SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON QUARTERLY

SENIOR DIVISION

F. B. Jensen

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THE APOSTLE PETER AND HIS EPISTLES - Part I

No. 227, FIRST QUARTER, 1952

THIRTEENTH SABBATH OFFERING, MARCH 29, 1952, NORTHERN EUROPEAN DIVISION

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DAILY LESSON STUDY PLEDGE

As one who greatly desires to improve his 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.

Name .....

Place a check mark in each space below for the days you have studied.

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

"Let the Sabbath-school lesson be learned, not by a hasty glance at the lesson scripture on Sabbath morning, but by careful study for the next week on Sabbath afternoon, with daily review or illustration during the week. Thus the lesson will become fixed in the memory, a treasure never to be wholly lost."—"Education," pages 251, 252.

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Sabbath School Lesson Quarterly

THE APOSTLE PETER AND HIS EPISTLES

PART I

Lesson 1, for January 5, 1952

The Conversion of Simon Peter

LESSON SCRIPTURES: John 1:35-42; Matthew 16:13-23.

MEMORY VERSE: "Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." Matt. 16:16.

STUDY HELPS: "The Desire of Ages," pages 132-143; "Education," pages 88, 185, 186; "Steps to Christ," chapter 1; "Testimonies," vol. 4, pp. 485-489.

AIM: To arrive at an understanding of Peter's conversion. This will enable us to understand our own conversion.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. General survey of the lesson.
2. Question 1-4; memorize Matt. 16:16.
3. Questions 5-9.
4. Questions 11, 12; read chapter 1, "Steps to Christ."
5. Read "The Desire of Ages" assignment.
6. Read "Education" assignment.
7. Read "Testimonies" assignment; review the lesson.

Peter's Early Life and Character

1. Who were members of Peter's family, according to New Testament records?

ANSWER: His father, Jona, John 1:42; his brother, Andrew, John 1:40; his wife and wife's mother, Mark 1:30.

2. Where was Peter's home? What was his occupation? John 1:44; Mark 1:16.

3. What indications do we have of his spiritual interests? John 1:38-41.

NOTE.—The fact that Peter lived in Bethsaida of Galilee, and yet was with his brother Andrew attending the Baptist's revival in Judea on the banks of the Jordan (Matt. 3:1, 5), would indicate that he was among those who "were waiting for the consolation of Israel" (Luke 2:25). When Andrew said to Peter, "We have found the Messias," it would seem that their attention had been caught by the preaching of John the Baptist and that they were looking for Him.

4. What were some of the weaknesses of Peter's character?

(*a*) Self-confidence	Luke 22:33.
(*b*) Boastfulness	Mark 14:29.
(*c*) Self-interest	Matt. 19:27
(*d*) Disloyalty	Mark 14:66-68
(*e*) Deceitfulness	Mark 14:70, 71 (See *The Desire of Ages,* page 712.)
(*f*) Impulsiveness	John 18:10.

NOTE.—"Before his fall, Peter was always speaking unadvisedly, from the impulse of the moment. He was always ready to correct others, and to express his mind, before he had a clear comprehension of himself or of what he had to say."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 812.

Peter Meets Jesus

5. Whom did God use to win the heart of Peter? John 1:40-42, first part.

NOTE.—"Andrew sought to impart the joy that filled his heart. Going in search of his brother Simon, he cried, 'We have found the Messias.' Simon waited for no second bidding. He also had heard the preaching of John the Baptist, and he hastened to the Saviour."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 139.

6. In what way did Jesus manifest divine insight in reading Peter's heart? John 1:42.

NOTE.—"The eye of Christ rested upon him, reading his character and his life history. His impulsive nature, his loving, sympathetic heart, his ambition and self-confidence, the history of his fall, his repentance, his labors, and his martyr death—the Saviour read it all, and He said, 'Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.' "—*The Desire of Ages,* page 139.

Peter's Confession

7. What varied opinions were held concerning Jesus? Matt. 16:13, 14.

NOTE.—"Sadly the disciples were forced to acknowledge that Israel had failed to recognize their Messiah."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 411.

8. What searching question did Jesus ask, and what was Peter's positive reply? Matt. 16:15, 16.

NOTE.—"We may rest fully assured that these glowing words of Simon Peter went up, like fragrant incense, to the throne of God, and refreshed the

heart of the One who sat there. There is nothing in all the world so precious to God as a heart that, in any measure, appreciates Christ. Let us never forget this."—C. H. Mackintosh, *Simon Peter,* page 32.

9. Who was the source of Peter's revelation? Matt. 16:17.

Christ the Foundation of the Church

10. What fundamental scriptural truth is revealed in Christ's reply to Peter? Matt. 16:18; Deut. 32:4; 1 Cor. 3:11; 10:4; Eph. 2:19-22.

NOTE.—"The word Peter signifies a stone,—a rolling stone. Peter was not the rock upon which the church was founded. The gates of hell did prevail against him when he denied his Lord with cursing and swearing. The church was built upon One against whom the gates of hell could not prevail. Centuries before the Saviour's advent Moses had pointed to the Rock of Israel's salvation. The psalmist had sung of 'the Rock of my strength.' Isaiah had written, 'Thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation.' Peter himself, writing by inspiration, applies this prophecy to Jesus."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 412, 413.

11. What assurance did Jesus give regarding the eventual triumph of His church? Matt. 16:18, last part.

NOTE.—"The church is God's fortress, His city of refuge, which He holds in a revolted world. Any betrayal of the church is treachery to Him who has bought mankind with the blood of His only-begotten Son. . . . He has sent forth His angels to minister to His church, and the gates of hell have not been able to prevail against His people."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 11.

12. What authority did Christ confer on the church? Matt. 16:19.

NOTE.—" 'The keys of the kingdom of heaven' are the words of Christ. All the words of Holy Scripture are His, and are here included. These words have power to open and to shut heaven. They declare the conditions upon which men are received or rejected. Thus the work of those who preach God's word is a savor of life unto life or of death unto death. Theirs is a mission weighted with eternal results.

"The Saviour did not commit the work of the gospel to Peter individually. At a later time, repeating the words that were spoken to Peter, He applied them directly to the church. And the same in substance was spoken also to the Twelve as representatives of the body of believers. If Jesus had delegated any special authority to one of the disciples above the others, we should not find them so often contending as to who should be the greatest." —*The Desire of Ages,* page 414.

Lesson 2, for January 12, 1952

Simon Peter's Call to the Ministry

LESSON SCRIPTURES: Luke 5:1-11; 9:27-37.

MEMORY VERSE: "Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men. And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed Him." Luke 5:10, 11.

STUDY HELPS: "The Desire of Ages," pages 244, 251, 419-425; "Steps to Christ," chapter 2.

AIM: To lead us to forsake all and follow Jesus.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. General survey of the lesson.
2. Questions 1-4; memorize Luke 5: 10, 11.
3. Questions 5-8.
4. Questions 9-12.
5. Questions 13, 14; read "The Desire of Ages," pages 244, 251.
6. Read "The Desire of Ages," pages 419-425.
7. Read chapter 2, "Steps to Christ;" review the lesson.

1. What did Jesus request of Peter as they stood by the lake of Gennesaret? Luke 5:1-3.

NOTE.—"What a scene was this for angels to contemplate; their glorious Commander, sitting in a fisherman's boat, swayed to and fro by the restless waves, and proclaiming the good news of salvation to the listening throng that were pressing down to the water's edge! . . . Every message from His lips came to some soul as the word of eternal life."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 244, 245.

2. What further request did Jesus make to Peter? Luke 5:4.

3. After acknowledging a night of failure, what response did Peter make? Luke 5:5.

NOTE.—"Night was the only favorable time for fishing with nets in the clear waters of the lake. After toiling all night without success, it seemed hopeless to cast the net by day; but Jesus had given the command, and love for their Master moved the disciples to obey. Simon and his brother together let down the net."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 245, 246.

4. How was his obedience rewarded? Luke 5:6, 7.

5. How did this miracle affect the conscience of Peter? Luke 5:8.

NOTE.—"This miracle, above any other he had ever witnessed, was to him a manifestation of divine power. In Jesus he saw One who held all nature under His control. The presence of divinity revealed his own unholiness. Love for his Master, shame for his own unbelief, gratitude for the condescension of Christ, above all, the sense of his uncleanness in the presence of

infinite purity, overwhelmed him. While his companions were securing the contents of the net, Peter fell at the Saviour's feet, exclaiming, 'Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.' "—*The Desire of Ages,* page 246.

6. How does an Old Testament character record a comparable experience? Isa. 6:5, 7.

NOTE.—"When Isaiah beheld the glory of the Lord, he exclaimed, 'Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.' Humanity, with its weakness and sin, was brought in contrast with the perfection of divinity, and he felt altogether deficient and unholy. Thus it has been with all who have been granted a view of God's greatness and majesty."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 246.

The Call and Response

7. With what assuring words did Jesus reply to Peter's confession of his sinfulness? Luke 5:10; Matt. 4:19.

NOTE.—" 'Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men.' Such was the grace that shone upon the soul of Peter. It removed his guilt, hushed his fears, and filled him with joy and peace in believing. Thus it is in every case. Divine pardon follows human confession—follows it with marvelous rapidity. 'I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord: and Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.' God delights to pardon. It is the joy of His loving heart to cancel our guilt, and fill our souls with His own blessed peace, and to make us the messengers of His grace to others."—C. H. Mackintosh, *Simon Peter,* page 23.

8. What was the response of Peter and his companions to the call of the Master? Luke 5:11.

Peter's Misunderstanding of Christ's Mission

9. What experience indicates that Peter's knowledge of the mystery of the cross was very incomplete? Matt. 16:21-23.

NOTE.—"The disciples still expected Christ to reign as a temporal prince. . . . That the hatred of the priests and rabbis would never be overcome, that Christ would be rejected by His own nation, condemned as a deceiver, and crucified as a malefactor,—such a thought the disciples had never entertained."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 415.

10. What indicates that Peter still failed to comprehend what Jesus was trying to teach him? Luke 9:33; Mark 9:5, 6.

NOTE.—"The disciples do not yet comprehend the scene; but they rejoice that the patient Teacher, the meek and lowly One, who has wandered

to and fro a helpless stranger, is honored by the favored ones of heaven. They believe that Elijah has come to announce the Messiah's reign, and that the kingdom of Christ is about to be set up on the earth. . . . The disciples are confident that Moses and Elijah have been sent to protect their Master, and to establish His authority as King."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 422.

11. What caused the disciples to be afraid, and what divine announcement did they hear? Luke 9:34, 35.

NOTE.—"Failing to watch and pray, they had not received that which God desired to give them,—a knowledge of the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. . . . Yet they received great light. They were assured that all heaven knew of the sin of the Jewish nation in rejecting Christ. They were given a clearer insight into the work of the Redeemer. They saw with their eyes and heard with their ears things that were beyond the comprehension of man. They were 'eyewitnesses of His Majesty' (2 Peter 1:16), and they realized that Jesus was indeed the Messiah, to whom patriarchs and prophets had witnessed, and that He was recognized as such by the heavenly universe."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 425.

12. What specific predictions did Jesus continue to make, and how were they received by the disciples? Mark 9:31, 32.

13. What attitude of the disciples led Jesus to ask them an embarrassing question, and what did they answer? Matt. 9:33, 34.

14. What basic principle of Christian ministry does Jesus set forth? Mark 9:35-37; Matt. 16:24.

Lesson 3, for January 19, 1952

Peter's Faith Tested

LESSON SCRIPTURES: John 6:1-15; Matthew 14:22-30.

MEMORY VERSE: "We believe and are sure that Thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God." John 6:69.

STUDY HELPS: "The Desire of Ages," pages 377-382; "Steps to Christ," chapter 6.

AIM: To teach us the necessity of exercising faith.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. General survey of the lesson.
2. Questions 1, 2; memorize John 6:69.
3. Questions 3-5.
4. Questions 6, 7.
5. Questions 8-12.
6. Read "The Desire of Ages," assignment.
7. Read chapter 6, "Steps to Christ;" review the lesson.

The Storm on the Lake

1. After Jesus had fed the multitude, what did He bid the disciples do, and where did He go? Matt. 14:21-23.

2. Through what experience were the disciples passing while Jesus was absent from them? Matt. 14:24.

3. In what miraculous way did Jesus return to His disciples, and how were they affected? Matt. 14:25, 26.

4. What comforting word did Jesus speak to His disciples? How did Peter's impulsive nature respond? Matt. 14:27, 28.

5. What did Jesus' bidding enable Peter to do? Matt. 14:29.

6. What was the cause of Peter's failure? Matt. 14:30, first part.

NOTE.—"Looking unto Jesus, Peter walks securely; but as in self-satisfaction he glances back toward his companions in the boat, his eyes are turned from the Saviour. The wind is boisterous. The waves roll high, and come directly between him and the Master; and he is afraid. For a moment Christ is hidden from his view, and his faith gives way. He begins to sink. But while the billows talk with death, Peter lifts his eyes from the angry waters, and fixing them upon Jesus, cries, 'Lord, save me.' "—*The Desire of Ages,* page 381.

7. How did Jesus respond to Peter's despairing cry for help? Matt. 14:31.

NOTE.—"Jesus read the character of His disciples. He knew how sorely their faith was to be tried. In this incident on the sea He desired to reveal to Peter his own weakness,—to show that his safety was in constant dependence upon divine power. Amid the storms of temptation he could walk safely only as in utter self-distrust he should rely upon the Saviour."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 382.

Testing Truths

8. What important truth did Jesus set forth at Capernaum the day following the feeding of the five thousand? John 6:22-26, 31-35, 48-51, 58.

9. How did the multitude react to this wonderful discourse?

ANSWER: There was	(*a*) Discussion	John 6:28, 30, 31
	(*b*) Dissatisfaction	Verses 41, 42
	(*c*) Disagreement	Verse 52
	(*d*) Desertion	Verses 60, 61, 66

10. What did many of the disciples do at that time? John 6:66.

11. What question did Jesus put to the Twelve? How did Peter reply? John 6:67-69.

NOTE.—" 'To whom shall we go?' Not from the teaching of Christ, His lessons of love and mercy, to the darkness of unbelief, the wickedness of the world. While the Saviour was forsaken by many who had witnessed His wonderful works, Peter expressed the faith of the disciples,—'Thou art that Christ.' The very thought of losing this anchor of their souls filled them with fear and pain. To be destitute of a Saviour was to be adrift on a dark and stormy sea."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 393.

12. What should be our attitude when we, like Peter, may be tempted to draw away from the Saviour? Heb. 10:23, 35-39.

NOTE.—"Those who fail to realize their constant dependence upon God will be overcome by temptation. We may now suppose that our feet stand secure, and that we shall never be moved. We may say with confidence, I know in whom I have believed; nothing can shake my faith in God and in His word. But Satan is planning to take advantage of our hereditary and cultivated traits of character, and to blind our eyes to our own necessities and defects. Only through realizing our own weakness and looking steadfastly unto Jesus can we walk securely."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 382.

Lesson 4, for January 26, 1952

Peter's Fall and Restoration

LESSON SCRIPTURES: Luke 22:54-62; Matthew 26:33-35, 69-75; Mark 14:66-72.

MEMORY VERSE: "Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls." 1 Peter 1:9.

STUDY HELPS: "The Desire of Ages," pages 698-715; "Christ's Object Lessons," pages 153, 154, 156; "Education," page 89; "Early Writings," page 169.

AIM: To teach us never to boast save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ; and to appreciate fully that our salvation depends upon the intercession of our Lord and Master.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. General survey of the lesson.
2. Questions 1-3; memorize 1 Peter 1:9.
3. Questions 4-6; read "Education" assignment.
4. Questions 7-9; read "Early Writings" assignment.
5. Questions 10-12; read "Christ's Object Lessons" assignment.
6. Read "The Desire of Ages" assignment.
7. Read "The Acts of the Apostles" assignment; review the lesson.

Peter Denies His Lord

1. What is the cause of Peter's and every other Christian's shameful betrayal of our blessed Lord? Luke 22:45, 46.

NOTE.—"It was in sleeping when Jesus bade him watch and pray that Peter had prepared the way for his great sin. All the disciples, by sleeping in that critical hour, sustained a great loss. Christ knew the fiery ordeal through which they were to pass. He knew how Satan would work to paralyze their senses that they might be unready for the trial. Therefore it was that He gave them warning. Had those hours in the garden been spent in watching and prayer, Peter would not have been left to depend upon his own feeble strength."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 713.

2. How did Peter and the disciples act when Jesus was arrested in the garden? Mark 14:50.

3. When Peter, through failing to pray, lost his vital hold upon God, how did he follow his Lord and Master? Mark 14:54.

4. How did Peter further attempt to conceal his connection with Christ? John 18:16, 18; Mark 14:66, 67; Luke 22:55.

NOTE.—"Peter tried to show no interest in the trial of his Master, but his heart was wrung with sorrow as he heard the cruel taunts, and saw the abuse He was suffering. More than this, he was surprised and angry that Jesus should humiliate Himself and His followers by submitting to such treatment. In order to conceal his true feelings, he endeavored to join with the persecutors of Jesus in their untimely jests. But his appearance was unnatural. He was acting a lie, and while seeking to talk unconcernedly he could not restrain expressions of indignation at the abuse heaped upon his Master."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 712.

5. When asked if he were one of Christ's followers, what did Peter say? Luke 22:56-58; Mark 14:68.

6. To what further depths did Peter fall as a result of following his Lord afar off, and denying Him? Mark 14:71; Matt. 26:73, 74.

The Lord's Look of Compassion

7. How did Peter's denial affect his Lord and Master? Luke 22:61.

NOTE.—"While the degrading oaths were fresh upon Peter's lips, and the shrill crowing of the cock was still ringing in his ears, the Saviour turned from the frowning judges, and looked full upon His poor disciple. At the same time Peter's eyes were drawn to his Master. In that gentle countenance he read deep pity and sorrow, but there was no anger there."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 712.

8. When Peter realized what he had done, how was he affected? Luke 22:62.

NOTE.—"The sight of that pale suffering face, those quivering lips, that look of compassion and forgiveness, pierced his heart like an arrow. Conscience was aroused. Memory was active. Peter called to mind his promise of a few short hours before that he would go with his Lord to prison and to death. He remembered his grief when the Saviour told him in the upper chamber that he would deny his Lord thrice that same night. Peter had just declared that he knew not Jesus, but he now realized with bitter grief how well his Lord knew him, and how accurately He had read his heart, the falseness of which was unknown even to himself."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 712, 713.

9. What would have been Peter's fate if Jesus had not interceded for Him? Luke 22:31, 32.

NOTE.—"Oh, the grace of those words! 'I have prayed for thee,'—not that he might not fall, but, having fallen, that his faith might not fail, his confidence might not give way. Nothing can surpass the grace that shines out here. The blessed One knew all that was to happen—the shameful denial—the cursing and swearing; and yet, 'I have prayed for thee that thy faith fail not'—that thy confidence in the eternal stability of My grace may not give way."—C. H. Mackintosh, *Simon Peter,* page 64.

The Restoration of Peter

10. Prior to His ascension, what touching question did Jesus ask Peter, and what commission did He give him indicating that he had been brought back into full discipleship? John 21:15-19.

NOTE.—"The first work that Christ entrusted to Peter on restoring him to the ministry was to feed the lambs. This was a work in which Peter had little experience. It would require great care and tenderness, much patience and perseverance. It called him to minister to those who were young in the faith, to teach the ignorant, to open the Scriptures to them, and to educate them for usefulness in Christ's service. Heretofore Peter had not been fitted to do this, or even to understand its importance. But this was the work which Jesus now called upon him to do. For this work his own experience of suffering and repentance had prepared him."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 812.

11. In contrast to Peter's denial of Christ, what requirement of discipleship had Jesus set forth? Matt. 16:24, 25.

NOTE.—"It seems very wonderful to find on the page of inspiration the record of the fall of such an eminent servant of Christ as Simon Peter. We, in our wisdom, would judge it best to draw the curtain of silence over such an event. Not so the Holy Ghost. He has seen fit to tell us plainly of the errors, and failures, and sins, of such men as Abraham, Moses, David, Peter, and Paul, in order that we may learn holy lessons from such records—lessons of human frailty, lessons of divine grace, lessons full of solemn warning, and yet of most precious consolation and encouragement. We learn what we are, and we learn what God is. We learn that we cannot trust ourselves for

a single moment; for, if not kept by grace, there is no depth of sin into which we are not capable of falling; but we learn to trust the eternal stability of that grace which has dealt with the erring ones and sinning ones of other days, and to lean with ever-growing confidence on the One who is 'the same yesterday, today, and forever.' "—C. H. Mackintosh, *Simon Peter,* page 57.

12. Why are such experiences recorded in the Scriptures? Rom. 15:4.

Lesson 5, for February 2, 1952

The Apostle Peter's Ministry

LESSON SCRIPTURES: Acts, chapters 1-5; 8:14-25; 9:31-43; 10:5, 9, 34, 44-48; 11:1-3, 18; 12:1-5, 17; 15:6-11.

MEMORY VERSE: "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord." Acts 3:19.

STUDY HELP: "The Acts of the Apostles," pages 9-86.

AIM: To inspire us to yield our lives to Christ and to the Holy Spirit.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. General survey of the lesson.
2. Questions 1-3; memorize Acts 3:19.
3. Questions 4-6.
4. Questions 7-9.
5. Questions 10-13.
6. Read "The Acts of the Apostles," pages 47-56.
7. Read "The Acts of the Apostles," pages 70-76; review the lesson.

A Brief History of Peter's Apostleship

1. Just before the ascension what promise did Jesus renew to the apostolic group? Luke 24:49.

2. In what events in the life of the apostles was this promise signally fulfilled? Acts 2:1-4, 14-18, 38.

3. During the experience at Pentecost and the days following, what evidence do we have that Peter was in earnest about his restoration to discipleship? Acts 3:12-21.

NOTE.—How may we account for the remarkable change that has come about in Peter's life? Six weeks earlier than the incidents recorded in Acts, chapters 2-5, he was smitten with the cowardice that so disgracefully betrayed his Master. The answer is Pentecost. How the church needs it today!

"The Saviour knew that no argument, however logical, would melt hard hearts, or break through the crust of worldliness and selfishness. He knew that His disciples must receive the heavenly endowment; that the gospel would be effective only as it was proclaimed by hearts made warm and lips made eloquent by a living knowledge of Him who is the way, the truth, and the life. . . . A vigilant, determined leader was in command of the forces of

darkness, and the followers of Christ could battle for the right only through the help that God, by His Spirit, would give them."—*The Acts of the Apostles*, page 31.

A Stalwart Leader in the Early Church

4. Who appears in the forefront, fighting the battles of the Lord during the early crisis of the church? Acts 4:8, 13; 5:29-32.

NOTE.—"The promise of the Holy Spirit is not limited to any age or to any race. Christ declared that the divine influence of His Spirit was to be with His followers unto the end. From the Day of Pentecost to the present time, the Comforter has been sent to all who have yielded themselves fully to the Lord and to His service. To all who have accepted Christ as a personal Saviour, the Holy Spirit has come as a counselor, sanctifier, guide, and witness. The more closely believers have walked with God, the more clearly and powerfully have they testified of their Redeemer's love and of His saving grace."—*The Acts of the Apostles*, page 49.

5. In the early development of the church what part did Peter take? Acts 8:14, 24, 25; 12:1-5, 17.

NOTE.—Throughout the first twelve chapters of the book of Acts, the apostle Peter is frequently mentioned. Chapter 9 speaks of him as the prominent leader of the Gentile mission. After Peter's arrest in chapter 12 he drops out of sight until the General Council is called in A.D. 50. Here again the apostle Peter takes an active part, and then he disappears from the scene. The rest of the book of Acts is concerned with the missionary journeys and ministry of Paul.

6. What is recorded that would indicate Peter's faith had become greatly strengthened? Acts 9:31-35, 39-41.

7. What experience led Peter to understand that the gospel was not for the Jews only? Acts 10:5, 9, 34.

8. How does the apostle Paul indicate what Peter's principal work was? Gal. 2:7, 8.

NOTE.—"As time went on, the apostle's influence as an educator and leader increased; and while he never lost his burden to labor especially for the Jews, yet he bore his testimony in many lands, and strengthened the faith of multitudes in the gospel."—*The Acts of the Apostles*, page 517.

Closing Period of Peter's Life

9. Toward the close of their lives in what city did these two veteran apostles, Peter and Paul, bear their witness? Compare Acts 28:16, 30 with 1 Peter 5:13.

NOTE.—" 'Babylon' of 1 Peter 5:13, is the figurative or symbolical designation for Rome. The figurative 'Babylon' is used because of the personification 'the one elect with you' and because of the figurative term 'my son' as a designation for Mark. 'Babylon' emphasizes the paganism of Rome, the great city of the world, all her pagan idolatry and corruption, and also—quite important—all her hostility to God's elect."—R. C. H. Lenski, *Interpretation of Peter,* page 232.

"In the providence of God, Peter was permitted to close his ministry in Rome, where his imprisonment was ordered by the emperor Nero about the time of Paul's final arrest. Thus the two veteran apostles, who for many years had been widely separated in their labors, were to bear their last witness for Christ in the world's metropolis, and upon its soil to shed their blood as the seed of a vast harvest of saints and martyrs."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 537.

10. What information in Peter's epistle accords with the fact that he wrote these letters toward the close of his life? 2 Peter 1:13, 14.

NOTE.—"Throughout his ministry, Peter faithfully watched over the flock entrusted to his care, and thus proved himself worthy of the charge and responsibility given him by the Saviour. . . . In the later years of his ministry, Peter was inspired to write to the believers 'scattered throughout . . . Asia.' "—*The Acts of the Apostles,* pages 516, 517.

11. What prayer of Jesus was fulfilled in the life of our beloved apostle? John 17:5, 6, 8, 9, 15, 17.

12. Sanctified by the truth and prepared for his final work in the school of adversity, what important mission did Peter fulfill in the writing of his two epistles? Luke 22:32.

13. What prophecy of Jesus indicated how Peter was to die? John 21:18, 19.

Lesson 6, for February 9, 1952

The Elect and Their Inheritance

LESSON SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 1:1-9.

MEMORY VERSE: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." 1 Peter 1:3.

STUDY HELPS: "The Acts of the Apostles," pages 593-602; "Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing," pages 65-72; "Prophets and Kings," pages 730-732.

AIM: To prepare the church for the last real crisis at the end of the world.

1. General survey of the lesson.
2. Questions 1-3.
3. Questions 4-7.
4. Questions 8-10; read "Prophets and Kings" assignment.
5. Questions 11-13.
6. Read "Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing" assignment.
7. Read "The Acts of the Apostles" assignment; review the lesson.

Peter's Salutation

1. How does Simon Peter introduce himself to the believers in Asia Minor? 1 Peter 1:1, first part.

NOTE.—"He designates himself as an apostle, . . . a technical word used by one sent from someone else with credentials on a mission. Peter was an ambassador of Jesus Christ sent by Him with credentials in the form of miracles, and on a mission, that of proclaiming the good news of salvation." Kenneth S. Wuest, *First Peter in the Greek New Testament,* pages 13, 14.

2. What does Peter call these Christians to whom he is writing? 1 Peter 1:1, second part.

NOTE.—"He writes to them as 'sojourners of the dispersion.' . . . But it would be a mistake to restrict the word 'dispersion' here to the Jewish converts. The apostle speaks more than once in his letter to those who had never been Jews . . . (1:14), . . . (2:10), . . . (4:3). . . . They could be verily only strangers and sojourners; their true home could never be made among their heathen surroundings. As the Jews in old days sighed for Jerusalem, so their hope was centered on a Jerusalem above."—*The Expositor's Bible,* James, Jude, Peter; First Peter, London, England, 1908, pages 4-6.

3. In what part of the Roman Empire were these churches located? 1 Peter 1:1, last part.

NOTE.—"Little mention is made in the book of Acts of the later work of the apostle Peter. During the busy years of ministry that followed the outpouring of the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, he was among those who put forth untiring efforts to reach the Jews who came to Jerusalem to worship at the time of the annual festivals.

"As the number of believers multiplied in Jerusalem and in other places visited by the messengers of the cross, the talents possessed by Peter proved of untold value to the early Christian church."

"In the later years of his ministry, Peter was inspired to write to the believers 'scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia.' His letters were the means of reviving the courage and strengthening the faith of those who were enduring trial and affliction."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* pages 514, 517.

4. By what name is the high esteem of these scattered Christians indicated? 1 Peter 1:2, first part.

NOTE.—"There is nothing fatalistic or arbitrary about election as taught in the Scriptures. The gospel is to be preached to all, and all who believe

it may be assured that they are numbered among the elect."—H. A. Ironside, *Expository Notes on the Epistles of Peter,* page 14.

5. How had they obtained this honored distinction? 1 Peter 1:2, second part.

NOTE.—"Here Peter may be his own interpreter. In his sermon on the Day of Pentecost he employs the same word, 'foreknowledge,' and he is the only one who uses it in the New Testament. There (Acts 2:23) he says that Christ was delivered up to be crucified by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God. And on the same subject in this very chapter (1:20) he speaks of Jesus as foreknown, as a Lamb without spot and blemish before the foundation of the world. In these passages we are carried back beyond the ages into the divine council chamber, and we find the whole course of human history naked and open before the eyes of the All-seeing. God knew even then what the history of the human race would be, saw that sin would find an entrance into the world, and that a sacrifice would be needed, if sinners were to be redeemed."—*The Expositor's Bible,* James, Jude, Peter; First Peter, page 8.

6. How does the apostle close his brief but comprehensive salutation? 1 Peter 1:2, third part.

NOTE.—"Charis (grace) in classical Greek referred to a favor conferred freely, with no expectation of return, and finding its only motive in the bounty and freeheartedness of the giver. This favor was always done to a friend, never to an enemy. Right here charis leaps forward an infinite distance, for the Lord Jesus died for His enemies (Romans 5:8-10), a thing unheard of in the human race. Surely this was beyond the ordinary course of what might be expected and is therefore commendable." "God stepped down from His judgment seat and took upon Himself at Calvary's cross, the guilt and penalty of human sin, thus satisfying His justice and making possible the bestowal of His mercy. And this He did, not for those who were His friends, but His bitter enemies, unlovely creatures saturated with sin."—Kenneth S. Wuest, *Treasures From the Greek New Testament,* page 17.

7. How is the magnanimity, or largeness of mind and heart, of God seen in the closing words of Peter's salutation? 1 Peter 1:2, last part. Compare John 14:27.

NOTE.—"Peace," the result of grace in the heart.

The Saints' Inheritance

8. For what does the apostle express gratitude? 1 Peter 1:3.

9. Through what means will the "lively hope" become a reality? 1 Peter 1:3. Compare Rom. 1:4; Phil. 3:10, 11; 1 Thess. 4:16, 17.

10. What is the "lively hope" (living hope) cherished by the followers of Christ? 1 Peter 1:4; John 14:1-3; Titus 2:13.

NOTE.—"How beggared earthly speech appears when we essay by it to picture the glory that shall be revealed for us! . . . What it will be we cannot express. We only know some evils from which it will be free. It shall be *incorruptible,* like the God and Father (Romans 1:23) who bestows it. *Eternal,* it shall contain within it no seed of decay, nothing which can cause it to perish. . . . It shall be undefiled, for we are to share it with our Elder Brother, our High Priest (Hebrews 7:26), who is now made higher than the heavens."—*The Expositor's Bible,* James, Jude, Peter; First Peter, page 20.

The Value of Trials

11. By what are the believers kept while they await the "blessed hope"? 1 Peter 1:5-7. Compare Heb. 7:25; 12:4-8, 11.

NOTE.—"But, thanks and praise to our God, the enemy cannot prevail. 'Hitherto shalt thou come, and no further.' The all-prevailing intercession of our divine Advocate sustains the faith so sorely tried, carries the soul through the deep and dark waters, restores the broken link of communion, heals the spiritual wounds, lifts up the fallen one, brings back the wanderer, and fills the heart with praise and thanksgiving. 'I have prayed for thee that thy faith fail not; and when thou art restored, strengthen thy brethren.' "—C. H. Mackintosh, *Simon Peter,* page 68.

Peter must have recalled the trial of his faith and the remarkable way in which his Master brought him through. Now he assures his readers of the preciousness of their faith, and pleads that the trials before them will only purify and enrich it and preserve it to the glory and honor of their Master at His coming.

12. How does Peter account for the unspeakable joy which possessed these Christians in Asia Minor? 1 Peter 1:8.

13. What will be the reward of genuine faith in Jesus? 1 Peter 1:9. Compare 1 John 5:4; Heb. 11:1, 39, 40.

Note.—" 'Great is the reward in heaven' of those who are witnesses for Christ through persecution and reproach. While the people are looking for earthly good, Jesus points them to a heavenly reward. But He does not place it all in the future life; it begins here. The Lord appeared of old time to Abraham, and said, 'I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.' This is the reward of all who follow Christ. Jehovah Immanuel—He 'in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge,' in whom dwells 'all the fullness of the Godhead bodily'—to be brought into sympathy with Him, to know Him, to possess Him, as the heart opens more and more to receive His attributes; to know His love and power, to possess the unsearchable riches of Christ, to comprehend more and more 'what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God,'—'this is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of Me, saith the Lord.' " —*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing,* page 57.

Lesson 7, for February 16, 1952

The Gospel in Prophecy

LESSON SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 1:10-12.

MEMORY VERSE: "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12.

STUDY HELPS: "The Desire of Ages," pages 234, 235; "Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing," pages 67-72; "Patriarchs and Prophets," pages 366, 367; "Prophets and Kings," pages 730-732.

AIM: To impress us with the urgency of a deeper study of the gospel of our salvation.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. General survey of the lesson.
2. Questions 1-3; read "The Desire of Ages" assignment.
3. Questions 4-6.
4. Questions 7-9.
5. Questions 10-14.
6. Read "Patriarchs and Prophets" and "Prophets and Kings" assignments.
7. Read "Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing;" review the lesson.

The Theme of the Prophets

1. What interest did the prophets of old manifest in the plan of redemption? 1 Peter 1:10, first part.

2. What was the central theme of the Old Testament prophets? 1 Peter 1:10, second part.

3. For what great facts in the plan of salvation were these ancient prophets so diligently searching? 1 Peter 1:11, first part.

NOTE.—They were first concerned with the fact of Christ's suffering. Isaiah 53 is perhaps the most vivid illustration of that fact. But notice also that Peter says they were deeply interested in "what manner of time" Christ should suffer. "In the preceding verses of the chapter the thoughts of the apostle have been dwelling on the future, on the time when the hope of the believer shall attain its fruition, and faith shall be lost in sight. He now turns his glance backward to notice how the promise of salvation has been the subject of revelation through all time."—*The Expositor's Bible,* James, Jude, Peter; First Peter, London, England, 1908, page 30.

4. What did the apostle Peter say would follow Christ's sufferings? 1 Peter 1:11, last part.

NOTE.—In the last clause of verse 10, Peter speaks "of the grace that should come unto you," and in the last clause of the eleventh verse he speaks of "the glory that should follow." The glory that issues forth from the cross of Christ is twofold. First, let us never forget that during the age of Imperial Rome one could travel from the Euphrates to the Atlantic and find not a single monument to acts of mercy or kindliness. There were plenty of monuments to the strength of the Caesars, to the might of the empire, and

to the vindictive wrath of the emperors; but it was reserved for the glory of the cross and the influence of Jesus to bring to our civilization the institutions of mercy that now belt the earth. Hospitals, asylums, sanitariums, Red Cross organizations, Community Chest, organized charity of all kinds, are Christian reactions against the severity of the age in which Christ was born. Secondly, the glory of the cross in the future of Christ's kingdom may be seen best by reading the following scriptures: Romans 8:18; Ephesians 1: 10-14; Isaiah 65:17-19; Revelation 21; 22.

5. What significant fact was revealed to the prophets of old? 1 Peter 1:12, first part.

NOTE.—"The prophets to whom these great scenes were revealed longed to understand their full import. They 'inquired and searched diligently: . . . searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify. . . . Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you.'

"To us who are standing on the very verge of their fulfillment, of what deep moment, what living interest, are these delineations of the things to come,—events for which, since our first parents turned their steps from Eden, God's children have watched and waited, longed and prayed!"—*Prophets and Kings,* page 731.

6. How did Peter assure the believers to whom he wrote that the message declared to them was inspired? 1 Peter 1:12, second part. Compare Acts 1:8; 5:32.

NOTE.—Peter declared that the gospel had been preached to them by "the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven." "The Spirit was to be given as a regenerating agent, and without this the sacrifice of Christ would have been of no avail. The power of evil had been strengthening for centuries, and the submission of men to this satanic captivity was amazing. Sin could be resisted and overcome only through the mighty agency of the Third Person of the Godhead, who would come with no modified energy, but in the fullness of divine power."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 671.

The Ministry of Angels

7. In what terse yet striking way does Peter introduce the interest of the angels in the plan of salvation? 1 Peter 1:12, last part.

NOTE.—"There are mysteries in the plan of redemption—the humiliation of the Son of God, that He might be found in fashion as a man, the wonderful love and condescension of the Father in yielding up His Son—that are to the heavenly angels subjects of continual amazement."—*Testimonies,* vol. 5, p. 702.

"The church is the teacher of the angels. Paul says that the apostles 'are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men' (1 Cor. 4:9). How the angels watch the saints. How they wonder at creatures once totally depraved, now living holy lives that glorify God. It is in the church that they catch the supreme view of God's love, sinners saved by grace, raised to

a seat in heavenly places in Christ. The church is God's university for angels. The verse reads, 'To the intent that now to the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be made known by means of the instrumentality of the church, the manifold wisdom of God.' "—Kenneth S. Wuest, *First Peter in the Greek New Testament,* page 32.

8. How is the special work of the angels defined? Heb. 1:13, 14.

9. What promise of angelic protection has God made to all them that fear Him? Ps. 34:7.

10. How was this promise realized in the days of Elisha? 2 Kings 6:13-17.

11. What experiences in the time of Daniel indicate that God protects His children from physical danger through the intervention of angels? Dan. 3:28; 6:22.

12. What evidence of angel guardianship was brought to light in Jesus' experience in Gethsemane? Luke 22:43; Matt. 26:53.

13. Following Pentecost, how was angel ministry manifest in the lives of Peter and his associates? Acts 12:5-11; 5:18, 19.

14. At the second coming of Christ what important task will be performed by the angels? Matt. 24:30, 31.

NOTE.—"So, in all ages, angels have been near to Christ's faithful followers. The vast confederacy of evil is arrayed against all who would overcome; but Christ would have us look to the things which are not seen, to the armies of heaven encamped about all who love God, to deliver them. From what dangers, seen and unseen, we have been preserved through the interposition of the angels, we shall never know, until in the light of eternity we see the providences of God. Then we shall know that the whole family of heaven was interested in the family here below, and that messengers from the throne of God attended our steps from day to day."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 240.

Lesson 8, for February 23, 1952

Holiness and Redemption

LESSON SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 1:13-21.

MEMORY VERSE: "But as He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation." 1 Peter 1:15.

STUDY HELPS: "The Desire of Ages," pages 50-58; 652-661; "Christ's Object Lessons," pages 102, 325, 326.

AIM: To point the way to a life of purity and holiness, which is demanded of all who claim redemption through the "precious blood of Jesus."

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. General survey of the lesson.
2. Questions 1-3.
3. Questions 4-6.
4. Questions 7-9.
5. Questions 10-12; read "Christ's Object Lessons" assignment.
6. Read "The Desire of Ages," pages 50-58.
7. Read "The Desire of Ages," pages 652-661; review the lesson.

An Exhortation to Holiness

1. What figure does the apostle Peter use in referring to the control of the mind? 1 Peter 1:13, first part.

NOTE.—"The apostle sought to teach the believers how important it is to keep the mind from wandering to forbidden themes, or from spending its energies on trifling subjects. Those who would not fall a prey to Satan's devices, must guard well the avenues of the soul; they must avoid reading, seeing, or hearing that which will suggest impure thoughts. The mind must not be left to dwell at random upon every subject that the enemy of souls may suggest."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 518.

2. What two qualities should characterize the lives of the believers? 1 Peter 1:13, second part.

NOTE.—"The first one is, 'be sober.' The Greek word means, 'to be calm and collected in spirit, to be temperate, dispassionate, circumspect.' It speaks of the proper exercise of the mind, that state of mind in which the individual is self-controlled, and is able to see things without the distortion caused by worry, fear, and their related attitudes."—Kenneth S. Wuest, *First Peter in the Greek New Testament,* pages 35, 36.

3. To whom does Peter compare God's chosen ones? 1 Peter 1:14, first part.

NOTE.—"As children inherit the nature of their parents, so a child of God is made a partaker of the divine nature, which nature always impels to the act of obedience. It is natural for a child of God to obey Him."—Kenneth S. Wuest, *First Peter in the Greek New Testament,* pages 36, 37.

An Exalted Standard

4. What are they admonished not to do? 1 Peter 1:14, second part.

NOTE.—"In our characters as obedient children of God, we are exhorted not to fashion ourselves with respect to our former lusts. The word 'fashion' in the Greek text refers to the act of assuming an outward appearance patterned after some certain thing, an appearance or expression which does not come from and is not representative of one's inmost and true nature."—Kenneth S. Wuest, *First Peter in the Greek New Testament,* page 37.

5. What exalted standard does Peter now set forth as the Christian's goal? 1 Peter 1:15, 16.

NOTE.—"God has commanded us, 'Be ye holy; for I am holy;' and an

inspired apostle declares that without holiness 'no man shall see the Lord.' Holiness is agreement with God. By sin the image of God in man has been marred and well-nigh obliterated; it is the work of the gospel to restore that which has been lost; and we are to co-operate with the divine agency in this work. And how can we come into harmony with God, how shall we receive His likeness, unless we obtain a knowledge of Him? It is this knowledge that Christ came into the world to reveal unto us."—*Testimonies,* vol. 5, p. 743.

6. What is said regarding the equality of God's judgment? 1 Peter 1:17.

NOTE.—"The word 'sojourning' [in verse 17] is from a word meaning literally 'to have a home alongside of,' and refers to a person living in a foreign land alongside of people who are not of his kind. Here it refers to children of God living far from their heavenly home, in foreign territory, on a planet that has a usurper, Satan, as reigning monarch, the people of which are his subjects. The Christian must always live in the consciousness of the fact that he is being watched by the unsaved, that his responsibility is to bear a clear, ringing, genuine testimony to his God and Saviour by the kind of life he lives."—Kenneth S. Wuest, *First Peter in the Greek New Testament,* page 41.

Price of Our Redemption

7. What things highly esteemed of men are valueless in procuring our redemption? 1 Peter 1:18, first part.

NOTE.—The "word translated 'redeemed' means 'to release or liberate by payment of a ransom.' . . . We are free men, freed from the guilt, penalty, and the power of sin, some day to be freed from the presence of sin. We are liberated from all that, so that we might realize in our lives that for which we were created, namely, to glorify God."—Kenneth S. Wuest, *Treasures in the Greek New Testament,* Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, page 52.

8. From what has the Christian been delivered? 1 Peter 1:18, second part.

NOTE.—The words "vain conversation received by tradition" are more accurately rendered in the Revised Version "vain manner of life handed down."

9. How does Peter describe the infinite cost of our redemption? 1 Peter 1:19.

NOTE.—"Had silver and gold been sufficient to purchase the salvation of men, how easily might it have been accomplished by Him who says, 'The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine.' But only by the precious blood of the Son of God could the transgressor be redeemed. The plan of salvation was laid in sacrifice."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 519.

Inception and Confirmation of Plan of Redemption

10. When was the plan of redemption ordained by God? 1 Peter 1:20, first part.

11. When and how was the mystery of salvation more fully revealed? 1 Peter 1:20, second part. Compare Col. 1:26, 27; Gal. 4:4, 5; Heb. 9:26.

12. How is our belief in God confirmed? 1 Peter 1:21. Compare Rom. 1:4; 1 Cor. 15:12-23.

Lesson 9, for March 1, 1952

The Significance of the New Birth

LESSON SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 1:22-25.

MEMORY VERSE: "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever." 1 Peter 1:23.

STUDY HELPS: "Steps to Christ," chapter 2; "The Acts of the Apostles," pages 519-521; "Testimonies," vol. 8, pp. 319-328.

AIM: To teach us that through the new birth, by obedience to the truth, the soul is purified and the character shaped for eternity.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. General survey of the lesson.
2. Questions 1-3; memorize 1 Peter 1:23.
3. Questions 4-6.
4. Questions 7, 8; read chapter 2, "Steps to Christ."
5. Questions 9-12.
6. Questions 13, 14; read "The Acts of the Apostles" assignment.
7. Read "Testimonies" assignment; review the lesson.

A New Heart Experience

1. What transformation of character will be effected by obedience to the truth of God? 1 Peter 1:22, first part.

NOTE.—"With the word of God in hand we may draw nearer, step by step, in consecrated love to Jesus. As the Spirit of God becomes better known, the Bible will be accepted as the only foundation of faith. God's people will receive the word as the leaves of the tree of life, more precious than fine gold purified in the fire, and more powerful to sanctify than any other agency."—*Testimonies,* vol. 8, p. 193.

2. What divine gift has God bestowed upon His children that they might have the inner strength to obey His word? Ezek. 36:26, 27; John 3:5, 6.

NOTE.—"It is the Spirit that makes effectual what has been wrought out by the world's Redeemer. It is by the Spirit that the heart is made pure. Through the Spirit the believer becomes a partaker of the divine nature. Christ has given His Spirit as a divine power to overcome all hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil, and to impress His own character upon His church."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 671.

3. Upon whom did the apostle Peter say the gift of the Holy Spirit would be bestowed? Acts 5:32.

NOTE.—"Obedience is the test of discipleship. It is the keeping of the commandments that proves the sincerity of our professions of love. When the doctrine we accept kills sin in the heart, purifies the soul from defilement, bears fruit unto holiness, we may know that it is the truth of God. When benevolence, kindness, tenderheartedness, sympathy, are manifest in our lives; when the joy of rightdoing is in our hearts; when we exalt Christ, and not self, we may know that our faith is of the right order. 'Hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.' "—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing,* page 210.

The Fruitage of the New Life

4. What is the test of genuine conversion? 1 Peter 1:22, second part.

5. What is Peter's final exhortation concerning our love for one another? 1 Peter 1:22, third part.

6. How only can Christians love one another with a pure heart fervently? 1 Peter 1:23, first part.

NOTE.—"The exhortation is to love one's brother Christian because he is precious to God, and to love him with a love that is willing to sacrifice one's self for the benefit of that brother, a love that causes one to be long-suffering toward him, a love that makes one treat him kindly, a love that so causes one to rejoice in the welfare of another that there is no room for envy in the heart, a love that is not jealous, a love that keeps one from boasting of one's self, a love that keeps one from bearing one's self in a lofty manner, a love that keeps one from acting unbecomingly, a love that keeps one from seeking one's own rights, a love that keeps one from becoming angry, a love that does not impute evil, a love that does not rejoice in iniquity but in the truth, a love that bears up against all things. . . . That is the kind of love which God says one Christian should have for another."—Kenneth S. Wuest, *First Peter in the Greek New Testament,* pages 47, 48.

The Word of God in the New Birth

7. From what kind of seed does such a new birth come? 1 Peter 1:23, second part.

NOTE.—"The word of God is the seed. Every seed has in itself a germinating principle. In it the life of the plant is enfolded. So there is life in God's word. Christ says, 'The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.' 'He that heareth My word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life.' In every command and in every promise

of the word of God is the power, the very life of God, by which the command may be fulfilled and the promise realized. He who by faith receives the word is receiving the very life and character of God."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 38.

8. What eternal qualities does Peter attach to the word of God in this Scripture? 1 Peter 1:23, last part. Compare Heb. 4:12, 13.

NOTE.—"When truth becomes an abiding principle in the life, the soul is 'born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.' This new birth is the result of receiving Christ as the Word of God. When by the Holy Spirit divine truths are impressed upon the heart, new conceptions are awakened, and the energies hitherto dormant are aroused to co-operate with God."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 520.

The Secret of a Fruitful Life

9. What supreme privilege is ours when we have experienced a genuine new birth? Acts 2:38; John 14:16-18; Rev. 3:20.

10. What is God's pleasure concerning His children in whom He now dwells? John 15:8.

11. What kind of fruit will be borne by the Christian who is filled with the Spirit? Phil. 1:11; Gal. 5:22; Col. 3:12-16.

12. How did Jesus illustrate this blessed partnership we have with Him through the Spirit in life and service? John 15:4, 5.

NOTE.—The effectual working of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer has ever been a mystery to most of God's children. But in John 15, Jesus taught this fundamental truth by the picture method. It is important to observe that the fruit never grows on the vine, it grows only on the branches. Jesus produces the fruit, but in this divine partnership He has chosen to let it grow on the branches. He produces the fruit, and we distribute it to those who are in such sore need of it. Philippians 2:13. This was the secret of Paul's ministry as stated in Galatians 2:20. "No longer I," with my failures; "but Christ" with limitless resources, knowledge, power, patience, love, skill, all I lack and all I need, all these in Him, and He in me. The art of Christian living is to give Him unlimited freedom to exercise His faithfulness in us.

13. After stressing the durability and eternity of the Christian life, how does Peter contrast the insignificance and frailty of man's life apart from God? 1 Peter 1:24. Compare Isa. 40:7, 8.

14. With what assurance does Peter close his presentation of the new birth? 1 Peter 1:25. Compare John 1:1, 14.

Lesson 10, for March 8, 1952

The Priesthood of Believers

LESSON SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 2:1-10.

MEMORY VERSE: "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." 1 Peter 2:9.

STUDY HELPS: "Steps to Christ," chapter 8; "The Acts of the Apostles," pages 593-602; "The Desire of Ages," pages 597-600.

AIM: To reveal the divine purpose in our conversion—that we may reflect the life and character of Christ.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. General survey of the lesson.
2. Questions 1-3; memorize 1 Peter 2:9.
3. Questions 4-6.
4. Questions 7-9.
5. Questions 10-12; read chapter 8, "Steps to Christ."
6. Questions 13, 14; read "The Desire of Ages" assignment.
7. Read "The Acts of the Apostles" assignment; review the lesson.

Spiritual Food

1. When the new birth experience is genuine, what effect will it have in the Christian's life? 1 Peter 2:1.

NOTE.—" 'Wherefore' goes back to the fact of the new life imparted (1:23), and argues in 2:1-3 that therefore a new kind of experience is demanded of the believer. 'Laying aside' is from a participle that has imperative force. In view of the fact that divine life has been imparted to the believer, it is imperative that he 'put away once for all' any sins that may be in his life."—Kenneth S. Wuest, *First Peter in the Greek New Testament,* page 50.

2. What will follow the putting away of sin from the life? 1 Peter 2:2.

NOTE.—The word "milk" as used here, does not necessarily refer to that part of the word of God which is in contrast to the meat or solid food of the word as in Hebrews 5:13, 14, but to the word of God in general.

3. How does Peter indicate that this desire is awakened? 1 Peter 2:3.

Spiritual Privileges

4. What illustration does the apostle use to indicate the enduring strength of Christ? 1 Peter 2:4. Compare Ps. 61:2; 89:26; 1 Cor. 10:4.

5. What figure does Peter use to show the spiritual transformation in the believer's life through grace? 1 Peter 2:5, first part.

NOTE.—" 'Living stones.' The same title is thus given to believers as to their Master, through whose transforming grace they, in union with Him, become like Him, 'living stones.' They were formerly 'dead in trespasses and sins,' a mass of inert rock; now they are at once alive and strong."—Wm. H. Griffith Thomas, *The Apostle Peter,* Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, page 181.

6. What does Christ choose to do with these "living stones"? 1 Peter 2:5, second part.

NOTE.—"1. Spiritual position: v. 5, 'House' (1 Cor. 3:16; Heb. 3:6). All believers together are regarded as the house of God.

"2. Spiritual purpose: v. 5, 'Priesthood.' This also refers to the church as a whole. . . .

"3. Spiritual privilege: v. 5, 'Sacrifices' (Rom. 12:1; Phil. 4:18; Heb. 13:15, 16). New Testament sacrifices are always 'spiritual,' and include the sacrifice of ourselves, our gifts, and our praises.

"4. Spiritual possibility: v. 5, 'Acceptable to God, through Jesus Christ.' Consider the glory of being able so to live and serve as to be acceptable to God. This shows what divine grace can do."—Wm. H. Griffith Thomas, *The Apostle Peter,* page 182.

The Chief Cornerstone

7. To what Scriptural truth does Peter next refer, and what promise is made to the believer? 1 Peter 2:6.

NOTE.—" 'He that believeth on Him shall not be put to shame.' (Isa. 28:16; 8:14. Compare Rom. 9:33; Eph. 2:20.) It is because our Lord is God's foundation that we are invited to believe on Him, and assured that we shall not be put to shame. Believing is a complex act and attitude of the soul whereby we (1) approach, (2) rest, (3) abide. And the more we respond to God's invitation the stronger will be our confidence in the great Rock foundation of God's eternal love and grace."—Wm. H. Griffith Thomas, *The Apostle Peter,* page 183.

8. What word did Peter use to express how much Jesus really means to all who believe? 1 Peter 2:7, first part.

NOTE.—"In 1 Peter 2:7, the Greek has it, 'Unto you who believe, is the preciousness.' That is, the preciousness of Jesus is imputed to us. He becomes our preciousness in the eyes of the Father as He becomes our righteousness before the law. The Son dwells in the bosom of the Father, closest to the Father's affections. Marvelous grace, that we sinners saved by grace are brought into that favored place closest to the Father's affections. The Father loves us as much as He loves His only-begotten Son. What a pillow on which to rest our weary hearts when going through a testing time."—Kenneth S. Wuest, *Nuggets,* pages 15, 16.

9. What does this Stone which is "disallowed" by the builders become to those who disbelieve? 1 Peter 2:7 (second part), 8.

NOTE.—*The Expositor's Greek Testament* offers the following: "The 'precious'-ness of the stone is for you who believe, but for the unbelievers it is . . . 'a stone of stumbling.'"

A Royal Priesthood

10. What are God's chosen people called? 1 Peter 2:9, first part. (Margin, a "purchased people.")

NOTE.—"The Lord hath set apart him that is godly for Himself; this consecration to God and separation from the world is plainly and positively enjoined in both the Old and the New Testament. There is a wall of separation which the Lord Himself has established between the things of the world and the things He has chosen out of the world and sanctified unto Himself. The calling and character of God's people are peculiar, their prospects are peculiar, and these peculiarities distinguish them from all other people. All of God's people upon the earth are one body, from the beginning to the end of time. They have one Head that directs and governs the body. The same injunctions that rested upon ancient Israel, rest upon God's people now, to be separate from the world."—*Testimonies,* vol. 1, p. 283.

11. What is the peculiar privilege and responsibility of God's people? 1 Peter 2:9, second part. Compare Isa. 43:21.

NOTE.—"Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 69.

12. How completely has their relationship to Christ been changed? 1 Peter 2:10. Compare Hosea 1:10.

NOTE.—"We see what God has done for . . . [us]: 'once a non-people,' not a people in any sense, nothing but sheep without a shepherd; 'now God's people,' the extreme opposite. All who are far from God are a non-people spiritually; only those who come to Christ (v. 4) are a real people, God's people, He being their King, Saviour, Protector, Provider, Benefactor."—R. C. H. Lenski, *Commentary on Peter,* page 104.

A Spiritual Habitation

13. According to the apostle Paul, how does God relate Himself to this new household of faith? Eph. 2:18-22.

14. How fully does the gospel restore the fellowship with God that man had in the Garden of Eden before sin entered? 2 Cor. 6:16-18.

NOTE.—"The religion of Christ means more than the forgiveness of sin; it means taking away our sins, and filling the vacuum with the graces of the

Holy Spirit. It means divine illumination, rejoicing in God. It means a heart emptied of self, and blessed with the abiding presence of Christ. When Christ reigns in the soul, there is purity, freedom from sin. The glory, the fullness, the completeness of the gospel plan is fulfilled in the life. The acceptance of the Saviour brings a glow of perfect peace, perfect love, perfect assurance. The beauty and fragrance of the character of Christ, revealed in the life, testifies that God has indeed sent His Son into the world to be its Saviour." —*Christ's Object Lessons,* pages 419, 420.

Lesson 11, for March 15, 1952

The Deportment of the Christian

LESSON SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 2:11-17.

MEMORY VERSE: "Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." 1 Peter 2:11.

STUDY HELPS: "Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing," pages 17-72; "Christ's Object Lessons," pages 325-365; "The Desire of Ages," pages 298-314.

AIM: To show that a consistent Christian life is the strongest argument in favor of Christianity.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. General survey of the lesson.
2. Questions 1-4.
3. Questions 5-7.
4. Questions 8, 9; read selections from "Mount of Blessing" assignment.
5. Questions 10-12; read selections from "Mount of Blessing" assignment.
6. Read selections from "Christ's Object Lessons" assignment.
7. Read "The Desire of Ages" assignment.

An Appeal to Holy Living

1. What words indicate the apostle Peter's loving interest in these Christians to whom he is writing? 1 Peter 2:11, first part.

2. From what does Peter beseech these Christians to abstain? 1 Peter 2:11, second part.

NOTE.—"Every practice that weakens physical or mental strength unfits man for the service of his Creator. . . .

"Peter says, 'Abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul.' Every sinful gratification tends to benumb the faculties and deaden the mental and spiritual perceptions, and the word or the Spirit of God can make but a feeble impression upon the heart."—*The Great Controversy,* pages 473, 474.

3. What manner of life does he urge the Christians to practice among the Gentiles? 1 Peter 2:12, first part.

NOTE.—"The word 'honest' is the translation of a Greek word that speaks of goodness which is beautiful, an outer goodness, that strikes the eye. . . .

Our manner of life is honest when our lives are in accordance with what we are inwardly—cleansed, regenerated children of God."—Kenneth S. Wuest, *First Peter in the Greek New Testament*, page 59.

4. When Christians are falsely charged as being evildoers, how may they answer such accusations? 1 Peter 2:12, second part.

NOTE.—"The words 'speak against' are literally 'speak down,' referring to the act of adversely criticizing a person. The separated life of the Christian is one of the most powerful means God has of convicting the world of its sin. The world does not like its sin uncovered, hence the persecution which it directs against the separated Christian. How the people of the world watch the Christian."—Kenneth S. Wuest, *First Peter in the Greek New Testament*, page 60.

Relation to Civil Powers

5. What should be the Christian's attitude toward the civil laws of the land wherein he lives? 1 Peter 2:13, 14. Compare Acts 5:29.

NOTE.—"As loyal subjects of the state, Christians are to be obedient to the laws passed, even though they may feel that in some instances they are unnecessarily arbitrary and even actually unjust. By their submission they honor Him whom they recognize as their Lord and Saviour. Whatever form of government may prevail, so long as it is recognized as the constituted authority of the country, we are to be in subjection, whether to the king or by whatever name the supreme executive is known."—Harry Ironside, *Expository Notes on the Epistles of Peter*, pages 31, 32.

6. On what occasion did the apostle Peter first learn the principle of obedience to civil authority? Matt. 22:15-22.

NOTE.—"When the Pharisees heard Christ's answer, 'they marveled, and left Him, and went their way.' He had rebuked their hypocrisy and presumption, and in doing this He had stated a great principle, a principle that clearly defines the limits of man's duty to the civil government and his duty to God." —*The Desire of Ages*, pages 602, 603.

7. How does Paul set forth this principle for all? Rom. 13:1-7.

8. What, however, is our duty when the civil law is contrary to the law of God? Acts 5:17-20, 28, 29; Dan. 3:14-18.

9. What will be the result of submission to the laws of the land, and of good behavior in all of our relations with fellow men? 1 Peter 2:15.

NOTE.—"We are not required to defy authorities. Our words, whether spoken or written, should be carefully considered, lest we place ourselves on record as uttering that which would make us appear antagonistic to law and

order. We are not to say or do anything that would unnecessarily close up our way. We are to go forward in Christ's name, advocating the truths committed to us. If we are forbidden by men to do this work, then we may say, as did the apostles, 'Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.' "—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 69.

Proper Exercise of Liberty

10. Since we have been set free from sin, how does the apostle warn us against misuse of our liberty? 1 Peter 2:16, first part.

11. In what constructive way are we admonished to use our liberty? 1 Peter 2:16, second part.

NOTE.—Since we have been liberated from the bondage of sin, we are to use our freedom as servants of God, Peter said. "It is the privilege of every soul to be a living channel through which God can communicate to the world the treasures of His grace, the unsearchable riches of Christ. . . . There is nothing that the world needs so much as the manifestation through humanity of the Saviour's love. All heaven is waiting for channels through which can be poured the holy oil to be a joy and blessing to human hearts."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 419.

12. With what striking fourfold admonition does the apostle Peter close this lesson on Christian deportment in social and civil life? 1 Peter 2:17.

NOTE.—"1. Humanitarian: 'Honor all men.' Give them that respect and deference which courtesy or custom demands. Estimate aright what is involved in true manhood and act accordingly. [The recognition of the right of every individual to consideration is the obligation of every Christian.] . . .

"2. Christian: 'Love the brotherhood.' This is the special application to their fellow believers (1 Peter 1:22; 3:8; 4:9; 5:9). It is noteworthy that whilst we are to *honor* all men, we are to *love* Christians.

"3. Divine: 'Fear God.' (Compare 1 Peter 1:17.) Reverential awe towards God will necessarily result in submission.

"4. National: 'Honor the king.' An injunction all the more striking when we remember that (probably) Nero was on the throne. Loyalty to the institution is ever to be distinguished from confidence in the person who occupies the throne. Loyalty necessarily becomes harder if the monarch is personally unworthy, but though difficult, it is not to be regarded as impossible. (Prov. 24:21; Rom. 13:7)."—Wm. H. Griffith Thomas, *The Apostle Peter,* Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, pages 195, 196.

Help your foreign-language-speaking friends to enjoy the Sabbath-school lessons more fully by telling them about the foreign-language *Lesson Quarterlies.*

Lesson 12, for March 22, 1952

Our Great Example

LESSON SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 2:18-25.

MEMORY VERSE: "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps." 1 Peter 2:21.

STUDY HELPS: "Early Writings," pages 175-181; "The Desire of Ages," pages 84-92, 698-715, 723-740.

AIM: To show that all Christians under oppression, persecution, or opposition should behave in the same manner as their Lord at His trial and crucifixion.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. General survey of the lesson.
2. Questions 1-3; memorize 1 Peter 2:21.
3. Questions 4-6.
4. Questions 7-10.
5. Questions 11, 12; read "Early Writings" assignment.
6. Read selections from "The Desire of of Ages" assignment.
7. Read selections from "The Desire of Ages" assignment; review the lesson.

Christian Attitude Under Oppression

1. What counsel does Peter have for Christian servants and slaves? 1 Peter 2:18.

2. What kind of behavior on the part of Christians did Peter consider "thankworthy"? 1 Peter 2:19.

3. Through what experiences had Peter passed which enabled him to instruct these Christians who were continually facing persecution? Acts 4:3, 13, 18, 21; 5:17-20; 12:3, 4.

4. What merit, if any, is obtained from being patient when buffeted for wrongdoing? 1 Peter 2:20, first part.

5. When is patient endurance acceptable? 1 Peter 2:20, second part.

6. Unto what experience are Christians called? 1 Peter 2:21, first part. Compare 2 Tim. 3:12.

NOTE.—"The divine call of God to a lost sinner is an effectual call unto salvation, and an accompaniment of that salvation is suffering for righteousness' sake, the natural result of the Christian's contact with the people of the world and their reaction towards the Lord Jesus who is seen in the life of the saint. Paul speaks of the same thing when he says, 'For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for His sake.' (Philippians 1:29)."—Kenneth S. Wuest, *First Peter in the Greek New Testament,* page 66.

Christ's Example

7. What reason does Peter give for this assertion? 1 Peter 2:21, last part.

8. Under what circumstances did Jesus set us an example of patient endurance? Matt. 26:62-67; 27:27-30; Luke 23:34. Compare Isa. 53:7.

NOTE.—"The word 'buffeted' in the Greek text speaks of the act of striking with the fist. . . . The same word is used in Matthew 26:67, where the Lord Jesus was pummeled by the frenzied Jewish mob. Isaiah 52:14 gives us a picture of our Lord after the pummeling which He received at the hands of the Jews; 'As many were astonied at Thee; His visage was so marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men.' The literal rendering of this verse according to Hebrew scholars is as follows, 'so marred from the form of man was His aspect that His appearance was not that of the Son of man,' namely, not human. This passage bears the marks of Peter's memories of the awful sight."—Kenneth S. Wuest, *First Peter in the Greek New Testament,* pages 65, 66.

9. How does Peter describe the attitude and conduct of Jesus during His trial and sufferings? 1 Peter 2:22, 23, first part. Compare Isa. 53:1-12.

10. How was Jesus able thus to endure? 1 Peter 2:23, last part.

NOTE.—"The word 'committed' is the translation of a Greek word which means literally, 'to hand over.' It means 'to deliver something to someone to keep, use, take care of, manage.' Our Lord kept on delivering over to God the Father both the revilers and their revilings as both kept on wounding His loving heart. It is for us to do the same thing when men revile us because of our Christian testimony."—Kenneth S. Wuest, *First Peter in the Greek New Testament,* page 68.

Healed by His Stripes

11. In what way did Jesus break the power of sin in our lives and heal the wounded soul? 1 Peter 2:24.

NOTE.—"There stood the Son of God, wearing the robe of mockery and the crown of thorns. Stripped to the waist, His back showed the long, cruel stripes, from which the blood flowed freely. His face was stained with blood, and bore the marks of exhaustion and pain; but never had it appeared more beautiful than now. . . . Every feature expressed gentleness and resignation and the tenderest pity for His cruel foes."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 735.

12. What glorious and eternal result has come from the atoning death of our blessed Saviour? 1 Peter 2:25. See Isaiah 53:5, 10, 11.

NOTE.—"Songs of triumph mingle with the music from angel harps, till heaven seems to overflow with joy and praise. Love has conquered. The lost is found. Heaven rings with voices in lofty strains proclaiming, 'Blessing, and honor, and glory, and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.' . . . The family of heaven and the family of earth are one."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 834, 835.

Lesson 13, for March 29, 1952

The Christian Home

LESSON SCRIPTURES: 1 Peter 3:1-7; Ephesians 5:25; 6:1-4.

MEMORY VERSE: "But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price." 1 Peter 3:4.

STUDY HELP: "The Ministry of Healing," pages 287-294, 349-394.

AIM: To impress upon our minds the serious fact that the remnant church will never be prepared to meet her Lord until the homes constituting the church are also ready to greet Him.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. General survey of the lesson.
2. Questions 1-5.
3. Questions 6-8; memorize 1 Peter 3:4.
4. Questions 9-12.
5. Questions 13, 14.
6. Read "The Ministry of Healing" selections.
7. Read selections from "The Ministry of Healing" assignment; review the lesson.

Influence of Christian Wives

1. What counsel does Peter give to wives? 1 Peter 3:1, first part. Compare Eph. 5:22; Col. 3:18.

NOTE.—"Neither husband nor wife is to make a plea for rulership. The Lord has laid down the principle that is to guide in this matter. . . . Do not try to compel each other to do as you wish. You cannot do this and retain each other's love. Manifestations of self-will destroy the peace and happiness of the home. Let not your married life be one of contention."—*Testimonies,* vol. 7, p. 47.

2. What will be the effect of the life of a Christian wife on an unbelieving husband? 1 Peter 3:1, last part.

NOTE.—"Great is the work and mission of women, especially those who are wives and mothers. They can be a blessing to all around them. They can have a powerful influence for good if they will let their light so shine that others may be led to glorify our heavenly Father. . . . They can have an influence which will tend to refine and elevate those with whom they associate. . . . These women who are doing with ready willingness what their hands find to do, with cheerfulness of spirit aiding their husbands to

bear their burdens, and training their children for God, are missionaries in the highest sense."—*Testimonies,* vol. 2, pp. 465, 466.

3. What two qualities are especially mentioned in this wholesome influence? 1 Peter 3:2. (Moffatt reads, "When they see how chaste and reverent you are.")

4. How will such a character be revealed? 1 Peter 3:3, 4.

NOTE.—"The apostle places the outward adorning in direct contrast with a meek and quiet spirit and then testifies of the comparative value of the latter: 'In the sight of God of great price.' There is a decided contradiction between the love of outward adorning and the grace of meekness, the quiet spirit. It is only when we seek in all things to conform to the will of God that peace and joy will reign in the soul. The love of dress endangers the morals and makes woman the opposite of the Christian lady characterized by modesty and sobriety."—*Testimonies,* vol. 4, p. 645.

5. How is this exemplified in the lives of holy women of old? 1 Peter 3:5, 6.

Attitude of Husbands

6. What counsel is given to husbands? 1 Peter 3:7.

NOTE.—"The husband should manifest great interest in his family. Especially should he be very tender of the feelings of a feeble wife. He can shut the door against much disease. Kind, cheerful, and encouraging words will prove more effective than the most healing medicines. These will bring courage to the heart of the desponding and discouraged, and the happiness and sunshine brought into the family by kind acts and encouraging words will repay the effort tenfold."—*Testimonies,* vol. 1, p. 306.

7. How does Paul set forth the obligation of husbands? Eph. 5:23, 25, 28.

NOTE.—"The husband is to cherish his wife as Christ cherishes the church. And the wife is to respect and love her husband. Both are to cultivate the spirit of kindness, being determined never to grieve or injure the other."—*Testimonies,* vol. 7, p. 47.

8. Upon what basic principle is this obligation established? Matt. 19:3-6; Eph. 5:31, 33.

NOTE.—"Around every family there is a sacred circle that should be kept unbroken. Within this circle no other person has a right to come. Let not the husband or the wife permit another to share the confidences that belong solely to themselves. Let each give love rather than exact it. Cultivate that which is noblest in yourselves, and be quick to recognize the good qualities in each other."—*The Ministry of Healing,* page 361.

Parents and Children

9. What should be the attitude and duty of fathers to their children? Col. 3:21; Eph. 6:4.

NOTE.—"Children can be molded when they are young. But years pass when their hearts are tender and susceptible to the impressions of truth, and but little time is devoted to their moral culture. The precious lessons of truth and duty should be instilled into their hearts daily. They should have a knowledge of God in His created works; this will be of greater value to them than any knowledge of books."—*Testimonies,* vol. 5, p. 329.

10. How should children regard their parents? Eph. 6:1-3; Col. 3:20.

NOTE.—"Satan is leading the young captive. Oh, what can I say to lead them to break his power of infatuation! He is a skillful charmer, luring them on to perdition. Listen to the instructions from the Inspired Book of God. I saw that Satan had blinded the minds of the youth that they could not comprehend the truths of God's word. Their sensibilities are so blunted that they regard not the injunctions of the holy apostle: 'Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.' "—*Testimonies,* vol. 1, p. 497.

11. What is said of Abraham's relationship to his children? Gen. 18:19.

12. What grave mistake did Eli make in his family responsibilities? 1 Sam. 3:12-14.

NOTE.—"Eli did not manage his household according to God's rules for family government. He followed his own judgment. The fond father overlooked the faults and sins of his sons in their childhood, flattering himself that after a time they would outgrow their evil tendencies. Many are now making a similar mistake. They think they know a better way of training their children than that which God has given in His word. They foster wrong tendencies in them, urging as an excuse, 'They are too young to be punished. Wait till they become older, and can be reasoned with.' Thus wrong habits are left to strengthen until they become second nature. The children grow up without restraint, with traits of character that are a lifelong curse to them, and are liable to be reproduced in others.

"There is no greater curse upon households than to allow the youth to have their own way. When parents regard every wish of their children, and indulge them in what they know is not for their good, the children soon lose all respect for their parents, all regard for the authority of God or man, and are led captive at the will of Satan. The influence of an ill-regulated family is widespread, and disastrous to all society. It accumulates in a tide of evil that affects families, communities, and governments."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* pages 578, 579.

The Elijah Message

13. What encouraging promise does God make to His people? Isa. 49:25.

14. Before the day of the Lord's judgment, what close family relationship is assured? Mal. 4:5, 6.

NOTE.—"Before the last terrible judgment came upon the Egyptians in the death of the first-born, God commanded His people to gather their children into their own homes. The doorpost of every house was marked with blood, and within the protection assured by this token all were to abide. So today parents who love and fear God are to keep their children under 'the bond of the covenant,'—within the protection of those sacred influences made possible through Christ's redeeming blood. . . . He is waiting to inspire the youth with power from above, that they may stand under the bloodstained banner of Christ, to work as He worked, to lead souls into safe paths, to plant the feet of many upon the Rock of Ages."—*The Ministry of Healing*, pages 403-405.

LESSONS FOR THE SECOND QUARTER

Sabbath-school members who have failed to receive a senior *Lesson Quarterly* for the second quarter of 1952 will be helped by the following outline in studying the first lesson. They will thus be able to follow the daily study of the lesson.

The general topic of the lessons is "The Apostle Peter and His Epistles, Part II." The memory verse is 1 Peter 3:10. Lesson I for April 5 is entitled, "Christian Life and Conduct." The main study help is *The Acts of the Apostles*, pages 95, 96, 546, 556. The texts to be studied are:

Ques. 1. 1 Peter 3:8, first part.

Ques. 2. John 17:20-23.

Ques. 3. 1 Peter 3:8, last part.

Ques. 4. Rom. 12:10, 16.

Ques. 5. 1 Peter 3:9, first part.

Ques. 6. Rom. 12:19-21.

Ques. 7. 1 Peter 3:9, last part

Ques. 8. 1 Peter 3:10.

Ques. 9. James 3:2-6.

Ques. 10. Ps. 19:14; 141:3.

Ques. 11. 1 Peter 3:11, first part; Ps. 37:27.

Ques. 12. 1 Peter 3:11, last part; Rom. 12:18; Heb. 12:14.

Ques. 13. John 14:27.

LESSON QUARTERLIES FOR THE BLIND

The senior Sabbath-school lessons, slightly condensed, are published each quarter in the Braille and supplied free to the blind upon request. Address: The Christian Record Benevolent Association, Box 66, Lincoln 6, Nebraska.

THIRTEENTH SABBATH OFFERING

March 29, 1952—Northern European Division

The overflow from the offering received on March 29 will go to the Northern European Division to be used in strengthening evangelistic and educational work in the mission fields of that division. The two mission fields that have been chosen to receive help from this fund are the West African Union and the Ethiopian Union. Let us do our full share in order that native workers may be trained to hasten the finishing of the work in these two interesting fields.

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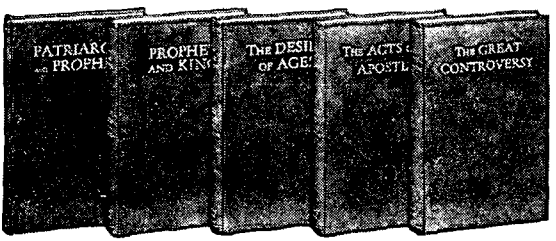

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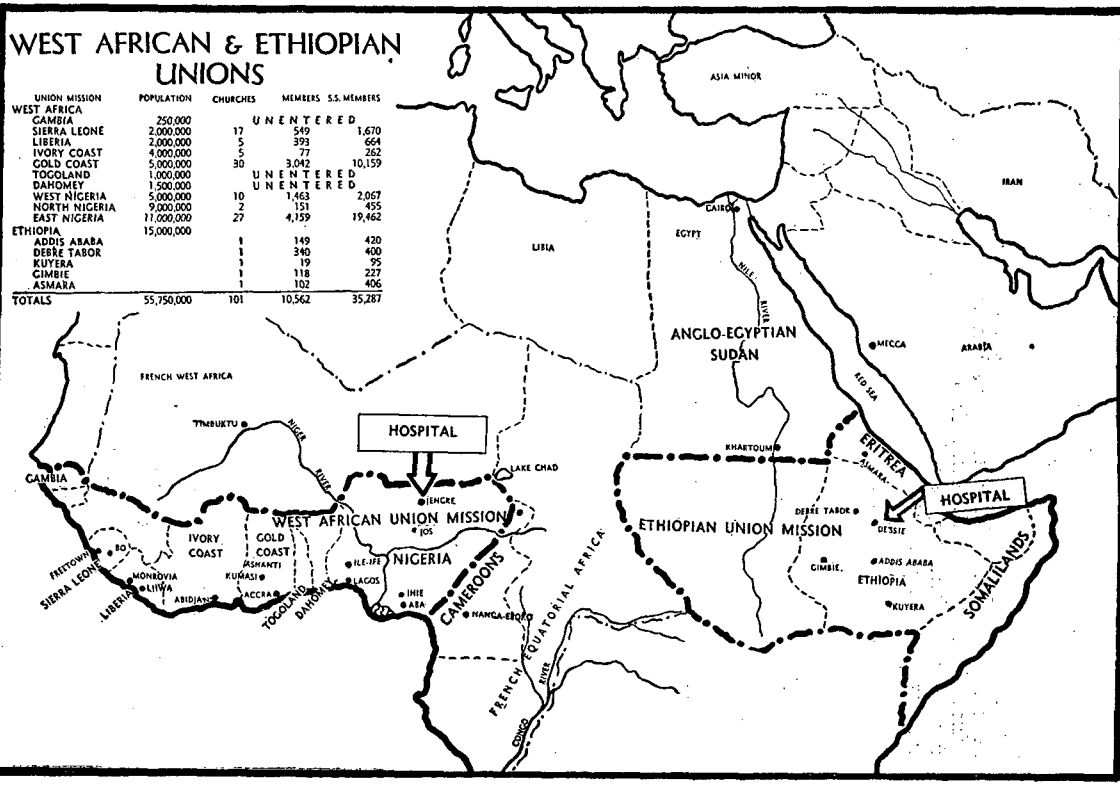
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EAST NIGERIA	11,000,000	27	4,159	19,462
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