three Decrees

14. How many decrees for the restoration of the temple and of Jerusalem were made, and by whom? Verse 14.

NOTE.—Three decrees were made in connection with the fulfillment of the command to restore the temple and to rebuild Jerusalem. These are (1) the decree of Cyrus for the rebuilding of the house of God, B. C. 536 (Ezra 1:1-4); (2) the decree of Darius for the prosecution of that work, which had been hindered, B. C. 519 (Ezra 6:1-12); and (3) the decree of Artaxerxes to Ezra B. C. 457 (Ezra 7). This final decree made the plan operative and effective, and is the accepted date for the beginning of the 2300-day period of Daniel 9.

15. Where did Ezra go, and who went with him? What special favor did the king grant Ezra? How did Ezra express his gratitude for all these favors? Ezra 7:6-28.

NOTE.—Many of the captive Jews at Babylon remained there following the decree of Cyrus given years before. Artaxerxes now granted permission to those who desired to return to Jerusalem. They were permitted to take gold and silver and freewill offerings and vessels for the temple. Besides this they were given wheat, wine, oil, salt, and money. Permission was also granted to set up magistrates and judges with power to act.

Lesson 9, for August 26, 1944

Rebuilding the Walls of Jerusalem

LESSON SCRIPTURES: Ezra 9; 10; Nehemiah 1 to 4; 6; 12.

MEMORY VERSE: "Then answered I them, and said unto them, The God of heaven He will prosper us; therefore we His servants will arise and build." Neh. 2:20.

STUDY HELP: "Prophets and Kings," pages 618-627, 635-645, 653-660.

Ezra Finds Israel Disobedient

1. When Ezra returned from Babylon, what report did the princes bring concerning the people? How was Ezra affected by this report? Ezra 9:1-4.

NOTE.—"He [Ezra] had seen that if they had obeyed God's command to keep separate from the nations surrounding them, they would have been spared many sad and humiliating experiences. Now when he learned that notwithstanding the lessons of the past, men of prominence had dared transgress the laws given as a safeguard against apostasy, his heart was stirred within him. He thought of God's goodness in again giving His people a foothold in their native land, and he was overwhelmed with righteous indignation and with grief at their ingratitude."—*Prophets and Kings,* page 620.

2. At the hour of the evening sacrifice, what confession did Ezra make to God? How did he recount the mercy and blessing of God? What did he say would be the result of again breaking the commandments and forsaking God? Verses 5-15.

3. After the people were gathered what sin was pointed out? What proclamation was made throughout Judah and Jerusalem? Ezra 10:1-8.

4. What were the people admonished to do? What promises did they make? Verses 9-17.

Nehemiah Comes to Jerusalem

5. When word of the distressing conditions existing in Jerusalem came to Nehemiah, how did it affect him? For what did he pray? Neh. 1:1-4, 11.

NOTE.—"By messengers from Judea, the Hebrew patriot learned that days of trial had come to Jerusalem, the chosen city. The returned exiles were suffering affliction and reproach. The temple and portions of the city had been rebuilt; but the work of restoration was hindered, the temple services were disturbed, and the people kept in constant alarm, by the fact that the walls of the city were still largely in ruins. Overwhelmed with sorrow, Nehemiah could neither eat nor drink; he 'wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted.' " —*Prophets and Kings,* pages 628, 629.

6. When King Artaxerxes saw the sad countenance of Nehemiah, his cupbearer, what inquiry did he make? What was he told? What was Nehemiah's request? Neh. 2:1-5, 7, 8.

7. When Nehemiah reached Jerusalem, what did he secretly do? Verses 12-16.

Nehemiah Leads to Victory in Rebuilding

8. What did Nehemiah immediately urge upon the people? What was their response? Who ridiculed and accused them? What was Nehemiah's courageous reply? Verses 17-20.

NOTE.—"Having shown that he was sustained by the combined authority of the God of Israel and the Persian king, Nehemiah asked the people directly whether they would take advantage of this opportunity, and arise and build the wall.

"The appeal went straight to their hearts. The thought of how Heaven's favor had been manifested toward them, put their fears to shame, and with new courage they said with one voice, 'Let us rise up and build.' 'So they strengthened their hands for this good work.' "—*Prophets and Kings,* page 638.

9. What impressive description is given of the united effort of all the people in response to Nehemiah's appeal to build the wall of Jerusalem? Nehemiah 3.

10. When Sanballat reviled and mocked the Jews, to whom did Nehemiah turn in his distress? While continuing to pray, what work was continued? Neh. 4:1-6.

11. When Sanballat was about to oppose by force of arms, what provision against attack did Nehemiah make? Verses 7-18.

12. When the work was almost completed, what new plan did Sanballat and his associates make to hinder the work? What was Nehemiah's response? Of what did they accuse Nehemiah? Neh. 6:1-9.

13. What new danger now threatened Nehemiah? What did Nehemiah discover concerning this advice from false friends? Verses 10-14.

NOTE.—"Had Nehemiah followed this treacherous counsel, he would have sacrificed his faith in God, and in the eyes of the people he would have appeared cowardly and contemptible. In view of the important work that he had undertaken, and the confidence that he professed to have in the power of God, it would have been altogether inconsistent for him to hide as if in fear. The alarm would have spread among the people, each would have sought his own safety, and the city would have been left unprotected, to fall a prey to its enemies."—*Prophets and Kings,* page 655.

14. When the wall and gates were completed, who officiated at the dedication? Who joined in the dedication? Neh. 12:27, 43.

Lesson 10, for September 2, 1944

Reteaching the Law of God

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Nehemiah 8; 9; 13.

MEMORY VERSE: "So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading." Neh. 8:8.

STUDY HELP: "Prophets and Kings," pages 661-668.

The Reading of the Law

1. At the celebration of the Feast of Trumpets in Jerusalem, what request came to Ezra from the people? Neh. 8:1.

2. Who were included in the congregation? How long did Ezra read? What was the attitude of the people? Verses 2, 3.

NOTE.—"Through the intermarriage of the people with other nations, the Hebrew language had become corrupted, and great care was necessary on the part of the speakers to explain the law in the language of the people, that it might be understood by all. Certain of the priests and Levites united with Ezra in explaining the principles of the law."—*Prophets and Kings*, pages 661, 662.

3. While reading where did Ezra stand? Before reading, what did Ezra do? How did the people respond? Verses 4-7.

4. How did Ezra and those appointed to help, fulfill their duty? Verse 8.

The Effect of Reading the Law

5. What was the effect of the reading upon the people? What counsel was given them? Verses 9-12.

6. On the second day, who came together? Concerning what feast were instructions found? What was done day by day in celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles? Verses 13-18.

7. What special service was held on the twenty-fourth day of the first month? Neh. 9:1-3.

NOTE.—"As they had listened from day to day to the words of the law, the people had been convicted of their transgressions, and of the sins of their nation in past generations. They saw that it was because of a departure from God that His protecting care had been withdrawn, and that the children of Abra-

ham had been scattered in foreign lands; and they determined to seek His mercy, and to pledge themselves to walk in His commandments. Before entering upon this solemn service, held on the second day after the close of the Feast of Tabernacles, they separated themselves from the heathen among them.

"As the people prostrated themselves before the Lord, confessing their sins and pleading for pardon, their leaders encouraged them to believe that God, according to His promise, heard their prayers. They must not only mourn and weep, and repent, but they must believe that God pardoned them. They must show their faith by recounting His mercies and praising Him for His goodness."—*Prophets and Kings,* pages 665, 666.

Reforms Are Inaugurated

8. In establishing the service of the temple, who had been forgotten and neglected? What was done to change the situation? What did the people of Judah do? Neh. 13:10-13.

9. What did Nehemiah see being done on the Sabbath? What steps did he take to stop this evil? Verses 15-19.

NOTE.—"Another result of intercourse with idolaters was a disregard of the Sabbath, the sign distinguishing the Israelites from all other nations as worshipers of the true God. Nehemiah found that heathen merchants and traders from the surrounding country, coming to Jerusalem, had induced many among the Israelites to engage in traffic on the Sabbath. There were some who could not be persuaded to sacrifice principle; but others transgressed, and joined with the heathen in their efforts to overcome the scruples of the more conscientious. Many dared openly to violate the Sabbath."—*Prophets and Kings,* page 671.

10. Where did the merchants and others who sold produce lodge? What threat did Nehemiah make? What was the result? Verses 20, 21.

11. What other evil had crept in among the priests and people? Was Nehemiah able to remedy the situation? Verses 23-30.

NOTE.—"There were some in sacred offices who pleaded for their heathen wives, declaring that they could not bring themselves to separate from them. But no distinction was made; no respect was shown for rank or position. . . .

"How much anguish of soul this needed severity cost the faithful worker for God, the judgment alone will reveal. There was a constant struggle with opposing elements; and only by fasting, humiliation, and prayer, was advancement made. Many who had married idolaters chose to go with them into exile; and these, with those who had been expelled from the congregation, joined the Samaritans."—*Prophets and Kings,* page 674.

12. What would have kept Israel from idolatry?

Answer: "The Lord designed that by a faithful observance of the Sabbath command, Israel should continually be reminded of their accountability to Him as their Creator and their Redeemer. While they should keep the Sabbath in the proper spirit, idolatry could not exist; but should the claims of this precept of the Decalogue be set aside as no longer binding, the Creator would be forgotten, and men would worship other gods."—*Prophets and Kings,* page 182.

13. What work is to be done by God's people in the last days?

Answer: "God's memorial, the seventh-day Sabbath, the sign of His work in creating the world, has been displaced by the man of sin. God's people have a special work to do in repairing the breach that has been made in His law; and the nearer we approach the end, the more urgent this work becomes. All who love God will show that they bear His sign by keeping His commandments."—*Testimonies,* vol. 6, p. 265.

Lesson 11, for September 9, 1944

Looking for the Deliverer

MEMORY VERSE: "I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." Gen. 3:15.

STUDY HELP: "Prophets and Kings," pages 681-692.

From Ancient Days a Deliverer Predicted

1. To whom was the first promise made concerning the coming Deliverer? Gen. 3:15.

NOTE.—"The first intimation of such a hope was given to Adam and Eve in the sentence pronounced upon the serpent in Eden, when the Lord declared to Satan in their hearing, 'I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.' "—*Prophets and Kings,* page 681.

"Heavenly angels more fully opened to our first parents the plan that had been devised for their salvation. Adam and his companion were assured that notwithstanding their great sin, they were not to be abandoned to the control of Satan. The Son of God had offered to atone, with His own life, for their transgression."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 66.

2. Who was to receive a blessing through the seed of Abraham? Gen. 12:3.

NOTE.—"The hope of Israel was embodied in the promise made at the time of the call of Abraham, and afterward repeated again and again to his posterity. . . . When, at last, the Saviour Himself walked and talked among the sons of men, He bore witness to the Jews of the patriarch's bright hope of

deliverance through the coming of a Redeemer. 'Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day,' Christ declared; 'and he saw it, and was glad.' "—*Prophets and Kings,* page 683.

3. When on his deathbed Jacob blessed his sons, how did he express his hope in a Deliverer? Gen. 49:10.

NOTE.—The blessed hope was in Jacob's mind as he lay on his deathbed and gave to his sons the parting blessing. He prophesied that through Judah should Shiloh come. The lion, king of beasts, was a fitting symbol of the tribe through which the "Son of David" would come, the "Lion of the tribe of Judah" (Rev. 5:5), before whom all shall bow and to whom all will eventually give homage.

4. How is the Redeemer referred to in Deuteronomy? What interpretation does the apostle Paul give to the Rock that guided Israel? Deut. 32:18; 1 Cor. 10:4.

5. What prophecy did Moses make concerning the coming of Jesus? How was it fulfilled? Deut. 18:18, 19; Acts 3:22-24.

The Sanctuary Service a Constant Reminder

6. What services of the children of Israel constantly foreshadowed the coming of the Deliverer? Heb. 9:11, 12.

NOTE.—"In patriarchal times the sacrificial offerings connected with divine worship constituted a perpetual reminder of the coming of a Saviour; and thus it was with the entire ritual of the sanctuary services throughout Israel's history. In the ministration of the tabernacle, and of the temple that afterward took its place, the people were taught each day, by means of types and shadows, the great truths relative to the advent of Christ as Redeemer, Priest, and King; and once each year their minds were carried forward to the closing events of the great controversy between Christ and Satan, the final purification of the universe from sin and sinners."—*Prophets and Kings,* pages 684, 685.

7. What prophecy of the Saviour was given by Balaam? Num. 24:17.

NOTE.—In Matthew 2:1, 2, 9, 10 is recorded the fulfillment of this prophecy.

8. How does the psalmist refer to the rejection of the Redeemer when He should appear? How does he speak of the work of the Redeemer while among men? Ps. 118:22, 23; 40:6-10.

9. How definitely are the circumstances of His birth predicted in the Old Testament scriptures?

Answer: The promise, Isa. 9:6, 7. The mother, a virgin, Isa. 7:14. Place of birth, Micah 5:2. Time of birth, Dan. 9:24, 25. Fulfillment, Matt. 1: 21-23; 2:1.

10. What prophecy was made concerning the forerunner of the Messiah? In whom was this prophecy fulfilled? Isa. 40:3; John 1:19-23.

NOTE.—When the Sanhedrin sent a delegation to confer with John at the river Jordan, John interpreted the prophecy made by Isaiah concerning his work. In answer to their questions John replied, "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness." The message of John was to prepare the people for Christ, and had their minds not been blinded by national pride and false traditions they would have recognized the fulfillment of the prophecy.

11. How clearly was the triumphal entry of the Messiah into Jerusalem foretold? Where is the account of the fulfillment recorded? Zech. 9:9; Matt. 21:1-5.

12. What prophecy was made of His public ministry? Under what conditions was it fulfilled? Isa. 61:1; Luke 4:16-18, 21.

13. By what names does the prophet Jeremiah refer to Christ? Jer. 23:5, 6.

14. How did Isaiah speak of Christ and His work? Isa. 9:6, 7.

15. What prophecy comprehensively relates the circumstances of His rejection, sufferings, and death? Isa. 53:1-9.

NOTE.—"The steadfast among the Jewish nation, descendants of that holy line through whom a knowledge of God had been preserved, strengthened their faith by dwelling on these and similar passages. With exceeding joy they read how the Lord would anoint One 'to preach good tidings unto the meek,' 'to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives,' and to declare 'the acceptable year of the Lord.' Yet their hearts were filled with sadness as they thought of the sufferings He must endure in order to fulfill the divine purpose. With deep humiliation of soul they traced the words in the prophetic roll."—*Prophets and Kings,* pages 689, 690.

Lesson 12, for September 16, 1944

"This Is Indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the World"

MEMORY VERSE: "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with Him." Acts 10:38.

STUDY HELP: "Prophets and Kings," pages 692-702.

The Messiah's Birth Announced

1. Who announced to Joseph the expected birth of the Redeemer? What prophecy was thus fulfilled? Matt. 1:20-23; Isa. 7:14.

2. How does the name "Jesus" represent His special work? Matt. 1:21.

3. To whom was His imminent birth revealed? Luke 1:34, 35, 41-43; Matt. 1:20, 21.

4. At His birth, to how large a circle was His coming made known? Luke 2:8-18; Matt. 2:1, 2.

5. To whom was His identity made known soon after His birth?

Answer: Simeon, Luke 2:25-32; Anna, verses 36, 38.

NOTE.—Had the priests and rulers studied the prophecies of Christ's first advent with open minds and hearts, they would have known also, for they had the prophetic books as had Simeon and Anna. The shepherds understood. The wise men from their study were looking for His star and were ready to accept Him.

Christ's Childhood and Youth

6. What is said of the childhood and youth of Christ? Luke 2:40, 51, 52.

NOTE.—"As He grew in wisdom and stature, Jesus increased in favor with God and man. He drew the sympathy of all hearts by showing Himself capable of sympathizing with all. The atmosphere of hope and courage that surrounded Him made Him a blessing in every home. And often in the synagogue on the Sabbath day He was called upon to read the lesson from the prophets, and the hearts of the hearers thrilled as a new light shone out from the familiar words of the sacred text.

"Yet Jesus shunned display. During all the years of His stay in Nazareth, He made no exhibition of His miraculous power. He sought no high position

and assumed no titles. His quiet and simple life, and even the silence of the Scriptures concerning His early years, teach an important lesson. The more quiet and simple the life of the child,—the more free from artificial excitement, and the more in harmony with nature,—the more favorable is it to physical and mental vigor and to spiritual strength."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 74.

7. How old was Jesus at the time of His baptism? When did He begin His ministry? Matt. 3:13-17; Mark 1:14; Luke 3:23.

NOTE.—Christ was about thirty years old (Luke 3:23) at the time of His baptism, which was A. D. 27. Christ was born three or four years before the beginning of the Christian Era, that is, before the year marked A. D. 1. He was therefore thirty years of age in A. D. 27, the date of His baptism.

To a World in Darkness

8. What was the condition in the world at the time of Christ? What was the burden of His message? Matt. 4:16, 17.

Answer: Repentance and reformation.

NOTE.—"The deception of sin had reached its height. All the agencies for depraving the souls of men had been put in operation. The Son of God, looking upon the world, beheld suffering and misery. With pity He saw how men had become victims of Satanic cruelty. He looked with compassion upon those who were being corrupted, murdered, and lost. They had chosen a ruler who chained them to his car as captives. Bewildered and deceived, they were moving on in gloomy procession toward eternal ruin,—to death in which is no hope of life, toward night to which comes no morning. Satanic agencies were incorporated with men. The bodies of human beings, made for the dwelling-place of God, had become the habitation of demons. The senses, the nerves, the passions, the organs of men, were worked by supernatural agencies in the indulgence of the vilest lust. The very stamp of demons was impressed upon the countenances of men. Human faces reflected the expression of the legions of evil with which they were possessed. Such was the prospect upon which the world's Redeemer looked. What a spectacle for Infinite Purity to behold!"—*The Desire of Ages,* page 36.

9. In His ministry what work are we specifically told that He constantly did? Matt. 4:23; Acts 10:38.

NOTE.—"Our Lord Jesus Christ came to this world as the unwearied servant of man's necessity. He 'took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses,' that He might minister to every need of humanity. The burden of disease and wretchedness and sin He came to remove. It was His mission to bring to men complete restoration; He came to give them health and peace and perfection of character.

"Varied were the circumstances and needs of those who besought His aid, and none who came to Him went away unhelped. From Him flowed a stream of healing power, and in body and mind and soul men were made whole."—*The Ministry of Healing,* page 17.

10. What did Jesus instruct His disciples to teach? What were they to do? Matt. 10:7, 8.

Christ's Love for Men

11. What was Christ's attitude toward those who followed Him? John 13:1; 14:21; 17:26.

NOTE.—"His promise to those loved ones whom He leaves on earth is, 'I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.' Upon reaching the Mount of Olives, Jesus led the way across the summit, to the vicinity of Bethany. Here He paused, and the disciples gathered about Him. Beams of light seemed to radiate from His countenance as He looked lovingly upon them. He upbraided them not for their faults and failures; words of the deepest tenderness were the last that fell upon their ears from the lips of their Lord."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 830.

12. Although Christ was deserted even by His disciples at the time of His betrayal (Matt. 26:56, 75) how was His love demonstrated? John 19:25-27.

13. What promise concerning the Holy Spirit did Christ make to His disciples while still with them? John 16:7, 13.

14. What conditions are essential to the presence of Christ by the Spirit in our hearts and lives? John 14:21.

NOTE.—"All true obedience comes from the heart. It was heart work with Christ. And if we consent, He will so identify Himself with our thoughts and aims, so blend our hearts and minds into conformity to His will, that when obeying Him we shall be but carrying out our own impulses. The will, refined and sanctified, will find its highest delight in doing His service. When we know God as it is our privilege to know Him, our life will be a life of continual obedience. Through an appreciation of the character of Christ, through communion with God, sin will become hateful to us."—*The Desires of Ages,* page 668.

15. What commission did Christ give to the church? What power is promised the church for this work? Matt. 28:18-20.

NOTE.—"From that scene of heavenly joy, there comes back to us on earth the echo of Christ's own wonderful words, 'I ascend unto My Father, and your Father; and to My God and your God.' The family of heaven and the family of earth are one. For us our Lord ascended, and for us He lives. 'Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them.' "—*The Desire of Ages,* Page 835.

Lesson 13, for September 23, 1944

The Hope of His People Israel

MEMORY VERSE: "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ." Titus 2:13.

A Second Coming Foretold

1. In the days of King David, what promise did God make to him concerning the establishment of his house? 2 Sam. 7:12, 13.

NOTE.—The prophet here speaks of the coming of a Personage, of the Seed of David, who would establish the throne of David "forever." Not until Jesus comes into His everlasting kingdom (see Daniel 7:13, 14), will this prophecy be completely fulfilled. Then to Jesus, the Son of David, and the Son of God, will be given the kingdom and the dominion and the glory, which shall never pass away.

2. How does the psalmist describe the coming of Christ in glory? Who does he say will be gathered at that time? Who is declared to be the judge? Ps. 50:3-6.

3. How does Isaiah say the Lord will deal with the earth and transgressors at His coming? Isa. 13:6, 9; 26:21.

4. In what prophetic words does Ezekiel tell of the overturning of the throne of David? Ezek. 21:25-27.

5. What will be the lot of the ransomed in that hour? How will they express the feelings of their hearts? Isa. 35:4, 10.

NOTE.—"By the people of God a voice, clear and melodious, is heard, saying 'Look up,' and lifting their eyes to the heavens, they behold the bow of promise. The black, angry clouds that covered the firmament are parted, and like Stephen they look up steadfastly into heaven, and see the glory of God, and the Son of man seated upon His throne. In His divine form they discern the marks of His humiliation; and from His lips they hear the request, presented before His Father and the holy angels, 'I will that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am.' Again a voice, musical and triumphant, is heard, saying: 'They come! they come! holy, harmless, and undefiled. They have kept the word of My patience; they shall walk among the angels;' and the pale, quivering lips of those who have held fast their faith, utter a shout of victory."—*The Great Controversy*, page 636.

6. How definitely does Daniel tell the time when we may look for the setting up of Christ's kingdom? What does he say of Christ's kingdom? Dan. 2:44.

The Hope of His Appearing

7. While the Saviour was on earth, what outstanding hope did He set before His followers? John 14:1-3.

8. By what means did Christ in His teaching endeavor to implant in the minds of His hearers the message of His second coming?

Answer: By parables: The ten virgins, Matt. 25:1-13; the talents, verses 14-30; the tares, Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43; the net, verses 47-50; the laborers in the vineyard, Matt. 20:1-16; and others.

9. How did Christ seek to impress upon His disciples the certainty of His second coming? Matthew 24.

His Disciples Constantly Mentioned It

10. In his letters to the church of Thessalonica, what did Paul want them to know? 1 Thess. 4:13-17.

11. How does Peter describe the day of Christ's second appearing? 2 Peter 3:9, 10.

12. Following the three angels' messages as recorded by John, how does he describe the coming of Christ? Rev. 14:14-16.

13. What comforting message was given to the sorrowing disciples at the time of Christ's ascension? Acts 1:9-11.

14. By what indisputable witnesses is the second coming of Christ assured?

Answer: Prophets (Dan. 12:1, 2; Job 19:25-27); apostles (1 Thess. 4:15-17; 2 Peter 3:1-14); Christ (John 14:1-3; Matt. 24:3-31); and angels (Acts 1:10, 11).

NOTE.—Through all the Bible the second appearing of Christ is clearly taught. The prophets, who foretold His first coming, also tell of His second appearing. His disciples, who listened to His instruction and labored with Him, taught that He would come again. Christ Himself definitely promised that He would come again.

Lesson 14, for September 30, 1944

The Restoration of the First Dominion

MEMORY VERSE: "Israel shall be saved in the Lord with an everlasting salvation: ye shall not be ashamed nor confounded world without end." Isa. 45:17.

STUDY HELPS: "Prophets and Kings," pages 722-733; "The Great Controversy," pages 662-678 (new edition, pages 745-762).

The First Dominion

1. What was the state of the earth when first created? What exalted place was given man? How did he lose his Eden home? Gen. 1:25-31; 3:6, 16-19.

NOTE.—"After their sin, Adam and Eve were no longer to dwell in Eden. They earnestly entreated that they might remain in the home of their innocence and joy. They confessed that they had forfeited all right to that happy abode, but pledged themselves for the future to yield strict obedience to God. But they were told that their nature had become depraved by sin; they had lessened their strength to resist evil, and had opened the way for Satan to gain more ready access to them. In their innocence they had yielded to temptation; and now, in a state of conscious guilt, they would have less power to maintain their integrity."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 61.

2. With whom did the rebellion against God begin? How will it end? 1 John 3:8; Rev. 21:1, 4.

NOTE.—"For six thousand years, Satan's work of rebellion has 'made the earth to tremble.' He has 'made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof.' And 'he opened not the house of his prisoners.' For six thousand years his prison house has received God's people, and he would have held them captive forever, but Christ has broken his bonds, and set the prisoners free."—*The Great Controversy,* page 659.

3. What occurs when Christ comes the second time?

Answer: Satan is bound. Rev. 20:1-3. The righteous dead are raised to life and the living righteous are translated. 1 Thess. 4:16, 17. The wicked living are destroyed by the brightness of Christ's coming. 2 Thess. 2:7, 8.

The Millennial Period

4. What takes place during the thousand years? Rev. 20:4; 1 Cor. 6:1-3.

5. At the close of the thousand years what takes place? Rev. 20:5, 7-9.

NOTE.—"At the close of the thousand years, Christ again returns to the earth. He is accompanied by the host of the redeemed, and attended by a retinue of angels. As He descends in terrific majesty, He bids the wicked dead arise to receive their doom. . . . Now Satan prepares for a last mighty struggle for the supremacy. While deprived of his power, and cut off from his work

of deception, the prince of evil was miserable and dejected; but as the wicked dead are raised, and he sees the vast multitudes upon his side, his hopes revive, and he determines not to yield the great controversy. He will marshal all the armies of the lost under his banner, and through them endeavor to execute his plans."—*The Great Controversy*, pages 662, 663.

Sin Ended Forever

6. What becomes of Satan and those who have followed him in continued rebellion? Rev. 20:10, 14, 15.

NOTE.—"The wicked receive their recompense in the earth. They 'shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts.' Some are destroyed as in a moment, while others suffer many days. All are punished 'according to their deeds.' The sins of the righteous having been transferred to Satan, he is made to suffer not only for his own rebellion, but for all the sins which he has caused God's people to commit. His punishment is to be far greater than that of those whom he has deceived. After all have perished who fell by his deceptions, he is still to live and suffer on. In the cleansing flames the wicked are at last destroyed, root and branch,—Satan the root, his followers the branches. The full penalty of the law has been visited; the demands of justice have been met; and heaven and earth, beholding, declare the righteousness of Jehovah."—*The Great Controversy*, page 673.

7. When Satan and those who have followed him are destroyed, what universal chorus of praise will be heard? Isa. 14:7; Rev. 5:13.

NOTE.—"Satan's work of ruin is forever ended. For six thousand years he has wrought his will, filling the earth with woe, and causing grief throughout the universe. The whole creation has groaned and travailed together in pain. Now God's creatures are forever delivered from his presence and temptations. 'The whole earth is at rest, and is quiet: they [the righteous] break forth into singing.' And a shout of praise and triumph ascends from the whole loyal universe."—*The Great Controversy*, page 673.

8. What promise did God make to Abraham? How much did this promise comprehend? Did Abraham receive the fulfillment of this promise? Gen. 13:14-17; Rom. 4:13; Acts 7:5.

9. What was shown the apostle John regarding the earth? Rev. 21:1.

NOTE.—"The fire that consumes the wicked purifies the earth. Every trace of the curse is swept away. No eternally burning hell will keep before the ransomed the fearful consequences of sin."—*The Great Controversy*, page 674.

10. What does Isaiah say the redeemed will do in their beautiful inheritance? Isa. 65:21-23.

11. How readily will their needs be supplied? Verse 24.

12. What peaceful condition will then reign throughout the earth? Verse 25.

NOTE.—"Pain cannot exist in the atmosphere of heaven. There will be no more tears, no funeral trains, no badges of mourning. . . . In the city of God 'there shall be no night.' None will need or desire repose. There will be no weariness in doing the will of God and offering praise to His name. We shall ever feel the freshness of the morning, and shall ever be far from its close."—*The Great Controversy,* page 676.

13. What seasons of worship will be observed in the new earth? Isa. 35:10; 66:22, 23.

NOTE.—"There the redeemed shall 'know, even as also they are known.' The loves and sympathies which God Himself has planted in the soul, shall there find truest and sweetest exercise. The pure communion with holy beings, the harmonious social life with the blessed angels and with the faithful ones of all ages, who have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb, the sacred ties that bind together 'the whole family in heaven and earth,'—these help to constitute the happiness of the redeemed."—*The Great Controversy,* page 677.

14. What provision has been made for the mental and spiritual development of the inhabitants of the restored kingdom?

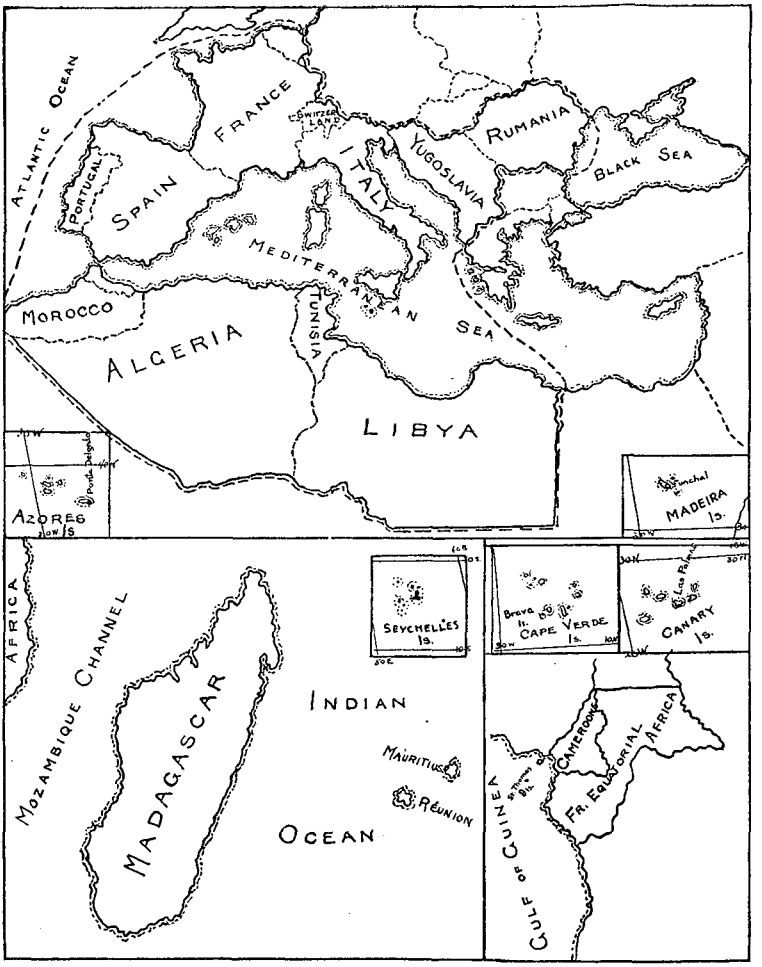
Answer: "All the treasures of the universe will be open to the study of God's redeemed. Unfettered by mortality, they wing their tireless flight to worlds afar,—worlds that thrilled with sorrow at the spectacle of human woe, and rang with songs of gladness at the tidings of a ransomed soul. With unutterable delight the children of earth enter into the joy and the wisdom of unfallen beings. They share the treasures of knowledge and understanding gained through ages upon ages in contemplation of God's handiwork. With undimmed vision they gaze upon the glory of creation,—suns and stars and systems, all in their appointed order circling the throne of Deity. Upon all things, from the least to the greatest, the Creator's name is written, and in all are the riches of His power displayed.

"And the years of eternity, as they roll, will bring richer and still more glorious revelations of God and of Christ. As knowledge is progressive, so will love, reverence, and happiness increase."—*The Great Controversy,* pages 677, 678.

Sabbath School Lessons for the Fourth Quarter

The Sabbath school lessons for the fourth quarter are entitled "Lessons From the Minor Prophets." The first lesson, for October 7, deals with "Hosea—the Prophet of Love." The memory verse is Hosea 14:4. No special study help is given for this quarter's lessons. For anyone not provided with a Lesson Quarterly for the first Sabbath, we give the following:

Ques. 1: Hosea 1:1.
Ques. 2: Hosea 11:1, 3, 4.
Ques. 3: Hosea 11:2; 8:14, first clause.
Ques. 4: Hosea 4:6; 13:6.
Ques. 5: Hosea 4:1, 2, 12, 13.
Ques. 6: Hosea 7:8.
Ques. 7: Hosea 6:4; 7:9.
Ques. 8: Hosea 9:7, first clause, 17; 13:16.
Ques. 9: Hosea 4:17.
Ques. 10: Hosea 11:8, 9.
Ques. 11: Hosea 13:9, 10, first part.
Ques. 12: Hosea 14:1-3.
Ques. 13: Hosea 14:4-8.
Ques. 14: Hosea 14:9.



THE "OVERFLOW" OFFERING—September 30. This quarter is unique in that it has fourteen Sabbaths. But the overflow offering, regularly taken on the thirteenth Sabbath of normal quarters, will be taken on the last Sabbath of the quarter, which is September 30. The fourth quarter has thirteen Sabbaths and not twelve as usually happens when preceded by a fourteen Sabbath quarter. In other words, 1944 has fifty-three Sabbaths instead of the normal fifty-two. The overflow offering is to be devoted to the mission fields of the Southern European Division. The last overflow offering to Southern Europe amounted to $8,118.75, and was used to erect modest church buildings in Portuguese Guinea in Africa, the Azores, Madeira, Cape Verde, and St. Thomas Islands. For the past two years the overflow offerings have far exceeded what was given in 1940, so we confidently expect a generous gift on September 30.

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