

4/2000

October–December 2000

# Sabbath Bible Lessons

Senior Division



*Lessons From the Book of Daniel*

# FOREWORD

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During this quarter the **Sabbath Bible Lessons** will focus on *Lessons From the Book of Daniel*.

We are counseled to “read the book of Daniel. Call up, point by point, the history of the kingdoms there represented. Behold statesmen, councils, powerful armies, and see how God wrought to abase the pride of men, and lay human glory in the dust. God alone is represented as great. In the vision of the prophet He is seen casting down one mighty ruler, and setting up another. He is revealed as the monarch of the universe, about to set up His everlasting kingdom—the Ancient of days, the living God, the Source of all wisdom, the Ruler of the present, the Revealer of the future. Read, and understand how poor, how frail, how short-lived, how erring, how guilty is man in lifting up his soul unto vanity. . . .

“The light that Daniel received direct from God was given especially for these last days. The visions he saw by the banks of the Ulai and the Hiddekel, the great rivers of Shinar, are now in process of fulfillment, and all the events foretold will soon have come to pass.”—*The SDA Bible Commentary* [E. G. White Comments], vol. 4, p. 1166.

Daniel, as a person, was recognized for his piety and uprightness—not only in after generations because of his writings—but also by the contemporary prophet Ezekiel. (See Ezekiel 14:19, 20; 28:3.) “The prophet Daniel was an illustrious character. He was a bright example of what men may become when united with the God of wisdom.”—*The Sanctified Life*, p. 18.

“In Daniel God placed a light beside the throne of the world's greatest kingdom, that all who would might learn of the true and living God.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 220.

“Read the history of Daniel. The Lord would have His people reach the highest round of the ladder, that they may glorify Him by possessing the ability He is willing to bestow. He has a treasure-house of knowledge from which we can all draw. Then let us realize our defects and improve under the instruction of God. Then the light and grace of God will be reflected to the world as the highest education, which sanctifies the receiver.”—*Medical Ministry*, p. 200.

As we study these lessons on Daniel, let it be the goal of every Sabbath school member to come up higher in the ladder of sanctification. Through contemplating the faith of this man of God and considering the prophecies he was inspired to record, may the Holy Spirit strengthen our experience with Christ and fortify us for the final events of these last days.

*The General Conference Sabbath School Department*

**Sabbath Bible Lessons**, a daily study program, is based solely on the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy without additional comments. The quotations are as brief as possible to provide concise, direct thoughts. Brackets [ ] are supplied in some cases to ensure clarity, proper context, and smooth readability. Further study in the source materials is strongly recommended.

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**Sabbath Bible Lessons** (USPS 005-118), Vol. 75, No. 4, October–December 2000. Published quarterly by the Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement General Conference, Sabbath School Department. Copyright © 2000, printed and distributed by Reformation Herald Publishing Association, 5240 Hollins Road, Roanoke, Virginia 24019-5048, USA. Periodical postage paid at Roanoke, Virginia 24022-9993. Telephone 540-366-9400 \* USA and Canada 1888-712-1234 \* Fax 540-366-2814 \* Internet <http://www.sdarm.org> \* E-mail: [sdarm@worldnet.att.net](mailto:sdarm@worldnet.att.net)

**Annual subscriptions:** U.S.A. \$9.95. Other countries \$13.00, or by AIRMAIL \$17.00. Single copies \$4.50. Please send subscription requests and payments (in U.S. currency only) to the address below. Prices subject to change without notice.

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# First Sabbath Offering

for a chapel and headquarters in the East-Central U.S. Field

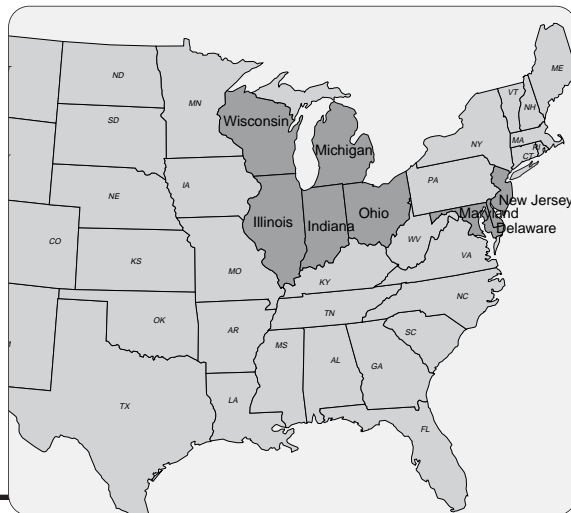
The East-Central U.S. Field (ECUSF) is one of seven conferences the Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement has organized to carry on the work in the United States. Presently the ECUSF covers eight states in the Mid-Atlantic and Great Lakes regions with an area of 269,000 square miles and a population of nearly 58 million.

Originally the Eastern U.S. Field had a very large territory comprising all the Atlantic coast states as well as many central states. To better develop the south Atlantic states, the Southeast U.S. Field was formed in 1988 and, in 1997, the East-Central U.S. Field began operations to conduct the work in the states of Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, Ohio and Wisconsin.

We thank God for the new interests generated in this field. Up to now we have been functioning from the office of a local church. But as the work has grown we have seen the great need to establish a headquarters to be a central beacon of light shining through the entire field. A property has been acquired within the city limits of Indianapolis, Indiana, for this purpose.

Our brethren have sacrificed much to see this project realized, but the needed finances are still greater than it is possible to be gathered on our own. So we kindly appeal to our brethren, sisters and friends from around the world for support that a chapel and headquarters may be established in this portion of the Lord's vineyard.

Your brethren in the  
ECUSF



# Spiritual Vigor

**“Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself” (Daniel 1:8).**

“As in the case of Daniel, in exact proportion as the spiritual character is developed, the intellectual capabilities are increased.”—*The SDA Bible Commentary* [E. G. White Comments], vol. 4, p. 1168.

☐ Sunday  
October 1

## CONSEQUENCES OF LIVING FOR SELF

**1** How was the prophecy of Jeremiah 25:8-11 fulfilled? 2 Kings 24:13-16; Daniel 1:1, 2. Why did this calamity come?

“The children of Israel were taken captive to Babylon because they separated from God; they did not maintain His principles unadulterated with the sentiments of the nations around them. The people who should have been a light amid the surrounding darkness, disregarded the word of the Lord. They lived for themselves, and neglected to do the special work God had appointed them. And because of their failure to fulfil His purpose, He permitted them to be humbled by an idolatrous nation.”—*The Youth’s Instructor*; May 14, 1903.

**2** Describe some aspects of the discouraging scene. Psalm 137: 1-4. How is this a warning for us? Proverbs 26:2.

“The righteous with the unrighteous were taken away into a land where the name of Jehovah would not come to their ears; where songs and praise and thanksgiving to God would not be heard; where prophets with messages of warnings and reproof and counsel would be few and far between.”—*The Youth’s Instructor*; August 18, 1898.

“If men refuse to receive the admonitions of the Lord, if they persist in walking contrary to His instruction, He cannot deliver them from the sure consequences of their own course.”—*Ibid.*, May 14, 1903.

☐ **Monday**  
October 2

## FORTIFIED AGAINST TEMPTATION

**3** What special command did the king give and for what purpose? Daniel 1:3–5. Discuss the value of early discipline. Proverbs 22:6.

“When the Jews were dispersed from Jerusalem, there were among them young men and women who were firm as a rock to principle, men and women who had not pursued a course to make the Lord ashamed to call them His people. These were sad at heart for the backsliding which they could not prevent. These innocent ones must suffer with the guilty; but God would give them strength sufficient for their day.”—*The SDA Bible Commentary* [E. G. White Comments], vol. 4, p. 1144.

“God commanded the Hebrews to teach their children His requirements, and to make them acquainted with all His dealings with their people. The home and the school were one. In the place of stranger lips, the loving hearts of the father and mother were to give instruction to their children. Thoughts of God were associated with all the events of daily life in the home dwelling. The mighty works of God in the deliverance of His people were recounted with eloquence and reverential awe.”—*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 95.

**4** Who were included among the faithful? Daniel 1:6, 7. Why were their names changed?

“[Daniel] was surrounded with influences calculated to subvert those who would vacillate between principle and inclination; yet the Word of God presents him as a faultless character. Daniel dared not trust to his own moral power. Prayer was to him a necessity. He made God his strength, and the fear of God was continually before him.”—*The Sanctified Life*, p. 20.

“Anciently the name of a child stood for his character, and the names given to these children were characteristic of what it was expected they would become. They were young in years, and this change in their names it was believed would make an impression on their minds. In a little while,

it was hoped, their former religion would be forgotten, and they would become in character and purpose like the Chaldean youth about them.”—*The Youth's Instructor*, October 29, 1907.

☐ **Tuesday**  
October 3

## CULTIVATING MENTAL CLARITY

**5** What did Daniel decide and why? Daniel 1:8 (first part); Leviticus 10:1, 2, 8–11.

“As Daniel and his fellows were brought to the test, they placed themselves fully on the side of righteousness and truth. They did not move capriciously, but intelligently. They decided that as flesh-meat had not composed their diet in the past, it should not come into their diet in the future, and as wine had been prohibited to all who should engage in the service of God, they determined that they would not partake of it. The fate of the sons of Aaron had been presented before them, and they knew that the use of wine would confuse their senses, that the indulgence of appetite would becloud their powers of discernment. These particulars were placed on record in the history of the children of Israel as a warning to every youth to avoid all customs and practices and indulgences that would in any way dishonor God.”—*The SDA Bible Commentary* [E. G. White Comments], vol. 4, pp. 1166, 1167.

“The approval of God was dearer to [Daniel] than the favor of the most powerful earthly potentate—dearer than life itself.”—*Prophets and Kings*, p. 483.

**6** How should the example of Daniel and his companions be put into practice today? 1 Corinthians 10:31.

“Amid the seductive influences of the luxurious courts of Babylon [Daniel and his companions] stood firm. The youth of today are surrounded with allurements to self-indulgence. Especially in our large cities, every form of sensual gratification is made easy and inviting. Those who, like Daniel, refuse to defile themselves will reap the reward of temperate habits.”—*Messages to Young People*, p. 242.

“If, like Daniel, young men and young women will bring all their habits, appetites, and passions into conformity to the requirements of God, they will qualify themselves for higher work. They should put from their minds all that is cheap and frivolous. Nonsense and amusement-loving

propensities should be discarded, as out of place in the life and experience of those who are living by faith in the Son of God.”—*Ibid.*, pp. 41, 42.

□ **Wednesday**  
October 4

## A HOST OF VIRTUES

**7** What request did Daniel and his companions make that revealed their convictions? **Daniel 1:8 (second part), 9.**

“[Daniel 1:8 quoted.] This request [Daniel and his companions] did not prefer in a defiant spirit, but as if soliciting a great favor. The appearance of Daniel and his companions was like what every youth’s should be. They were courteous, kind, respectful, possessing the grace of meekness and modesty. And the good behavior of these youth obtained favor for them.”—*The Youth’s Instructor*, August 18, 1898.

**8** How did Daniel’s suggestion prevail over the concern of Melzar? **Daniel 1:10–17. What can we learn from this experience?**

“The lesson here presented [of Daniel and his companions] is one which we would do well to ponder. Our danger is not from scarcity, but from abundance. We are constantly tempted to excess. Those who would preserve their powers unimpaired for the service of God must observe strict temperance in the use of His bounties, as well as total abstinence from every injurious or debasing indulgence.”—*Counsels on Diet and Foods*, p. 29.

“There are many who feel that they cannot get along without flesh food; but if these would place themselves on the Lord’s side, resolutely resolved to walk in the way of His guidance, they would receive strength and wisdom as did Daniel and his fellows. They would find that the Lord would give them sound judgment.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 157.

□ **Thursday**  
October 5

## THE REWARD OF FAITHFULNESS

**9** What should we learn from Nebuchadnezzar’s intensive examination of the four Hebrew youths? **Daniel 1:18–21.**

“Only by faithfulness in the little things can the soul be trained to act with fidelity under larger responsibilities. God brought Daniel and his fellows into connection with the great men of Babylon, that these heathen men might become acquainted with the principles of true religion. In the midst of a nation of idolaters, Daniel was to represent the character of God. How did he become fitted for a position of so great trust and honor? It was his faithfulness in the little things that gave complexion to his whole life. . . .

“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.”—*Christ’s Object Lessons*, pp. 356, 357.

**10** How does the Word of God encourage the practice of health reform by men in high positions? **Ecclesiastes 10:17.**

“What if Daniel and his companions had made a compromise with those heathen officers and had yielded to the pressure of the occasion by eating and drinking as was customary with the Babylonians? That single instance of departure from principle would have weakened their sense of right and their abhorrence of wrong. Indulgence of appetite would have involved the sacrifice of physical vigor, clearness of intellect, and spiritual power. One wrong step would probably have led to others, until, their connection with Heaven being severed, they would have been swept away by temptation.”—*The Sanctified Life*, p. 23.

□ **Friday**  
October 6

## REVIEW AND THOUGHT QUESTIONS

- What lesson is found in Nebuchadnezzar’s siege of Judah?
- What can families today learn from Daniel’s parents?
- Name some key elements to Daniel’s success.
- Why is our danger from abundance and not from scarcity?
- What are the benefits of temperate habits?

## FOR FURTHER STUDY

*The Sanctified Life*, pp. 18–24.

*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, pp. 95–99.

## A Revealer of Secrets

**“There is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days” (Daniel 2:28).**

“In God’s name Daniel made known to the king the heaven-sent messages of instruction, warning, and rebuke, and he was not repulsed. Let God’s workers of today read the firm, bold testimony of Daniel and follow his example.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 7, p. 151.

☐ **Sunday**  
October 8

### A TROUBLING DREAM

**1** What did King Nebuchadnezzar receive? Daniel 2:1. For what purpose was it given?

“[Daniel 2:36–44 quoted.] This dream was given to the king of Babylon, the events of the future, reaching down to the end of time, were opened before him, that he might have light on this important subject. It was also given for the benefit of all future generations. The record was traced by the prophetic pen that the light might be shared by those kingdoms which should succeed the kingdom of Babylon.”—*The Signs of the Times*, April 29, 1897.

**2** In his perplexity, whom did the king seek for help? Daniel 2:2. How can we be doing the same thing today?

“It is fondly supposed that heathen superstitions have disappeared before the civilization of the twentieth century. But the word of God and the stern testimony of facts declare that sorcery is practiced in this age as verily as in the days of the old-time magicians. The ancient system of magic is, in reality, the same as what is now known as modern spiritualism.”—*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 289.

## WORLDLY WISDOM: A DISAPPOINTMENT

☐ **Monday**  
October 9

**3** What did the wise men reveal by their answer? Daniel 2:3–7. What is the source of true wisdom?

“Nebuchadnezzar began to see that the men whom he trusted to reveal mysteries through their boasted wisdom, failed him in his great perplexity.”—*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 410.

“The historic events related in the king’s dream were of consequence to him; but the dream was taken from him, that the wise men by their claimed understanding of mysteries, should not place upon it a false interpretation. The lessons taught in it were given by God for those who live in our day. The inability of the wise men to tell the dream, is a representation of the wise men of the present day, who have not discernment and learning and knowledge from the Most High, and therefore are unable to understand the prophecies.”—*Ibid.*, p. 412.

**4** How did Nebuchadnezzar avoid being deceived? Daniel 2:8, 9. What command was given by the king? Daniel 2:10–13.

“Nebuchadnezzar demanded not only the interpretation of the dream, but the relation of the dream itself. If the wise men would supply this, he would accept it as a proof of their claim as magicians and astrologers. The magicians were full of fear and trembling. They declared that the request of the king was something unreasonable, and the test beyond that which had ever been required of any man. The king became furious, and acted like all men who have great power and uncontrollable passions. He decided that every one of them should be put to death, and as Daniel and his fellows were numbered with the wise men, they also were to share this fate.”—*The Youth’s Instructor*, November 22, 1894.

☐ **Tuesday**  
October 10

### GOD REVEALS SECRETS

**5** How did Daniel react in an hour of crisis? Daniel 2:14–18.

“[Daniel] pleaded for time to bring this matter before the supreme court of the universe, from whose decision there could be no appeal. When his request was granted, Daniel laid the whole matter before his companions, who were united with him in worshipping the true God. The matter was fully considered, and on their bended knees they pleaded that God would give them the power and wisdom that would alone avail them in their great necessity. . . .

“I would impress upon the youth that Daniel’s God is their God, and whatever difficulty may arise, let them do as did Daniel, ‘desire mercies of the God of heaven’ (Daniel 2:18).”—*Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 216.

“Behold the Jewish captive, calm and self-possessed, in the presence of the monarch of the world’s most powerful empire. In his first words he disclaimed honor for himself and exalted God as the source of all wisdom.”—*Prophets and Kings*, p. 494.

**6** What was the first thing Daniel did when his prayer was answered? Daniel 2:19–23. What is God willing to do today?

“As God made known His will to the Hebrew captives, to those who were most separate from the customs and practices of a world lying in wickedness, so will the Lord communicate light from heaven to all who will appreciate a ‘Thus saith the Lord.’ To them He will express His mind. Those who are least bound up with worldly ideas, are the most separate from display, and vanity, and pride, and love of promotion, who stand forth as His peculiar people, zealous of good works—to these He will reveal the meaning of His word. The very first exhibition of God’s power to the Hebrew captives was in showing the defective wisdom of the great ones of the earth. The wisdom of men is foolishness with God. The magicians revealed their ignorance of the light before the Lord revealed His wisdom as supreme.”—*Counsels to Writers and Editors*, pp. 101, 102.

□ **Wednesday**  
October 11

## MEEKNESS AND PRIDE

**7** Name some noble qualities that we should learn from Daniel. Daniel 2:24–30.

“The Jewish captive stands before the monarch of the most powerful empire the sun has ever shone upon. The king is in great distress amid all

his riches and glory, but the youthful exile is peaceful and happy in his God. Now, if ever, is the time for Daniel to exalt himself, to make prominent his own goodness and superior wisdom. But his first effort is to disclaim all honor for himself and to exalt God as the source of wisdom.”—*The Sanctified Life*, pp. 35, 36.

“When called to stand before King Nebuchadnezzar, Daniel did not hesitate to acknowledge the source of his wisdom. Did that faithful recognition of God detract from Daniel’s influence in the king’s court? By no means; it was the secret of his power; it secured for him favor in the eyes of the ruler of Babylon. . . . Never does man show greater folly than when he seeks to secure acceptance and recognition in the world by sacrificing in any degree the allegiance and honor due to God.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 7, p. 151.

“Daniel was imbued with the Spirit of Jesus Christ, and he pleaded that the wise men of Babylon should not be destroyed. . . . The transforming grace of God was made manifest in His servant, and he pleaded most earnestly for the lives of the very men who afterwards in a secret, underhanded manner, made plans by which they thought to put an end to the life of Daniel. These men became jealous of Daniel because he found favor with kings and nobles, and was honored as the greatest man in Babylon.”—*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 2, pp. 319, 320.

**8** What is revealed by the sequence of worldly dominion as depicted in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream? Daniel 2:31–43.

“The image revealed to Nebuchadnezzar, while representing the deterioration of the kingdoms of the earth in power and glory, also fitly represents the deterioration of religion and morality among the people of these kingdoms. As nations forget God, in like proportion they become weak morally.

“Babylon passed away because in her prosperity she forgot God, and ascribed the glory of her prosperity to human achievement.

“The Medo-Persian kingdom was visited by the wrath of heaven because in this kingdom God’s law was trampled under foot. The fear of the Lord found no place in the hearts of the people. The prevailing influences in Medo-Persia were wickedness, blasphemy, and corruption.

“The kingdoms that followed were even more base and corrupt. They deteriorated because they cast off their allegiance to God. As they forgot Him, they sank lower and still lower in the scale of moral value. We have come to a time when God’s sacred work is represented by the feet of the image in which the iron was mixed with the miry clay.”—*The SDA Bible Commentary* [E. G. White Comments], vol. 4, p. 1168.

**9** How is the eternal kingdom of God represented? Daniel 2:44, 45. Who is the stone or rock? Isaiah 28:16; 1 Corinthians 3:11.

“The kingdom of God’s grace is now being established, as day by day hearts that have been full of sin and rebellion yield to the sovereignty of His love. But the full establishment of the kingdom of His glory will not take place until the second coming of Christ to this world.”—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, p. 108.

**10** How was the king’s satisfaction made apparent? Daniel 2:46–49.

“Nebuchadnezzar felt that he could accept this interpretation as a divine revelation; for to Daniel had been revealed every detail of the dream. The solemn truths conveyed by the interpretation of this vision of the night made a deep impression on the sovereign’s mind.”—*The SDA Bible Commentary* [E. G. White Comments], vol. 4, p. 1169.

REVIEW AND THOUGHT QUESTIONS

- a. Why is the history of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream important?
- b. In what ways is worldly wisdom insufficient?
- c. Give evidence of Daniel’s total dependence upon God.
- d. Why did Daniel seek to save the lives of the wise men?
- e. What is impressive about the last part of the dream?

FOR FURTHER STUDY

*Prophets and Kings*, pp. 491–502.  
*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, pp. 410–415.

# Fiery Persecution

**“If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king” (Daniel 3:17).**

“To the loyal heart the commands of sinful, finite men will sink into insignificance beside the word of the eternal God. Truth will be obeyed though the result be imprisonment or exile or death.”—*Prophets and Kings*, pp. 512, 513.

A ROYAL RELAPSE

**1** Some time after the revelation of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream, what change occurred in the life of the king? Daniel 3:1–3.

“For a time afterward, Nebuchadnezzar was influenced by the fear of God; but his heart was not yet cleansed from worldly ambition and a desire for self-exaltation. The prosperity attending his reign filled him with pride. In time he ceased to honor God, and resumed his idol worship with increased zeal and bigotry.”—*Prophets and Kings*, pp. 503, 504.

“The symbolic representation by which God had revealed to king and people His purpose for the nations of earth, was now to be made to serve for the glorification of human power. Daniel’s interpretation was to be rejected and forgotten; truth was to be misinterpreted and misapplied. The symbol designed of Heaven to unfold to the minds of men important events of the future, was to be used to hinder the spread of the knowledge that God desired the world to receive.”—*Ibid.*, p. 505.

**2** What was the next step of the proud king? Daniel 3:4–6. How are we warned against this spirit today? Isaiah 10:1.

“The vainglory and oppression seen in the course pursued by the heathen king, Nebuchadnezzar, is being and will continue to be manifested in our day. History will repeat itself. In this age the test will be on the point of Sabbath observance. The heavenly universe behold men trampling upon the law of Jehovah, making the memorial of God, the sign between Him and His commandment-keeping people, a thing of naught, something to be despised, while a rival sabbath is exalted as was the great golden image in the plain of Dura. Men claiming to be Christians will call upon the world to observe this spurious sabbath that they have made. All who refuse will be placed under oppressive laws. This is the mystery of iniquity, the devising of satanic agencies, carried into effect by the man of sin.”—*The Youth's Instructor*, July 12, 1904.

“An idol sabbath has been set up, as the golden image was set up in the plains of Dura. And as Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, issued a decree that all who would not bow down and worship this image should be killed, so a proclamation will be made that all who will not reverence the Sunday institution will be punished with imprisonment and death.”—*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 14, p. 91.

□ **Monday**  
October 16

## FAITHFUL AGAINST THE MAJORITY

**3** What was the response to Nebuchadnezzar's decree? **Daniel 3:7.**

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“On that eventful day the powers of darkness seemed to be gaining a signal triumph; the worship of the golden image bade fair to become connected permanently with the established forms of idolatry recognized as the state religion of the land.”—*Prophets and Kings*, p. 506.

**4** Who stood faithfully in opposition to idolatry? **Daniel 3:8–12.** Describe the similar plight of God's faithful today.

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“To bow down when in prayer to God is the proper attitude to occupy. This act of worship was required of the three Hebrew captives in Babylon. . . . But such an act was homage to be rendered to God alone—the Sovereign of the world, the Ruler of the universe; and these three Hebrews refused to give such honor to any idol even though composed of pure gold. In doing so, they would, to all intents and purposes, be bowing to the king of Babylon.”—*Selected Messages*, bk. 2, p. 312.

“Important are the lessons to be learned from the experience of the Hebrew youth on the plain of Dura. In this our day, many of God's servants, though innocent of wrongdoing, will be given over to suffer humiliation and abuse at the hands of those who, inspired by Satan, are filled with envy and religious bigotry. Especially will the wrath of man be aroused against those who hallow the Sabbath of the fourth commandment; and at last a universal decree will denounce these as deserving of death.”—*Prophets and Kings*, p. 512.

□ **Tuesday**  
October 17

## GOD AND THE AUTHORITIES

**5** Describe Nebuchadnezzar's sentiments toward the Hebrews. **Daniel 3:13–15.**

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“Firmly the Hebrews testified to their allegiance to the God of heaven, and their faith in His power to deliver. The act of bowing to the image was understood by all to be an act of worship. Such homage they could render to God alone.

“As the three Hebrews stood before the king, he was convinced that they possessed something the other wise men of his kingdom did not have. They had been faithful in the performance of every duty. He would give them another trial. If only they would signify their willingness to unite with the multitude in worshiping the image, all would be well with them.”—*Prophets and Kings*, p. 507.

**6** How did the three Hebrews express their trust in God? **Daniel 3:16–18.** What can we learn from them, as well as from the apostles Peter and John in a similar case? **Acts 4:18–20.**

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“We are to recognize human government as an ordinance of divine appointment, and teach obedience to it as a sacred duty, within its legitimate sphere. But when its claims conflict with the claims of God, we must obey God rather than men. God's word must be recognized as above all human legislation. A ‘Thus saith the Lord’ is not to be set aside for a ‘Thus saith the church’ or a ‘Thus saith the state.’ The crown of Christ is to be lifted above the diadems of earthly potentates.

“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."—*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 69.

## LIGHT AMIDST DARKNESS

□ **Wednesday**  
October 18

**7** How did Nebuchadnezzar react to the steadfast fidelity of God's servants? Daniel 3:19–21. How is the king's fury paralleled today?

"It is a fearful thing for any soul to place himself on Satan's side of the question; for as soon as he does this a change passes over him, as it is said of the king of Babylon, that his visage changed toward the three faithful Hebrews. Past history will be repeated. Men will reject the Holy Spirit's working, and open the door of the mind to satanic attributes that separate them from God. They will turn against the very messengers through whom God sends the messages of warning."—*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 19, p. 122.

**8** What sudden turn of events startled the king? Daniel 3:22–25.

"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*, p. 509.

## HELP IN OUR OWN SITUATION

□ **Thursday**  
October 19

**9** How was God's name vindicated at the fiery furnace? Daniel 3:26–30. Like the three Hebrew worthies, in what promise can we trust? Isaiah 43:2.

"By the deliverance of His faithful servants, the Lord declared that He takes His stand with the oppressed, and rebukes all earthly powers that rebel against the authority of Heaven. . . .

"In a marvelous manner [the three Hebrews'] faith in the living Word had been honored in the sight of all. The tidings of their wonderful deliverance were carried to many countries by the representatives of the different nations that had been invited by Nebuchadnezzar to the dedication. Through the faithfulness of His children, God was glorified in all the earth."—*Prophets and Kings*, pp. 511, 512.

**10** How should this history apply to us? 1 Peter 4:12–16. What assurance has been given us in view of the great ordeal soon to come? Jeremiah 30:7.

"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*, p. 513.

## REVIEW AND THOUGHT QUESTIONS

□ **Friday**  
October 20

- a. Why did the king return to his pagan practices?
- b. What placed the three Hebrews in opposition to the majority?
- c. What is a balanced position with regard to the authorities?
- d. What will characterize God's remnant in the crisis ahead?
- e. Name some promises which can help us face heavy trials.

## FOR FURTHER STUDY

*Prophets and Kings*, pp. 503–513.  
*The Sanctified Life*, pp. 34–41.

## The Exalted Abased

**“Whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted” (Luke 14:11).**

“The Lord would have His people learn of Jesus. God forbid that those for whom He has wrought shall become highminded and be left to their own way as was the king of Babylon.”—*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 13, p. 66.

☐ **Sunday**  
October 22

### THE KING'S STORY

**1** Who wrote Daniel chapter 4—and why? Daniel 4:1–3. In what sense should we follow the good example of Nebuchadnezzar?

“Our confession of His faithfulness is Heaven’s chosen agency for revealing Christ to the world. We are to acknowledge His grace as made known through the holy men of old; but that which will be most effectual is the testimony of our own experience. We are witnesses for God as we reveal in ourselves the working of a power that is divine. Every individual has a life distinct from all others, and an experience differing essentially from theirs. God desires that our praise shall ascend to Him, marked by our own individuality. These precious acknowledgments to the praise of the glory of His grace, when supported by a Christlike life, have an irresistible power that works for the salvation of souls.”—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 347.

**2** How great did Babylon become? Daniel 4:4, 22. What change began to take place in Nebuchadnezzar?

“It is not surprising that the successful monarch, so ambitious and so proud-spirited, should be tempted to turn aside from the path of humility,

which alone leads to true greatness. In the intervals between his wars of conquest he gave much thought to the strengthening and beautifying of his capital, until at length the city of Babylon became the chief glory of his kingdom, ‘the golden city,’ ‘the praise of the whole earth’ (Isaiah 14:4; Jeremiah 51:41). His passion as a builder, and his signal success in making Babylon one of the wonders of the world, ministered to his pride, until he was in grave danger of spoiling his record as a wise ruler whom God could continue to use as an instrument for the carrying out of the divine purpose.”—*Prophets and Kings*, p. 515.

☐ **Monday**  
October 23

### SEEKING RELIABLE GUIDANCE

**3** What reveals God’s love for Nebuchadnezzar and to a certain extent the king’s slowness to grasp that love? Daniel 4:5–7.

“In mercy God gave the king another dream, to warn him of his peril and of the snare that had been laid for his ruin.”—*Prophets and Kings*, p. 515.

“The dream given [Nebuchadnezzar] was very explicit, but the magicians, the astrologers, the soothsayers, and the Chaldeans could not make known to the king his dream or tell the interpretation thereof. Those who do not love and fear God cannot understand the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven. They cannot approach unto the throne of Him who dwelleth in light unapproachable; and the things of God are to them mysteries of mysteries.”—*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 13, p. 63.

**4** When Daniel was finally called in to explain the dream, what did the king admit? Daniel 4:8, 9.

“Daniel was esteemed by the king because of his unswerving integrity, for he was faithful in honoring God at all times and in all places. His wisdom was unexcelled, and neither he nor his fellows would make any compromise to secure positions in the court, or even to preserve life itself, when the honor of God was involved. In the early part of his acquaintance with Daniel, the king had found that he was the only one who could give him relief in his perplexity, and now at a later period, when another perplexing vision is given him, he remembers Daniel.”—*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 13, pp. 63, 64.

## BY DECREE OF THE HOLY WATCHER

□ Tuesday  
October 24

### 5 What was the focus of the king's dream? Daniel 4:10-12.

“Study Nebuchadnezzar’s dream as recorded in the fourth chapter of Daniel. The king saw a lofty tree planted in the earth. Flocks and herds from the mountains and hills enjoyed its shelter, and the birds of the air built their nests in its branches. Thus were represented Nebuchadnezzar’s greatness and prosperity. Nations were gathered under his sovereignty. His kingdom was firmly established in the hearts of his loyal subjects.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 8, p. 126.

“[See Daniel 4:11, 12.] This representation shows the character of a government that fulfills God’s purpose—a government that protects and upbuilds the nation. God exalted Babylon that it might fulfill this purpose. Prosperity attended the nation until it reached a height of wealth and power that has never since been equaled.”—*Education*, p. 175.

### 6 What should this dream cause us to remember? Daniel 4:13-17.

“The world is not without a ruler. The program of coming events is in the hands of the Lord. The Majesty of heaven has the destiny of nations, as well as the concerns of His church, in His own charge.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 753.

“Today there is a Watchman taking cognizance of the children of men, and in a special sense of those who are to represent God by receiving His sacred truth into the heart and revealing it to the world. That Watcher is guarding the interests of all.”—*The Review and Herald*, September 8, 1896.

## A WORD TO THE WISE

□ Wednesday  
October 25

### 7 What was Daniel's reaction upon hearing the dream? Daniel 4:18, 19. What was the interpretation of the dream and what warning does it contain for us all? Daniel 4:20-26.

“The faithful Daniel stood before the king, not to flatter, not to misinterpret in order to secure favor.”—*The Review and Herald*, September 8, 1896.

“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*, p. 517.

### 8 What should we learn from Daniel's earnest appeal? Daniel 4:27.

“Daniel exhorted the king . . . to break off his sins by righteousness, and his iniquities by showing mercy to the poor. But the light from heaven was not accepted, and did not exert a saving influence upon his character. Those who receive light will either change their course of action, or else the work of the Lord will become less and less palatable, and will finally be set aside.”—*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 13, p. 64.

“Whatever the position we are called to fill, our only safety is in walking humbly with God. The man who glories in his supposed capabilities, in his position of power, in his wisdom, in his property, or in anything else than Christ, will be taken in the net of the enemy. He who fails to walk humbly before God will find a spirit rising up within him, prompting the desire to rule others connected with him, and causing him to oppress others who are human and erring like himself. He appropriates to himself jurisdiction and control over other men—an honor which belongs alone to God.”—*The Review and Herald*, September 8, 1896.

## TIMELESS INSTRUCTION

□ Thursday  
October 26

### 9 What admonitions should we all heed from the humiliation of Nebuchadnezzar? Daniel 4:28-32.

“The scepter is no longer held in the hand of a proud and powerful monarch. The mighty ruler is a maniac. He now herds with the cattle to eat as they eat. He is a companion of the beasts of the field. The brow that once wore a coronet is disfigured by the absence of reason and intellect. The mandate has gone forth: ‘Hew down the tree, and cut off his branches, shake off his leaves, and scatter his fruit’ (Daniel 4:14).

“So the Lord magnifies Himself as the true and living God. Well might David exclaim: ‘I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a green bay tree. Yet he passed away, and, lo, he was not: yea, I sought him, but he could not be found’ (Psalm 37:35, 36). Let men become lifted up in pride, and the Lord will not sustain them and keep them from falling. Let a church become proud and boastful, not depending on God, not exalting His power, and that church will surely be left by the Lord, to be brought down to the ground. Let a people glory in wealth, intellect, knowledge, or in anything but Christ, and they will soon be brought to confusion.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 8, p. 127.

**10** In what ways can we be inspired by the end of the king’s history? Daniel 4:33–37. What principle comes to mind? Luke 14:11.

“The lesson that the Lord would have all humanity learn from the history of the king of Babylon is that all those who walk in pride and self-exaltation, He is able to abase. The chastening that came upon the king of Babylon wrought reformation in the heart of the king and transformed him in character. Before his humiliation he was tyrannical in his dealings with others, but now the overbearing, fierce monarch is changed into a wise and compassionate ruler. Before his humiliation he defied and blasphemed the God of heaven, but now he acknowledges His power and seeks earnestly to promote the happiness of his subjects. At last the king had received his lesson. ‘Come and hear, all ye that fear God, and I will make known to you what he hath done for my soul’ (Psalm 66:16). The Lord designed that the greatest kingdom in the world should know and show forth His praise.”—*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 13, pp. 66, 67.

## REVIEW AND THOUGHT QUESTIONS

- a. What made the king drift from his earlier faith?
- b. What characteristics of Daniel did the king appreciate?
- c. In the dream, what happened to the tree and why?
- d. Regardless of ability and talent, what must we remember?
- e. Describe God’s purpose in placing men in positions of trust.

## FOR FURTHER STUDY

*Prophets and Kings*, pp. 514–521.  
*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 13, pp. 59–73.

Sabbath, November 4, 2000

## First Sabbath Offering

literature for needy countries

Jesus said, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor” (Luke 4:18).

“God works by means of instruments, or second causes. He uses the gospel ministry, medical missionary work, and the publications containing present truth to impress hearts. All are made effectual by means of faith. As the truth is heard or read, the Holy Spirit sends it home to those who hear and read with an earnest desire to know what is right.”—*Evangelism*, p. 547.

“Papers and books are the Lord’s means of keeping the message for this time continually before the people. In enlightening and confirming souls in the truth, the publications will do a far greater work than can be accomplished by the ministry of the Word alone. The silent messengers that are placed in the homes of the people through the work of the canvasser, will strengthen the gospel ministry in every way; for the Holy Spirit will impress minds as they read the books, just as He impresses the minds of those who listen to the preaching of the Word.”—*Ibid.*, pp. 161, 162.

“We are not doing our duty in the gratuitous circulation of small publications. There are many honest souls who might be brought to embrace the truth by this means alone.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 1, p. 551.

“The efforts made to get the truth before the people are not half as thorough and extensive as they should be. Not a fiftieth part is now being done to extend the truth that might be done by scattering publications and bringing within the sound of the truth all that can be induced to come.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 2, p. 655.

“Our publications should be printed in different languages and sent to every civilized country, at any cost. What is the value of money at this time, in comparison with the value of souls? Every dollar of our means should be considered as the Lord’s, not ours; and as a precious trust from God to us; not to be wasted for needless indulgences, but carefully used in the cause of God, in the work of saving men and women from ruin.”—*Life Sketches*, p. 214.

Dear brethren, sisters, and friends, in light of these inspired statements, please remember the urgent need of means to spread the light of present truth to souls starving for the bread of life in poor countries around the world. When the First Sabbath Offering is gathered on November 4, 2000, let us stretch forth our hands with open hearts for this timely work. May the Lord bless each gift and giver!

John Garbi, General Conference Secretary

## Weighed in the Balances

**“Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let not arrogancy come out of your mouth: for the Lord is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed” (1 Samuel 2:3).**

“God judges every man according to his work. Not only does He judge, but He sums up, day by day and hour by hour, our progress in well-doing.”—*The SDA Bible Commentary* [E. G. White Comments], vol. 7, p. 987.

### THE SPIRIT OF LICENTIOUSNESS

☐ **Sunday**  
October 29

**1** When Belshazzar inherited the Babylonian throne at a young age, what traits were readily seen in his character? Daniel 5:1.

“Belshazzar gloried in his power and lifted up his heart against the God of heaven. Many had been his opportunities to know the divine will and to understand his responsibility of rendering obedience thereto. He had known of his grandfather’s banishment, by the decree of God, from the society of men; and he was familiar with Nebuchadnezzar’s conversion and miraculous restoration. But Belshazzar allowed the love of pleasure and self-glorification to efface the lessons that he should never have forgotten. He wasted the opportunities graciously granted him, and neglected to use the means within his reach for becoming more fully acquainted with truth. That which Nebuchadnezzar had finally gained at the cost of untold suffering and humiliation, Belshazzar passed by with indifference.”—*Prophets and Kings*, pp. 522, 523.

**2** How did Belshazzar blatantly display his irreverence for the sacred vessels of God? Daniel 5:2–4. Explain how still greater profanations occur today, even among professed believers.

“It is a truth which should make every one of us weep, that those living in these last days, upon whom the ends of the world are come, are far more guilty than was Belshazzar. This is possible in many ways. When men have taken upon themselves the vows of consecration, to devote all their powers to the sacred service of God; when they occupy the position of expositors of Bible truth, and have received the solemn charge; when God and angels are summoned as witnesses to the solemn dedication of soul, body, and spirit to God’s service—then shall these men who minister in a most holy office desecrate their God-given powers to unholy purposes? Shall the sacred vessel, whom God is to use for a high and holy work, be dragged from its lofty, controlling sphere to administer to debasing lust? Is not this idol worship of the most degrading kind?—the lips uttering praises and adoring a sinful human being, pouring forth expressions of ravishing tenderness and adulation which belong alone to God—the powers given to God in solemn consecration administering to a harlot; for any woman who will allow the addresses of another man than her husband, who will listen to his advances, and whose ears will be pleased with the outpouring of lavish words of affection, of adoration, of endearment, is an adulteress and a harlot.”—*Testimonies to Ministers*, pp. 434, 435.

### OUR ACCOUNTABILITY

☐ **Monday**  
October 30

**3** What amazing sight stopped the party? Daniel 5:5.

“In the midst of the revelry, Belshazzar saw the bloodless hand of an uninvited guest tracing upon the wall of the palace words that gleamed like fire—words which, though unknown to that vast throng, were a portent of doom to the new conscience-stricken revelers. The boisterous mirth was hushed, and they shook with a nameless terror as their eyes fastened upon the wall. Where but a few moments before had been hilarity and blasphemous witticism, were pallid faces and cries of fear.”—*Christian Temperance and Bible Hygiene*, pp. 20, 21.

“If they could not understand the writing, why were they so troubled? The writing on the wall gave evidence that there was a witness to their evil deeds, a guest not invited or welcome to their idolatrous feast, and his presence convicted of sin, and foretold doom and disaster. Before them passed, as in panoramic view, the deeds of their evil lives, and they seemed to be arraigned before the Judgment, of which they had been warned.”—*The Signs of the Times*, July 20, 1891.

**4** How did Belshazzar react? Daniel 5:6. Why should this impress us to reexamine our own lives? Ecclesiastes 11:9.

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“Belshazzar was the most terrified of them all. He it was who above all others had been responsible for the rebellion against God which that night had reached its height in the Babylonian realm. In the presence of the unseen Watcher, the representative of Him whose power had been challenged and whose name had been blasphemed, the king was paralyzed with fear. Conscience was awakened.”—*Prophets and Kings*, pp. 524–527.

“The same Witness that recorded the profanity of Belshazzar is present with us wherever we go. . . . You may feel that you are at liberty to act out the impulses of the natural heart, that you may indulge in lightness and trifling, but for all these things you must give an account. As you sow, you will reap, and if you are taking the foundation from your house, robbing your brain of its nutriment, and your nerves of their power by dissipation and indulgence of appetite and passion, you will have an account to render to Him who says, ‘I know thy works’ (Revelation 3:15).”—*The Review and Herald*, March 29, 1892.

□ **Tuesday**  
October 31

**GROPING FOR LIGHT**

**5** What was the frantic desire of Belshazzar? Daniel 5:7–9.

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“In vain the king tried to read the burning letters. But here was a secret he could not fathom, a power he could neither understand nor gainsay. In despair he turned to the wise men of his realm for help. His wild cry rang out in the assembly, calling upon the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers to read the writing. [Daniel 5:7 quoted.] But of no avail was his appeal to his trusted advisers, with offers of rich awards. Heavenly wisdom cannot be bought or sold. . . . They were no more able to read the mysterious characters than had been the wise men of a former generation to interpret the dreams of Nebuchadnezzar.”—*Prophets and Kings*, p. 527.

**6** How was Daniel’s name brought up during this crisis? Daniel 5:10–12. What was known about him? Daniel 5:13, 14.

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“There was in the palace a woman who was wiser than them all—the queen of Belshazzar’s grandfather. In this emergency she addressed the king in language that sent a ray of light into the darkness. [Daniel 5:10–12 quoted.]”—*The Youth’s Instructor*, May 26, 1898.

□ **Wednesday**  
November 1

**A HEAVEN-SENT VERDICT**

**7** Describe the prophet’s introduction to the king. What should the prophet’s warning make us realize? Daniel 5:15–28.

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“Before that terror-stricken throng, Daniel, unmoved by the promises of the king, stood in the quiet dignity of a servant of the Most High, not to speak words of flattery, but to interpret a message of doom.”—*Prophets and Kings*, p. 529.

“When Daniel was brought in before Belshazzar, as the king and his nobles sat at their sacrilegious feast, he plainly told the king that the calamity to come upon Babylon was the result of a disregard of heaven-sent light. He disregarded the light given to Nebuchadnezzar, and thereby lost the benefits he might have received had he been obedient to the light. God gives His people lessons to instruct them and lead them to reform. If they do not receive and practice these lessons, their neglect will surely bring judgments upon them.”—*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 11, pp. 98, 99.

**8** How did God’s judgment affect the king and the entire nation? Daniel 5:29–31.

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“Belshazzar was without excuse, for abundant light had been given him to reform his life. . . . His great sin was that, notwithstanding God had given him light, he refused to walk in the paths of righteousness.”—*The Signs of the Times*, July 20, 1891.

“God ascribes the fall of Babylon to her gluttony and drunkenness. Indulgence of appetite and passion was the foundation of all their sins.”—*Counsels on Health*, p. 110.

□ **Thursday**  
November 2

**GOD’S FAVOR CONDITIONAL**

**9** What must we take into serious consideration if we do not want to be found wanting? 1 Samuel 2:3.

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“The fact that you conscientiously believe a lie will not save you from ruin, when the truth might have been yours.”—*The Signs of the Times*, July 27, 1891.

“Those who are ‘do-nothings’ now will have the superscription upon them, ‘Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting’ (Daniel 5:27). They knew their Master’s will, but did it not. They had the light of truth, they had every advantage, but chose their own selfish interests, and they will be left with those whom they did not try to save.”—*Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 237.

**10** What may keep us out of the kingdom? Proverbs 16:2; Hebrews 4:13; James 4:17.

“The church cannot measure herself by the world nor by the opinion of men nor by what she once was. Her faith and her position in the world as they now are must be compared with what they would have been if her course had been continually onward and upward. The church will be weighed in the balances of the sanctuary. If her moral character and spiritual state do not correspond with the benefits and blessings God has conferred upon her, she will be found wanting.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 83.

“Men are weighed in the balance and found wanting when they are living in the practice of any known sin. It is the privilege of every son of God to be a true Christian moment by moment; then he has all heaven enlisted on his side.”—*Testimonies to Ministers*, pp. 440, 441.

□ **Friday**  
November 3

## REVIEW AND THOUGHT QUESTIONS

- a. How can a professed Christian be more guilty than Belshazzar?
- b. Why was the king the most terrified witness at the party?
- c. What was Daniel’s reputation in the mind of the king?
- d. In the judgment, why are many found wanting?
- e. How can we keep Heaven enlisted on our side?

## FOR FURTHER STUDY

*Prophets and Kings*, pp. 522–538.  
*Testimonies*, vol. 8, pp. 247–251.

# Determined Faith and Deliverance

“Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime” (Daniel 6:10).

“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.”—*Prophets and Kings*, p. 542.

□ **Sunday**  
November 5

## TWO OPPOSING POWERS AT WORK

**1** What actions did Darius the Median take when he reorganized the Babylonian government? Daniel 6:1–3. In what sense did this arrangement meet the purposes of God?

“In the midst of a nation of idolaters, Daniel was to represent the character of God. How did he become fitted for a position of so great trust and honor? It was his faithfulness in the little things that gave complexion to his whole life. He honored God in the smallest duties, and the Lord cooperated with him.”—*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 356.

**2** In view of Daniel’s position and influence, what strategy did Satan employ? Daniel 6:4.

“The accusing host of evil angels stirred up the presidents and princes to envy and jealousy, and they watched Daniel closely to find some occasion against him that they might report him to the king; but they failed. Then these agents of Satan sought to make his faithfulness to God the

cause of his destruction. Evil angels laid out the plan for them, and these agents readily carried it into effect.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 1, p. 295.

“[Daniel 6:4 quoted.] What a lesson is here presented for all Christians. The keen eyes of jealousy were fixed upon Daniel day after day; their watchings were sharpened by hatred; yet not a word or act of his life could they make appear wrong. And still he made no claim to sanctification, but he did that which was infinitely better—he lived a life of faithfulness and consecration.”—*The Sanctified Life*, p. 42.

## PLOTTED AGAINST, BUT AT PEACE

□ **Monday**  
November 6

### **3** What does this experience teach us about Daniel? Daniel 6:5.

“The secret of Daniel’s strength was found in his conscientious attention to what the world would call things of minor importance. He was found before God three times a day in prayer and thanksgiving, and he was equally steadfast in his attention to his duties to the king. It is this conscientious attention to what the world despises that makes a strong, symmetrical character.”—*The Signs of the Times*, May 25, 1891.

“Daniel was sorely tried; but he overcame because he was of a humble and prayerful spirit. Although he was surrounded with distrust and suspicion, and his enemies laid a snare for his life, yet he maintained a serene and cheerful trust in God, never once deviating from principle. Although Daniel was a man of like passions with ourselves, the pen of inspiration presents him as a faultless character. His life is given us as a bright example of what man may become, even in this life, if he will make God his strength, and wisely improve the privileges and opportunities within his reach.”—*Ibid.*, November 4, 1886.

### **4** How was Darius misled by the evil men? Daniel 6:6–9.

“A large number of the princes and nobles were in the secret, but the king was kept in ignorance of their purpose. . . .

“[Daniel 6:7, 8 quoted.] The king’s vanity was flattered. Not for a moment did he think that Daniel, his beloved and honored servant, would in any way be affected by the law. He signed the decree, and with it in their possession, the presidents and princes went forth from his presence, evil triumph depicted on their countenances.”—*The Youth’s Instructor*, November 1, 1900.

## PRAYER WHEN MOST NEEDED

□ **Tuesday**  
November 7

### **5** What was Daniel’s best course of action? Daniel 6:10.

“Some may ask, Why did not Daniel lift his soul to God in secret prayer? Would not the Lord, knowing the situation, have excused His servant from kneeling openly before him? Or why did he not kneel before God in some secret place, where his enemies could not see him?

“Daniel knew that the God of Israel must be honored before the Babylonian nation. He knew that neither kings nor nobles had any right to come between him and his duty to his God. He must bravely maintain his religious principles before all men; for he was God’s witness. Therefore he prayed as was his wont, as if no decree had been made.”—*The Youth’s Instructor*, November 1, 1900.

### **6** How are we enjoined to imitate Daniel’s practice? Luke 18:1.

“The prayer of faith is the great strength of the Christian and will assuredly prevail against Satan. This is why he insinuates that we have no need of prayer. The name of Jesus, our Advocate, he detests; and when we earnestly come to Him for help, Satan’s host is alarmed. It serves his purpose well if we neglect the exercise of prayer, for then his lying wonders are more readily received.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 1, p. 296.

## THE DECREE ENFORCED

□ **Wednesday**  
November 8

### **7** How did Daniel’s enemies quickly try to capitalize on his fidelity to God? Daniel 6:11–14. What did the king realize?

“Eagerly [the presidents and princes] hastened to Darius, concealing their cruel joy under a cloak of regret that they were obliged to inform against Daniel.”—*The Youth’s Instructor*, November 1, 1900.

“[Daniel 6:13 quoted.] When the monarch heard these words, he saw at once the snare that had been set for his faithful servant. He saw that it was not zeal for kingly glory and honor, but jealousy against Daniel, that had led to the proposal for a royal decree.”—*Prophets and Kings*, p. 543.

**8**

**What did God allow His servant to undergo and why? Daniel 6:15–20. Describe the contrast between the king and his princes?**

“Daniel was brought before the king and his princes to answer the accusation brought against him. He had opportunity to speak for himself, and he boldly acknowledged his belief in the living God, the maker of heaven and earth. He made a noble confession of faith, relating his experience from his first connection with the kingdom. . . .

“Full of satanic exultation, Daniel’s enemies returned to their homes. They drank freely of wine, and congratulated themselves on their success in putting out of the way one whom they could not bribe to forsake the path of integrity.

“Not so did Darius pass the night. Daniel’s testimony had made a deep impression on his mind. He had some knowledge of the dealing of God with the people of Israel, and Daniel’s conduct sent home to his heart the conviction, that the God of the Hebrews was the true God. He was filled with remorse for having signed the decree brought to him. His conscience was awakened, and he passed a sleepless and troubled night. The chamber of royalty was one of sorrow and prayer. All music was hushed. All amusements were laid aside. No comforters were admitted.”—*The Youth’s Instructor*, November 1, 1900.

□ **Thursday**  
November 9

### TRUSTING DANIEL’S GOD

**9**

**How does Daniel’s deliverance encourage us now? Daniel 6:21–24.**

“Nothing is gained by cowardice or by fearing to let it be known that we are God’s commandment-keeping people. Hiding our light, as if ashamed of our faith, will result only in disaster. God will leave us to our own weakness. May the Lord forbid that we should refuse to let our light shine forth in any place to which He may call us. If we venture to go forth of ourselves, following our own ideas, our own plans, and leave Jesus behind, we need not expect to gain fortitude, courage, or spiritual strength. God has had moral heroes, and He has them now—those who are not ashamed of being His peculiar people. Their wills and plans are all subordinate to the law of God. The love of Jesus has led them not to count

their lives dear unto themselves. Their work has been to catch the light from the word of God and to let it shine forth in clear, steady rays to the world. ‘Fidelity to God’ is their motto.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 5, pp. 527, 528.

**10**

**Name several lessons to be learned from this history. Daniel 6:25–28.**

“When Daniel was cast into the den of lions because of his fidelity to God, the Lord sent His angel to deliver him; and He will deliver us if we put our trust in Him and obey Him. Heaven is very much nearer to us than we think. When we place ourselves in the right relation to God, angels of heaven are beside us. We are to hide in Jesus, and he that touches you, he that harms or distresses you, touches Christ; for Christ identifies His interest with that of His people. Christ suffers in the person of His saints. We must remember that the God of Daniel is our God, and that we can be faithful under all circumstances. We can go to Him in confidence, and through His grace preserve our integrity.”—*The Bible Echo*, January 15, 1893.

“All who really desire it can find a place for communion with God, where no ear can hear but the one open to the cries of the helpless, distressed, and needy—the One who notices even the fall of the little sparrow. He says, ‘Ye are of more value than many sparrows’ (Matthew 10:31).”—*Counsels on Health*, pp. 423, 424.

□ **Friday**  
November 10

### REVIEW AND THOUGHT QUESTIONS

- Describe the controversy at work when Darius became king.
- What was the secret of Daniel’s strength?
- What should we understand about the power of prayer?
- How did God overrule Satan’s plot against Daniel?
- Under what conditions can we obtain similar protection?

### FOR FURTHER STUDY

*Prophets and Kings*, pp. 539–548.  
*The Sanctified Life*, pp. 42–45.

# God's Omniscience of Earthly Affairs

"I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire" (Daniel 7:9).

"Above the distractions of the earth [God] sits enthroned; all things are open to His divine survey; and from His great and calm eternity He orders that which His providence sees best."—*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 417.

☐ **Sunday**

November 12

## A GENUINE SPIRITUAL GIFT

**1**

How does God reveal His secrets? Amos 3:7; Numbers 12:6.

"The multitude of dreams arise from the common things of life, with which the Spirit of God has nothing to do. There are also false dreams, as well as false visions, which are inspired by the spirit of Satan. But dreams from the Lord are classed in the word of God with visions and are as truly the fruits of the spirit of prophecy as visions."—*Testimonies*, vol. 1, p. 569.

**2**

What is our duty regarding dreams and visions? Deuteronomy 13:1-5; 18:20-22; 1 John 4:1. How was Daniel's moral credibility as a prophet established?

"Except the one perfect Pattern, there is not described in the sacred pages a single character more worthy of emulation than that of the prophet Daniel. Exposed in youth to all the allurements of a royal court, he became a man of unbending integrity and fervent devotion to God. He was subjected to the fierce temptations of Satan, yet his character was not vacillating, nor

his course changeable. He was firm where many would be yielding; he was true where they would be false; he was strong where they would be weak. Daniel was a lofty cedar of Lebanon."—*Our High Calling*, p. 249.

☐ **Monday**

November 13

## PROPHETIC SYMBOLS

**3**

What was Daniel shown, and why is his prophetic vision important for us? Daniel 7:1, 2.

"Shortly before the fall of Babylon, when Daniel was meditating on these prophecies and seeking God for an understanding of the times, a series of visions was given him concerning the rise and fall of kingdoms. With the first vision, as recorded in the seventh chapter of the book of Daniel, an interpretation was given; yet not all was made clear to the prophet."—*Prophets and Kings*, p. 553.

"As we near the close of this world's history, the prophecies recorded by Daniel demand our special attention, as they relate to the very time in which we are living. With them should be linked the teachings of the last book of the New Testament Scriptures."—*Ibid.*, p. 547.

**4**

What do the "winds" and "waters" or "sea" represent? Jeremiah 51:1, 2; 4:13; Revelation 17:15. Explain the significance of what Daniel saw coming up from the sea. Daniel 7:3, 16, 17.

"[Daniel 7:2 quoted.] In Revelation 17 an angel explained that waters represent 'peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues' (Revelation 17:15). Winds are a symbol of strife. The four winds of heaven striving upon the great sea represent the terrible scenes of conquest and revolution by which kingdoms have attained to power."—*The Great Controversy*, p. 440.

"The great kingdoms that have ruled the world were presented to the prophet Daniel as beasts of prey."—*Ibid.*, pp. 439, 440.

☐ **Tuesday**

November 14

## UNDERSTANDING THE FIRST "BEAST"

**5**

What does the first beast represent? Daniel 7:4 (first part); Jeremiah 4:6, 7; Habakkuk 1:6-8.

“Under King Nebuchadnezzar, Babylon was the richest and most powerful kingdom on the earth. Its riches and splendor have been faintly portrayed by Inspiration.”—*The Youth Instructor*, September 29, 1903.

**6 Under what symbol is the weakening of Babylon described? Daniel 7:4 (last part).**

“In God’s appointed time, that kingdom of pride and power [Babylon], ruled by men of the highest intellect, was broken, shattered, helpless. Christ has declared, ‘Without Me, ye can do nothing’ (John 15:5). Illustrious statesmen did not regard themselves as being dependent upon God. They thought that they themselves had created all their grandeur and exaltation. But when God speaks, they are as the grass that groweth up, and as the flower of the grass that fadeth away. The word and will of God alone liveth and endureth forever.”—*Bible Training School*, December 1, 1912.

“The kingdom of Babylon passed away because, in their prosperity, her rulers forgot God, and ascribed her honor and glory to human achievement. So today, when men forget God and refuse to obey His law, they are humiliated. God tests them, and if they do not humble their hearts and confess their sins, they receive the penalty of transgression.”—*The Review and Herald*, February 6, 1900.

□ **Wednesday**  
November 15

**SUBSEQUENT WORLD POWERS**

**7 Describe the beasts that followed. Daniel 7:5–7, 23. Why was each of these empires prevented from enduring forever?**

“The crown removed from Israel passed successively to the kingdoms of Babylon [the lion], Medo-Persia [the bear], Greece [the leopard], and Rome [the ‘fourth beast, dreadful and terrible’].”—*Education*, p. 179.

“[The kingdoms] deteriorated because they cast off God. Forgetting Him, they sank lower and lower in the scale. The vast empire of Rome crumbled into pieces.”—*The Review and Herald*, February 6, 1900.

**8 Describe the “little horn” which arose among the ten horns. Daniel 7:8, 24. What should be our attitude regarding the controversial nature of this subject?**

“The vast empire of Rome crumbled to pieces, and from its ruins rose that mighty power, the Roman Catholic Church. This church boasts of her infallibility and her hereditary religion. But this religion is a horror to all who are acquainted with the secrets of the mystery of iniquity. The priests of this church maintain their ascendancy by keeping the people in ignorance of God’s will, as revealed in the Scriptures.”—*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 1, p. 50.

“We may have less to say in some lines, in regard to the Roman power and the Papacy, but we should call attention to what the prophets and apostles have written under the inspiration of the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit has so shaped matters, both in the giving of the prophecy, and in the events portrayed, as to teach that the human agent is to be kept out of sight, hid in Christ, and the Lord God of heaven and His law are to be exalted.”—*Evangelism*, p. 577.

□ **Thursday**  
November 16

**JUDGMENT SET AND BOOKS OPENED**

**9 Describe the awesome scene which followed in Daniel’s vision. Daniel 7:9, 10. How was the same event shown to John the Revelator? Revelation 11:19.**

“The Ancient of Days is God the Father. Says the psalmist: ‘Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever Thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God’ (Psalm 90:2). It is He, the source of all being, and the fountain of all law, that is to preside in the judgment.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 479.

“The announcement that the temple of God was opened in heaven and the ark of His testament was seen points to the opening of the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary in 1844 as Christ entered there to perform the closing work of the atonement.”—*Ibid.*, p. 433.

“As the books of record are opened in the judgment, the lives of all who have believed on Jesus come in review before God. Beginning with those who first lived upon the earth, our Advocate presents the cases of each successive generation, and closes with the living. Every name is mentioned, every case closely investigated. Names are accepted, names rejected. When any have sins remaining upon the books of record, unrepented of and unforgiven, their names will be blotted out of the book of life, and the record of their good deeds will be erased from the book of God’s remembrance.”—*Ibid.*, p. 483.

**10** How is the investigative judgment represented in one of Christ's parables? Matthew 22:11, 12.

"In the parable of Matthew 22 the same figure of the marriage is introduced, and the investigative judgment is clearly represented as taking place before the marriage. Previous to the wedding the king comes in to see the guests, to see if all are attired in the wedding garment, the spotless robe of character washed and made white in the blood of the Lamb. Matthew 22:11; Revelation 7:14. He who is found wanting is cast out, but all who upon examination are seen to have the wedding garment on are accepted of God and accounted worthy of a share in His kingdom and a seat upon His throne. This work of examination of character, of determining who are prepared for the kingdom of God, is that of the investigative judgment, the closing work in the sanctuary above.

"When the work of investigation shall be ended, when the cases of those who in all ages have professed to be followers of Christ have been examined and decided, then, and not till then, probation will close, and the door of mercy will be shut."—*The Great Controversy*, p. 428.

□ Friday  
November 17

**REVIEW AND THOUGHT QUESTIONS**

- a. Why was Daniel qualified to receive light for our day?
- b. Explain the symbols of wind, water, and beasts.
- c. Describe the four beasts and what they symbolize.
- d. What is prophesied about the "little horn"?
- e. How does the parable in Matthew 22 apply to us?

**FOR FURTHER STUDY**

*The Great Controversy*, pp. 479–491.  
*Testimonies*, vol. 4, pp. 384–387.

## God's Law Unchangeable

**"He shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws. . . . But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end" (Daniel 7:25, 26).**

"The man of sin, who thought to change times and laws . . . will cause laws to be made enforcing the observance of the first day of the week. But God's people are to stand firm for Him."—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 230.

□ Sunday

November 19

**THE COUNTERFEIT AND THE GENUINE**

**1** What was Daniel shown about the end of worldly empires? Daniel 7:11, 12. Explain the "great words" spoken by the "little horn."

"It is one of the leading doctrines of Romanism that the pope is the visible head of the universal church of Christ, invested with supreme authority over bishops and pastors in all parts of the world. More than this, the pope has been given the very titles of Deity. He has been styled 'Lord God the Pope,' and has been declared infallible. He demands the homage of all men. The same claim urged by Satan in the wilderness of temptation is still urged by him through the Church of Rome, and vast numbers are ready to yield him homage."—*The Great Controversy*, p. 50.

**2** What will Christ receive at the end of His mediatorial work? Daniel 7:13, 14; Luke 19:12.

"As foreshadowed in the type, and foretold in the Scriptures, Christ, at the time appointed, entered the most holy place of the temple of God in heaven. He is represented by the prophet Daniel as coming at this time to the Ancient of days. . . .

“This coming is foretold also by the prophet Malachi: ‘The Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts’ (Malachi 3:1).”—*The Southern Watchman*, January 24, 1905.

## GOD’S JUSTICE VICTORIOUS

□ **Monday**  
November 20

**3** What promise with reference to God’s kingdom is very precious to the saints? Micah 4:8; Daniel 7:18.

“The kingdom forfeited by sin, Christ has regained, and the redeemed are to possess it with Him. ‘The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein for ever’ (Psalm 37:29). A fear of making the saints’ inheritance seem too material has led many to spiritualize away the very truths which lead us to look upon the new earth as our home. Christ assured His disciples that He went to prepare mansions for them. Those who accept the teachings of God’s Word will not be wholly ignorant concerning the heavenly abode. And yet the apostle Paul declares, ‘Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him’ (1 Corinthians 2:9). Human language is inadequate to describe the reward of the righteous. It will be known only to those who behold it. No finite mind can comprehend the glory of the Paradise of God.”—*The Story of Redemption*, pp. 430, 431.

**4** After a long period of persecution promoted by the “little horn,” what power will be given to the saints? Daniel 7:21, 22.

“Daniel declares that when the Ancient of Days came, ‘judgment was given to the saints of the Most High’ (Daniel 7:22). At this time the righteous reign as kings and priests unto God. John in the Revelation says: ‘I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them.’ ‘They shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years’ (Revelation 20:4, 6). It is at this time that, as foretold by Paul, ‘the saints shall judge the world’ (1 Corinthians 6:2). In union with Christ they judge the wicked, comparing their acts with the statute book, the Bible, and deciding every case according to the deeds done in the body. Then the portion which the wicked must suffer is meted out, accord-

ing to their works; and it is recorded against their names in the book of death.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 661.

## MORE ABOUT THE “LITTLE HORN”

□ **Tuesday**  
November 21

**5** What is one of the most outstanding characteristics of the “little horn”? Daniel 7:25 (first part).

“The Roman Church now presents a fair front to the world, covering with apologies her record of horrible cruelties. She has clothed herself in Christlike garments; but she is unchanged. Every principle of the papacy that existed in past ages exists today. The doctrines devised in the darkest ages are still held. Let none deceive themselves. The papacy that Protestants are now so ready to honor is the same that ruled the world in the days of the Reformation, when men of God stood up, at the peril of their lives, to expose her iniquity. She possesses the same pride and arrogant assumption that lorded it over kings and princes, and claimed the prerogatives of God. Her spirit is no less cruel and despotic now than when she crushed out human liberty and slew the saints of the Most High.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 571.

**6** What presumptuous attitude would the “little horn” take toward the law of God? Daniel 7:25 (middle part). Why is this such a heinous crime in God’s sight?

“The papacy has attempted to change the law of God. The second commandment, forbidding image worship, has been dropped from the law, and the fourth commandment has been so changed as to authorize the observance of the first instead of the seventh day as the Sabbath. But papists urge, as a reason for omitting the second commandment, that it is unnecessary, being included in the first, and that they are giving the law exactly as God designed it to be understood. This cannot be the change foretold by the prophet. An intentional, deliberate change is presented: ‘He shall *think* to change the times and the law’ (Daniel 7:25). The change in the fourth commandment exactly fulfills the prophecy. For this the only authority claimed is that of the church. Here the papal power openly sets itself above God.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 446. [Author’s italics.]

“The changed signpost is pointing the wrong way, but God has not changed. He is still the mighty God of Israel.”—*Prophets and Kings*, p. 185.

## A SPECIFIC PERIOD FORETOLD

□ Wednesday  
November 22

**7** How long was the “little horn” to dominate the “Christian” world? Daniel 7:25 (last part). In symbolic prophecy, what does a day stand for? Number 14:34; Ezekiel 4:6.

“A day in symbolic prophecy represents a year.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 324.

“The forty and two months are the same as the ‘time and times and the dividing of time,’ three years and a half, or 1260 days, of Daniel 7—the time during which the papal power was to oppress God’s people.”—*Ibid.*, p. 439.

“The 1260 years of papal supremacy began in A.D. 538, and would therefore terminate in 1798. At that time a French army entered Rome and made the pope a prisoner, and he died in exile. Though a new pope was soon afterward elected, the papal hierarchy has never since been able to wield the power which it before possessed.”—*Ibid.*, p. 266.

**8** What is written about the persecution during the period of papal supremacy? Revelation 12:6, 13, 14; 13:5.

“Christians were forced to choose either to yield their integrity and accept the papal ceremonies and worship, or to wear away their lives in dungeons or suffer death by the rack, the fagot, or the headsman’s ax. Now were fulfilled the words of Jesus: ‘Ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends; and some of you shall they cause to be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all men for My name’s sake’ (Luke 21:16, 17). Persecution opened upon the faithful with greater fury than ever before, and the world became a vast battlefield. For hundreds of years the church of Christ found refuge in seclusion and obscurity. Thus says the prophet: ‘The woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and three-score days’ (Revelation 12:6).”—*The Great Controversy*, pp. 54, 55.

## THE ETERNAL TO PREVAIL

□ Thursday  
November 23

**9** How does Daniel describe the final triumph of the kingdom of light over the powers of darkness? Daniel 7:26, 27.

“The kingdom of God’s grace is now being established, as day by day hearts that have been full of sin and rebellion yield to the sovereignty of His love. But the full establishment of the kingdom of His glory will not take place until the second coming of Christ to this world. ‘The kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven,’ is to be given to ‘the people of the saints of the Most High’ (Daniel 7:27). They shall inherit the kingdom prepared for them ‘from the foundation of the world’ (Matthew 25:34). And Christ will take to Himself His great power and will reign.”—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, p. 108.

**10** What impact did this vision have on Daniel? Daniel 7:28.

“With the first vision, as recorded in the seventh chapter of the book of Daniel, an interpretation was given; yet not all was made clear to the prophet. ‘My cogitations much troubled me,’ he wrote of his experience at the time, ‘and my countenance changed in me: but I kept the matter in my heart’ (Daniel 7:28).”—*Prophets and Kings*, pp. 553, 554.

## REVIEW AND THOUGHT QUESTIONS

□ Friday  
November 24

- What identifies the papacy as the “little horn” power?
- How can God’s kingdom continually bring us hope?
- How has the “little horn” tampered with the law of God?
- Explain the 1260-day prophecy.
- What wondrous scene awaits God’s faithful remnant?

## FOR FURTHER STUDY

*The Great Controversy*, pp. 49–60.

*The SDA Bible Commentary* [E. G. White Comments], vol. 4, pp. 1171, 1172.



## First Sabbath Offering

for the work in Moscow, Russia

The Russian Federation is the world's largest country by area, comprising 17,075,200 square kilometers (6,592,800 square miles). It was once the largest and most prominent republic of the former Soviet Union. In 1991 the USSR broke apart and the various republics of the Union were given their independence.

The Soviet Union had restricted religious liberty. For seventy years the people were denied the right to worship and many Reformers lost their lives in prisons and through the means of torture. The only way to be allowed to openly worship was to compromise principles and submit to the state. Since the SDA Reform Movement was not willing to be involved with politics, they were hunted down and their worship was forced underground. The members were persecuted and the work was restricted. The ministers of the church spent more time in jails than in their homes. But the Lord preserved His church and led her through this period of persecution.

Now we have freedom to spread the message to the 150 million people in this country. Since the 1950's there has been a group of believers in the capital city of Moscow. Even under restrictions the Lord has blessed the work in that area and it is now necessary for a minister to be located there to take care of the needs of the work in Moscow and its many surrounding suburbs. There are many needs in this city, including a residence for the minister.

We ask all our brethren and friends throughout the world to give generously when the First Sabbath Offering is collected. May the Lord work through all of you to complete this project. It is our prayer that the work in Moscow may grow greatly that this large country can hear the last warning!

Your brethren in the East  
European Union



## The Judgment Hour Revealed Again

“And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed” (Daniel 8:14).

“The correct understanding of the ministration in the heavenly sanctuary is the foundation of our faith.”—*Evangelism*, p. 221.

☐ Sunday

November 26

### WORLD EMPIRES SHOWN AGAIN

**1** In the third year of Belshazzar's reign, what restless activity was Daniel shown in vision? Daniel 8:1–8. Identify the nations represented in this vision. Daniel 8:20–22.

“In the vision of the prophet [God] is seen casting down one mighty ruler, and setting up another. He is revealed as the monarch of the universe, about to set up His everlasting kingdom—the Ancient of days, the living God, the Source of all wisdom, the Ruler of the present, the Revealer of the future.”—*The SDA Bible Commentary* [E. G. White Comments], vol. 4, p. 1166.

“From the rise and fall of nations as made plain in the books of Daniel and the Revelation, we need to learn how worthless is mere outward and worldly glory. Babylon, with all its power and magnificence, the like of which our world has never since beheld—power and magnificence which to the people of that day seemed so stable and enduring—how completely has it passed away! As ‘the flower of the grass,’ it has perished. So perished the Medo-Persian kingdom, and the kingdoms of Grecia and Rome. And so perishes all that has not God for its foundation. Only that which is bound up with His purpose, and expresses His character, can endure. His principles are the only steadfast things our world knows.”—*Prophets and Kings*, p. 548.

**2** What principle should we bear in mind when we study the history of these nations? Isaiah 40:7, 8, 21–23.

“ ‘He that is slow to anger,’ says the wise man, ‘is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit, than he that taketh a city’ (Proverbs 16:32). The man or woman who preserves the balance of the mind when tempted to indulge passion stands higher in the sight of God and heavenly angels than the most renowned general that ever led an army to battle and to victory. Said a celebrated emperor when on his dying bed, ‘Among all my conquests there is but one which affords me any consolation now, and that is the conquest I have gained over my own turbulent temper.’ Alexander and Caesar found it easier to subdue a world than to subdue themselves. After conquering nation after nation, they fell—one of them ‘the victim of intemperance, the other of mad ambition.’ ”—*Child Guidance*, pp. 95, 96.

□ **Monday**  
November 27

### OPPRESSION BY THE LITTLE HORN

**3** Through what action would the power represented by the “little horn” exalt itself, as considered before? **Daniel 8:9–11.**

“Says Daniel, of the little horn, the papacy: ‘He shall think to change times and the law’ (Daniel 7:25, R.V.). And Paul styled the same power the ‘man of sin,’ who was to exalt himself above God. One prophecy is a complement of the other. Only by changing God’s law could the papacy exalt itself above God; whoever should understandingly keep the law as thus changed would be giving supreme honor to that power by which the change was made. Such an act of obedience to papal laws would be a mark of allegiance to the pope in the place of God.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 446.

**4** How did Daniel foresee the papal opposition to the truth? **Daniel 8:12.** How was this prophecy fulfilled?

“Among the leading causes that had led to the separation of the true church from Rome was the hatred of the latter toward the Bible Sabbath. As foretold by prophecy, the papal power cast down the truth to the ground. The law of God was trampled in the dust, while the traditions and customs of men were exalted. The churches that were under the rule of the papacy were early compelled to honor the Sunday as a holy day. Amid the prevailing error and superstition, many, even of the true people of God, became so bewildered that while they observed the Sabbath, they refrained from labor also on the Sunday. But this did not satisfy the papal

leaders. They demanded not only that Sunday be hallowed, but that the Sabbath be profaned; and they denounced in the strongest language those who dared to show it honor. It was only by fleeing from the power of Rome that any could obey God’s law in peace.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 65.

□ **Tuesday**  
November 28

### SINS BLOTTED OUT

**5** What was revealed to Daniel with reference to the cleansing of the sanctuary? **Daniel 8:13, 14.** How are we to understand this “cleansing”? **Hebrews 9:22, 23.**

“The coming of Christ as our high priest to the most holy place, for the cleansing of the sanctuary, brought to view in Daniel 8:14; the coming of the Son of man to the Ancient of Days, as presented in Daniel 7:13; and the coming of the Lord to His temple, foretold by Malachi, are descriptions of the same event; and this is also represented by the coming of the bridegroom to the marriage, described by Christ in the parable of the ten virgins, of Matthew 25.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 426.

“What is the cleansing of the sanctuary? That there was such a service in connection with the earthly sanctuary is stated in the Old Testament Scriptures. But can there be anything in heaven to be cleansed? In Hebrews 9 the cleansing of both the earthly and the heavenly sanctuary is plainly taught. [Hebrews 9:22, 23 quoted.] . . .

“The cleansing, both in the typical and in the real service, must be accomplished with blood: in the former, with the blood of animals; in the latter, with the blood of Christ. Paul states, as the reason why this cleansing must be performed with blood, that without shedding of blood is no remission. Remission, or putting away of sin, is the work to be accomplished.”—*Ibid.*, pp. 417, 418. [Author’s italics.]

“As the priest entered the most holy once a year to cleanse the earthly sanctuary, so Jesus entered the most holy of the heavenly, at the end of the 2300 days of Daniel 8, in 1844, to make a final atonement for all who could be benefited by His mediation, and thus to cleanse the sanctuary.”—*Early Writings*, p. 253.

**6** In what other ways is the cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary described? **Acts 3:19; Revelation 14:6, 7; Hebrews 9:11–14.** Name some important points we should consider on this subject.

“At the time appointed for the judgment—the close of the 2300 days, in 1844—began the work of investigation and blotting out of sins.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 486.

“Christ is cleansing the heavenly sanctuary from the sins of the people, and it is the work of all who are laborers together with God to be cleansing the sanctuary of the soul from everything that is offensive to Him. Everything like evil surmising, envy, jealousy, enmity, and hatred, will be put away, for such things grieve the Holy Spirit of God and put Christ to an open shame. Love of self will not exist, nor will any engaged in this work be puffed up.”—*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 11, p. 55.

## INFORMATION FOR US TODAY

□ **Wednesday**  
November 29

**7** Who was sent to help Daniel to understand the visions given to him? **Daniel 8:15, 16.**

“Wonderful thought—that the angel who stands next in honor to the Son of God is the one chosen to open the purposes of God to sinful men.”—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 99.

“The angel had been sent to Daniel for the express purpose of explaining to him the point which he had failed to understand in the vision of the eighth chapter, the statement relative to time—‘unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.’”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 326.

**8** Why are the messages given to Daniel so important for us today? **Daniel 8:17–19.**

“Such subjects as the sanctuary, in connection with the 2300 days, the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, are perfectly calculated to explain the past Advent movement and show what our present position is, establish the faith of the doubting, and give certainty to the glorious future. These, I have frequently seen, were the principal subjects on which the messengers should dwell.”—*Early Writings*, p. 63.

“We are living in the time of the end, when the judgments of God are in the land. Signs on every hand show that the agencies of evil are strengthening. Lucifer and his servants are working with unceasing activity. In this time of peril the people who keep the Sabbath of the fourth com-

mandment are to be awake to the situation, prepared to resist the attacks of the enemy.”—*Australasian Record*, April 15, 1912.

□ **Thursday**  
November 30

## DEEP THOUGHTS TO PONDER

**9** How is Rome again represented in prophecy, including its latter time? **Daniel 8:23–25; 2 Thessalonians 2:7, 8.**

**10** How was Daniel affected by the vision? **Daniel 8:26, 27.**

“The angel Gabriel, though commanded to make Daniel understand the vision, gave him only a partial explanation. As the terrible persecution to befall the church was unfolded to the prophet’s vision, physical strength gave way. He could endure no more, and the angel left him for a time. Daniel ‘fainted, and was sick certain days.’ ‘And I was astonished at the vision,’ he says, ‘but none understood it’ (Daniel 8:27).”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 325.

□ **Friday**  
December 1

## REVIEW AND THOUGHT QUESTIONS

- As we see the rise and fall of nations, what should we consider?
- How has the truth been “cast down to the ground”?
- What is meant by the cleansing of the sanctuary?
- How does Daniel 8:16 encourage us?
- Why was Daniel overwhelmed?

## FOR FURTHER STUDY

*Selected Messages*, bk. 1, pp. 164–168.  
*The Great Controversy*, pp. 409–432.

## Contrition and Confession

**“O my God, incline thine ear, and hear; open thine eyes, and behold our desolations, and the city which is called by thy name: for we do not present our supplications before thee for our righteousnesses, but for thy great mercies” (Daniel 9:18).**

“What a prayer was that which came forth from the lips of Daniel! What humbling of soul it reveals! The warmth of heavenly fire was recognized in the words that were going upward to God.”—*That I May Know Him*, p. 271.

☐ **Sunday**  
December 3

### BLESSED BY BIBLE STUDY

**1** What had Jeremiah prophesied of the Babylonian captivity? Jeremiah 25:8-13.

“Jeremiah declared that [the Israelites] were to wear the yoke of servitude for seventy years, and the captives that were already in the hands of the king of Babylon, and the vessels of the Lord’s house which had been taken, were also to remain in Babylon till that time had elapsed. But at the end of the seventy years God would deliver them from their captivity and would punish their oppressors and bring into subjection the proud king of Babylon.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 4, p. 169.

**2** What did Daniel understand through study of the prophetic scriptures? Daniel 9:1, 2; Isaiah 44:24-28; 45:1-3.

“The year that Cyrus succeeded Darius the Mede to the throne of Medo-Persia marked the completion of seventy years since the first company of Hebrews had been carried captive to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel, who was familiar with the prophecies of Jeremiah and Isaiah regarding the duration of the captivity, and with the prophecies of Isaiah

regarding the restoration by decree of Cyrus, was still living, and was occupying a position of leading responsibility in the Medo-Persian court.”  
—*The Review and Herald*, March 28, 1907.

☐ **Monday**  
December 4

### A TIME FOR HUMILITY

**3** As the prophesied time neared its fulfillment, what did Daniel see as the most urgent need? Daniel 9:3.

“For nearly seventy years, Israel had been in captivity. The land which God had chosen for His own possession was given into the hands of the heathen. The beloved city, the recipient of heaven’s light, once the joy of the whole earth, was now despised and degraded. The temple that had contained the ark of God’s covenant and the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat, was in ruins. Its very site was desecrated by unholy feet. Faithful men who knew of the former glory were filled with anguish at the desolation of the holy house that had distinguished Israel as God’s chosen people. . . . Daniel knew that the appointed time for Israel’s captivity was nearly ended; but he did not feel that because God had promised to deliver them, they themselves had no part to act. With fasting and contrition he sought the Lord, confessing his own sins and the sins of the people.”—*The SDA Bible Commentary* [E. G. White Comments], vol. 4, p. 1172.

**4** What factors must we realize about genuine prayer? Proverbs 28:13.

“Those who are unwilling to deny self, to agonize before God, to pray long and earnestly for His blessing, will not obtain it. Wrestling with God—how few know what it is! How few have ever had their souls drawn out after God with intensity of desire until every power is on the stretch. When waves of despair which no language can express sweep over the suppliant, how few cling with unyielding faith to the promises of God.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 621.

“Daniel did not seek to excuse himself or his people before God; but in humility and contrition of soul he confessed the full extent and demerit of their transgressions, and vindicated God’s dealings as just toward a nation that had set at nought His requirements and would not profit by His entreaties. . . .

“Confession of sin, whether public or private, should be heartfelt and freely expressed. It is not to be urged from the sinner. It is not to be made in a flippant and careless way or forced from those who have no realizing sense of the abhorrent character of sin. The confession that is mingled with tears and sorrow, that is the outpouring of the inmost soul, finds its way to the God of infinite pity.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 5, pp. 636, 637.

## SPIRITUAL AGONIZING

□ Tuesday  
December 5

### 5 What did Daniel declare in his prayer? Daniel 9:4–6.

“Daniel does not proclaim his own fidelity before the Lord. Instead of claiming to be pure and holy, this honored prophet humbly identifies himself with the really sinful of Israel. The wisdom which God had imparted to him was as far superior to the wisdom of the great men of the world as the light of the sun shining in the heavens at noonday is brighter than the feeblest star. Yet ponder the prayer from the lips of this man so highly favored of Heaven. With deep humiliation, with tears and rending of heart, he pleads for himself and for his people. He lays his soul open before God, confessing his own unworthiness and acknowledging the Lord’s greatness and majesty.”—*The Sanctified Life*, pp. 46, 47.

### 6 What qualities of Daniel do we need to adopt? Isaiah 57:15.

“That God who heard Daniel’s prayer will hear ours when we come to Him in contrition. Our necessities are as urgent, our difficulties are as great, and we need to have the same intensity of purpose, and in faith roll our burden upon the great Burden Bearer. There is need for hearts to be as deeply moved in our time as in the time when Daniel prayed.”—*That I May Know Him*, p. 271.

“What earnestness and fervor characterize [Daniel’s] supplications! The hand of faith is reached upward to grasp the never-failing promises of the Most High. His soul is wrestling in agony. . . . If we as a people would pray as Daniel prayed, and wrestle as he wrestled, humbling our souls before God, we should realize as marked answers to our petitions as were granted to Daniel.”—*The Sanctified Life*, p. 47.

## THE NEED FOR GENUINE REPENTANCE

□ Wednesday  
December 6

### 7 What did Daniel declare of his nation and why? Daniel 9:7–12. How did Christ later summarize the situation? Matthew 23:34, 35.

“For ages Judah had been the repository of sacred truth. Here the knowledge of Jehovah had been cherished and preserved, when God had not been acknowledged among the nations, and His worship was lost in the earth. The streets of Jerusalem had been trodden by angel feet, and its very soil had been sacred to God. From its temple prayer and praise had ascended to God. From its altar the bleeding sacrifice had testified to human guilt, pointing to the Lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the world. The Lord had sent them messages of warning and reproof, of consolation and promise, by His prophets, rising up early and sending them, but they had beaten one and stoned another.”—*The Review and Herald*, April 18, 1893.

### 8 Why had woes come upon Judah? What was Daniel’s main concern? Daniel 9:13–19. What should this make us consider today?

“When sin has deadened the moral perceptions, the wrongdoer does not discern the defects of his character nor realize the enormity of the evil he has committed; and unless he yields to the convicting power of the Holy Spirit he remains in partial blindness to his sin. His confessions are not sincere and in earnest. To every acknowledgment of his guilt he adds an apology in excuse of his course, declaring that if it had not been for certain circumstances, he would not have done this or that for which he is reproved. But the examples in God’s word of genuine repentance and humiliation reveal a spirit of confession in which there is no excuse for sin or attempt at self-justification.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 641.

## UNDERSTANDING CONFESSION

□ Thursday  
December 7

### 9 Name some important points of contrast between true and false confession. 2 Corinthians 7:10; James 5:16.

“[James 5:16 quoted.] This scripture has been interpreted to sustain the practice of going to the priest for absolution; but it has no such application. Confess your sins to God, who only can forgive them, and your faults to one another. If you have given offense to your friend or neighbor you are to acknowledge your wrong, and it is his duty freely to forgive you. Then you are to seek the forgiveness of God because the brother whom you wounded is the property of God, and in injuring him you sinned against his Creator and Redeemer. The case is not brought before the priest at all, but before the only true mediator, our great High Priest, who ‘was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin,’ and who is ‘touched with the feeling of our infirmities’ (Hebrews 4:15) and is able to cleanse from every stain of iniquity.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 639.

**10** Why is true confession so important for us today? Psalm 34:18.

“If ever a people needed to offer a prayer such as Daniel offered, it is our people. There is among them such self-confidence, such presumption! The Lord has been sending light to them, but the testimonies of His Spirit have not been heeded.”—*Selections From the Testimonies*, pp. 70, 71.

“Confession will not be acceptable to God without sincere repentance and reformation. There must be decided changes in the life; everything offensive to God must be put away. This will be the result of genuine sorrow for sin.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 640.

□ **Friday**  
December 8

**REVIEW AND THOUGHT QUESTIONS**

- a. How did Daniel know that the time of deliverance was near?
- b. What serious need did Daniel recognize?
- c. What can we learn from Daniel’s prayer?
- d. What must we realize about true repentance?
- e. How only can our confessions be acceptable to God?

**FOR FURTHER STUDY**

*Testimonies*, vol. 5, pp. 635–650.  
*Steps to Christ*, pp. 37–41.

## God’s Precise Timetable

“Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy” (Daniel 9:24).

“The gospel message, as given by the Saviour Himself, was based on the prophecies. The ‘time’ which He declared to be fulfilled was the period made known by the angel Gabriel to Daniel.”—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 233.

□ **Sunday**  
December 10

**HEAVENLY GUIDANCE SENT**

- 1** How was the prayer in Daniel 9:3–19 answered? Daniel 9:20, 21. In what ways is this experience to boost our faith today?

“The angel had to reveal himself as a man before he could speak with the prophet.”—*The Youth’s Instructor*, February 22, 1900.

“It was Gabriel, the angel next in rank to the Son of God, who came with the divine message to Daniel. . . . God has given these things to us, and His blessing will attend the reverent, prayerful study of the prophetic scriptures.”—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 234.

“Like Daniel, you may make confession of your sin, and present daily supplication unto God; but however poor and unworthy and erring you may feel yourselves to be, it is your privilege to appropriate the promises of God.”—*The Signs of the Times*, November 24, 1890.

- 2** For what reason was Gabriel sent to Daniel? Daniel 9:22, 23.

“God had bidden His messenger: ‘Make this man to understand the vision.’ That commission must be fulfilled. In obedience to it, the angel,

some time afterward, returned to Daniel, saying: 'I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding;' 'therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision' (Daniel 8:27, 16; 9:22, 23, 25-27). There was one important point in the vision of chapter 8 which had been left unexplained, namely, that relating to time—the period of the 2300 days; therefore the angel, in resuming his explanation, dwells chiefly upon the subject of time."—*The Great Controversy*, p. 325.

## SPECIFIC TIME REVEALED

☐ Monday  
December 11

### 3 What do the seventy weeks represent? Daniel 9:24.

"As the 2300 days was the only period of time mentioned in chapter 8, it must be the period from which the seventy weeks were cut off; the seventy weeks must therefore be a part of the 2300 days, and the two periods must begin together. The seventy weeks were declared by the angel to date from the going forth of the commandment to restore and build Jerusalem. If the date of this commandment could be found, then the starting point for the great period of the 2300 days would be ascertained.

"In the seventh chapter of Ezra the decree is found. Verses 12-26. In its completest form it was issued by Artaxerxes, king of Persia, 457 B.C. But in Ezra 6:14 the house of the Lord at Jerusalem is said to have been built 'according to the commandment ['decree,' margin] of Cyrus, and Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia.' These three kings, in originating, reaffirming, and completing the decree, brought it to the perfection required by the prophecy to mark the beginning of the 2300 years. Taking 457 B.C., the time when the decree was completed, as the date of the commandment, every specification of the prophecy concerning the seventy weeks was seen to have been fulfilled."—*The Great Controversy*, pp. 326, 327.

### 4 What would happen at the end of sixty-nine weeks? Daniel 9:25; Acts 10:38; Luke 3:21, 22; 4:18; Mark 1:14, 15.

" 'From the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks' (Daniel 9:25)—namely, sixty-nine weeks, or 483 years. The decree of Artaxerxes went into effect in the autumn of 457 B.C.

From this date, 483 years extend to the autumn of A.D. 27. At that time this prophecy was fulfilled. The word 'Messiah' signifies 'the Anointed One.' In the autumn of A.D. 27 Christ was baptized by John and received the anointing of the Spirit."—*The Great Controversy*, p. 327.

## PRECISE FULFILLMENT OF PROPHECY

☐ Tuesday  
December 12

### 5 Name two more events shown to Daniel and later fulfilled in history. Daniel 9:26. What is the warning for us today?

"[In 70 A.D.] both the city [of Jerusalem] and the temple were razed to their foundations, and the ground upon which the holy house had stood was 'plowed like a field' (Jeremiah 26:18). In the siege and the slaughter that followed, more than a million of the people perished; the survivors were carried away as captives, sold as slaves, dragged to Rome to grace the conqueror's triumph, thrown to wild beasts in the amphitheaters, or scattered as homeless wanderers throughout the earth."—*The Great Controversy*, p. 35.

"The Saviour's prophecy concerning the visitation of judgments upon Jerusalem is to have another fulfillment, of which that terrible desolation was but a faint shadow. In the fate of the chosen city we may behold the doom of a world that has rejected God's mercy and trampled upon His law."—*Ibid.*, p. 36.

### 6 What took place in the midst of the seventieth week? Daniel 9:27. What did Jesus say about the "abomination of desolation" mentioned in Daniel 9:26, 27? Matthew 24:15-18.

" 'In the midst of the week He shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease' (Daniel 9:27). In the spring of A.D. 31, Christ the true Sacrifice was offered on Calvary. Then the veil of the temple was rent in twain, showing that the sacredness and significance of the sacrificial service had departed. The time had come for the earthly sacrifice and oblation to cease."—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 233.

"[Matthew 24:14-18 quoted.] This warning was given to be heeded . . . at the destruction of Jerusalem. The Christians obeyed the warning, and not a Christian perished in the fall of the city."—*Ibid.*, p. 630.

## A MAN CLOTHED IN LINEN

□ **Wednesday**  
December 13

**7** In the third year of Cyrus' reign, when Daniel prayed and fasted for more light, how did Heaven respond? Daniel 10:1-7.

"No less a personage than the Son of God appeared to Daniel. This description is similar to that given by John when Christ was revealed to him upon the Isle of Patmos. Our Lord now comes with another heavenly messenger to teach Daniel what would take place in the latter days. This knowledge was given to Daniel and recorded by Inspiration for us upon whom the ends of the world are come."—*The SDA Bible Commentary* [E. G. White Comments], vol. 4, p. 1173.

**8** What can we learn from the evidence Daniel was given of the great controversy between Christ and Satan? Daniel 10:8-14.

"For three weeks Gabriel had been wrestling with the powers of darkness, and seeking to counteract the influences at work on the mind of King Cyrus. Before the contest closed, Christ Himself came to Gabriel's help. All that heaven could do in behalf of the people of God, was done. The victory was finally gained, and the forces of the enemy were held in check all the days of Cyrus, who reigned for seven years, and all the days of his son Cambyses, who reigned about seven years and a half."—*The Review and Herald*, December 5, 1907.

## HEAVENLY HELP FOR US

□ **Thursday**  
December 14

**9** Describe Daniel's experience. Daniel 10:15-21.

"In answer to his petition, Daniel received not only the light and truth which he and his people most needed, but a view of the great events of the future, even to the advent of the world's Redeemer. Those who claim to be sanctified, while they have no desire to search the Scriptures or to wrestle with God in prayer for a clearer understanding of Bible truth, know not what true sanctification is.

"Daniel talked with God. Heaven was opened before him. But the high honors granted him were the result of humiliation and earnest seeking. All who believe with the heart the word of God will hunger and thirst for a knowledge of His will. God is the author of truth. He enlightens the darkened understanding and gives to the human mind power to grasp and comprehend the truths which He has revealed."—*The Sanctified Life*, pp. 48, 49.

**10** What do heavenly angels do on our behalf? Hebrews 1:13, 14.

"As a people we do not understand as we should the great conflict going on between invisible agencies, the controversy between loyal and disloyal angels. Evil angels are constantly at work, planning their line of attack, controlling as commanders, kings, and rulers, the disloyal human forces. . . . Do not indulge in fanciful speculations. The written Word is our only safety. We must pray as did Daniel, that we may be guarded by heavenly intelligences. As ministering spirits angels are sent forth to minister to those who shall be heirs of salvation. Pray, my brethren, pray as you have never prayed before. We are not prepared for the Lord's coming. We need to make thorough work for eternity."—*The SDA Bible Commentary* [E. G. White Comments], vol. 4, p. 1173.

"The armies of heaven are in continual warfare with satanic agencies, to obtain victories in behalf of those who do not sense their danger, and who are passing on in unconscious indifference."—*Ibid.*, vol. 6, p. 1120.

## REVIEW AND THOUGHT QUESTIONS

□ **Friday**  
December 15

- a. How does God provide guidance to His people?
- b. How are the 70 weeks connected to the 2300 days?
- c. Explain the fulfillment of Daniel 9:25-27.
- d. Why can we be especially encouraged by Daniel chapter 10?
- e. How can we obtain increased assistance from heavenly angels?

## FOR FURTHER STUDY

*Prophets and Kings*, pp. 698-702.  
*The Sanctified Life*, pp. 46-52.

# The World Astir

**“The people that do know their God shall be strong” (Daniel 11:32).**

“From the days of Christ until now His faithful disciples have excited the hatred and opposition of those who love and follow the ways of sin.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 46.

☐ **Sunday**

December 17

## KEEPING PERSPECTIVE IN LIFE

**1** How does Scripture depict worldly kingdoms being overturned? Daniel 11:1–4. Contrast this to the followers of Christ.

“Many falter and fall because of the indulgence of a perverse temper. . . . God calls upon you to yield pride and stubbornness, and to let His peace rule in your hearts. A meek and quiet spirit must be cherished. Carry Christ’s meekness with you in all your labors. An excited temper and cutting censure will not impress the people or gain their sympathy. If we have the truth, we can afford to be calm and unexcited. Our language should be modest and elevated. The spirit you have cherished within has left its impression upon the countenance. Christ, enthroned in the soul-temple, will efface that fretful, peevish, unhappy look; and as the cloud of witnesses look upon a man reflecting the image of Christ, they will realize that he is surrounded by a pleasant atmosphere.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 4, p. 348.

**2** After years of struggle between the southern and the northern kingdoms (Daniel 11:5–19), our attention is drawn to Rome. What is written about Caesar Augustus? Daniel 11:20; Luke 2:1–3.

“As in old time Cyrus was called to the throne of the world’s empire that he might set free the captives of the Lord, so Caesar Augustus is made the agent for the fulfillment of God’s purpose in bringing the mother of Jesus to Bethlehem. She is of the lineage of David, and the Son of David must be born in David’s city. Out of Bethlehem, said the prophet, ‘shall He come forth . . . that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from the days of eternity’ (Micah 5:2, margin). . . . In a rude building where the beasts are sheltered, [Joseph and Mary] at last find refuge, and here the Redeemer of the world is born.”—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 44.

☐ **Monday**

December 18

## THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION

**3** How did the heavenly messenger describe the actions of papal Rome? Daniel 11:31; 12:1 (cf. Daniel 8:11, 12).

“The accession of the Roman Church to power marked the beginning of the Dark Ages. As her power increased, the darkness deepened. Faith was transferred from Christ, the true foundation, to the pope of Rome. Instead of trusting in the Son of God for forgiveness of sins and for eternal salvation, the people looked to the pope, and to the priests and prelates to whom he delegated authority. They were taught that the pope was their earthly mediator and that none could approach God except through him; and, further, that he stood in the place of God to them and was therefore to be implicitly obeyed. A deviation from his requirements was sufficient cause for the severest punishment to be visited upon the bodies and souls of the offenders. Thus the minds of the people were turned away from God to fallible, erring, and cruel men, nay, more, to the prince of darkness himself, who exercised his power through them. Sin was disguised in a garb of sanctity.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 55.

**4** What is said about the faithfulness of God’s people in the time of persecution under papal Rome? Daniel 11:32.

“In lands beyond the jurisdiction of Rome there existed for many centuries bodies of Christians who remained almost wholly free from papal corruption. They were surrounded by heathenism and in the lapse of ages were affected by its errors; but they continued to regard the Bible as the only rule of faith and adhered to many of its truths. These Christians believed in the

perpetuity of the law of God and observed the Sabbath of the fourth commandment. Churches that held to this faith and practice existed in Central Africa and among the Armenians of Asia. But of those who resisted the encroachments of the papal power, the Waldenses stood foremost. In the very land where popery had fixed its seat, there its falsehood and corruption were most steadfastly resisted.”—*The Great Controversy*, pp. 63, 64.

□ **Tuesday**  
December 19

## PERSECUTION: PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

**5** Describe the sufferings of God’s people under papal Rome. **Daniel 11:33–35; Matthew 10:17–22; 24:21.**

“In the thirteenth century was established that most terrible of all the engines of the papacy—the Inquisition. The prince of darkness wrought with the leaders of the papal hierarchy.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 59.

“Persecution will spread the light. The servants of Christ will be brought before the great men of the world, who, but for this, might never hear the gospel. The truth has been misrepresented to these men. They have listened to false charges concerning the faith of Christ’s disciples. Often their only means of learning its real character is the testimony of those who are brought to trial for their faith. Under examination these are required to answer, and their judges to listen to the testimony borne. God’s grace will be dispensed to His servants to meet the emergency.”—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 354.

**6** How will history be repeated? **Matthew 24:9; Revelation 12:17; Matthew 10:23.**

“The time is not far distant, when, like the early disciples, we shall be forced to seek a refuge in desolate and solitary places. As the siege of Jerusalem by the Roman armies was the signal for flight to the Judean Christians, so the assumption of power on the part of our nation in the decree enforcing the papal sabbath will be a warning to us. It will then be time to leave the large cities, preparatory to leaving the smaller ones for retired homes in secluded places among the mountains. And now, instead of seeking expensive dwellings here, we should be preparing to move to a better country, even a heavenly. Instead of spending our means in self-gratification, we should be studying to economize. Every talent lent of God should be used to His glory in giving the warning to the world.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 5, pp. 464, 465.

□ **Wednesday**  
December 20

## GOD’S MERCY FOR HIS PEOPLE

**7** What benefits should we draw from trials permitted by God? **1 Peter 1:7; Psalm 139:23, 24.**

“Trial is part of the education given in the school of Christ, to purify God’s children from the dross of earthliness. It is because God is leading His children that trying experiences come to them. Trials and obstacles are His chosen methods of discipline, and His appointed conditions of success. He who reads the hearts of men knows their weaknesses better than they themselves can know them. He sees that some have qualifications which, if rightly directed, could be used in the advancement of His work. In His providence He brings these souls into different positions and varied circumstances, that they may discover the defects that are concealed from their own knowledge. He gives them opportunity to overcome these defects and to fit themselves for service. Often He permits the fires of affliction to burn, that they may be purified.”—*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 524.

**8** How will God interpose in behalf of His people during the last great crisis? **Isaiah 26:20, 21.**

“In this time of prevailing iniquity we may know that the last great crisis is at hand. When the defiance of God’s law is almost universal, when His people are oppressed and afflicted by their fellow men, the Lord will interpose.

“The time is near when He will say, [Isaiah 26:20, 21 quoted]. Men who claim to be Christians may now defraud and oppress the poor; they may rob the widow and fatherless; they may indulge their Satanic hatred because they cannot control the consciences of God’s people; but for all this God will bring them into judgment. They ‘shall have judgment without mercy’ that have ‘showed no mercy’ (James 2:13). Not long hence they will stand before the Judge of all the earth, to render an account for the pain they have caused to the bodies and souls of His heritage. They may now indulge in false accusations, they may deride those whom God has appointed to do His work, they may consign His believing ones to prison, to the chain gang, to banishment, to death; but for every pang of anguish, every tear shed, they must answer. God will reward them double for their sins.”—*Christ’s Object Lessons*, pp. 178, 179.

**9** What parallel exists between Daniel 11:36, 8:25, 2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4 and Revelation 13:6?

“Every principle of the papacy that existed in past ages exists today. The doctrines devised in the darkest ages are still held. Let none deceive themselves. The papacy that Protestants are now so ready to honor is the same that ruled the world in the days of the Reformation, when men of God stood up, at the peril of their lives, to expose her iniquity. She possesses the same pride and arrogant assumption that lorded it over kings and princes, and claimed the prerogatives of God. Her spirit is no less cruel and despotic now than when she crushed out human liberty and slew the saints of the Most High.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 571.

**10** What should we know concerning the final verses of Daniel 11? Habakkuk 2:3.

“The world is stirred with the spirit of war. The prophecy of the eleventh chapter of Daniel has nearly reached its complete fulfillment. Soon the scenes of trouble spoken of in the prophecies will take place.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 14.

## REVIEW AND THOUGHT QUESTIONS

□ Friday  
December 22

- a. How did Caesar Augustus unknowingly fulfill Micah 5:2?
- b. What is “the abomination that maketh desolate”?
- c. Relate some examples of victorious faith amid persecution.
- d. How do life’s trials benefit us?
- e. Contrast the kingdoms of earth and heaven.

## FOR FURTHER STUDY

*Testimonies*, vol. 5, pp. 449–454.  
*Maranatha*, pp. 180–186.

# Important Prophecies for the Last Days

“Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand” (Daniel 12:10).

“Daniel is standing in his lot and in his place. The prophecies of Daniel and of John are to be understood. They interpret each other.” —*The SDA Bible Commentary* [E. G. White Comments], vol. 7, p. 949.

## A TIME OF TROUBLE

□ Sunday  
December 24

**1** What will happen when Michael (Jesus) stands up to leave the heavenly sanctuary? Daniel 12:1.

“An angel returning from the earth announces that his work is done; the final test has been brought upon the world, and all who have proved themselves loyal to the divine precepts have received ‘the seal of the living God.’ Then Jesus ceases His intercession in the sanctuary above. . . . When He leaves the sanctuary, darkness covers the inhabitants of the earth. In that fearful time the righteous must live in the sight of a holy God without an intercessor. The restraint which has been upon the wicked is removed, and Satan has entire control of the finally impenitent. God’s long-suffering has ended.”—*The Great Controversy*, pp. 613, 614.

“The ‘time of trouble, such as never was,’ is soon to open upon us; and we shall need an experience which we do not now possess and which many are too indolent to obtain. It is often the case that trouble is greater in anticipation than in reality; but this is not true of the crisis before us. The most vivid presentation cannot reach the magnitude of the ordeal. In that time of trial, every soul must stand for himself before God.”—*Ibid.*, p. 622.

**2** What criteria determines whether our names shall be found in the book of life? Revelation 3:5. How do we know that there will be no second chance? Luke 13:23–25; Revelation 20:15.

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“I want to be among that number who shall have their names written in the book, who shall be delivered. I want the overcomer’s reward. The masterly temptations of Satan will overpower many who now profess to believe the truth. Their unworthy course of action, their denial of Christ, will make it necessary for God to blot their names from the book of life. But O, may it not be so with us!”—*The Review and Herald*, March 26, 1889.

“When we become children of God, our names are written in the Lamb’s book of life, and they remain there until the time of the investigative judgment. Then the name of every individual will be called, and his record examined, by Him who declares, ‘I know thy works.’ If in that day it shall appear that all our wicked deeds have not been fully repented of, our names will be blotted from the book of life, and our sins will stand against us.”—*The SDA Bible Commentary* [E. G. White Comments], vol. 7, p. 987.

□ Monday

December 25

## BEFORE THE END OF PROBATION

**3** What promise is given to the “wise” and why? Daniel 12:3, 10; Matthew 13:43. What was Daniel instructed to do? Daniel 12:4 (first part).

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“Honored by men with the responsibilities of state and with the secrets of kingdoms bearing universal sway, Daniel was honored by God as His ambassador, and was given many revelations of the mysteries of ages to come. His wonderful prophecies, as recorded by him in chapters 7 to 12 of the book bearing his name, were not fully understood even by the prophet himself; but before his life labors closed, he was given the blessed assurance that ‘at the end of the days’—in the closing period of this world’s history—he would again be permitted to stand in his lot and place. It was not given him to understand all that God had revealed of the divine purpose. . . .

“As we near the close of this world’s history, the prophecies recorded by Daniel demand our special attention, as they relate to the very time in which we are living. With them should be linked the teachings of the last book of the New Testament Scriptures. Satan has led many to believe that

the prophetic portions of the writings of Daniel and of John the revelator cannot be understood.”—*Prophets and Kings*, p. 547.

**4** What knowledge has increased since 1798? Daniel 12:4 (last part).

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“But since 1798 the book of Daniel has been unsealed, knowledge of the prophecies has increased, and many have proclaimed the solemn message of the judgment near.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 356.

“The book of Daniel is now unsealed, and the revelation made by Christ to John is to come to all the inhabitants of the earth. By the increase of knowledge a people is to be prepared to stand in the latter days.”—*Selected Messages*, bk. 2, p. 105.

“The time has come for the light given [Daniel] to go to the world as never before. If those for whom the Lord has done so much will walk in the light, their knowledge of Christ and the prophecies relating to Him will be greatly increased as they near the close of this earth’s history.”—*The SDA Bible Commentary* [E. G. White Comments], vol. 4, p. 1174.

□ Tuesday

December 26

## THE LAST DAYS

**5** At the end of which prophetic period did the time of the end begin? Daniel 12:5–7. What events transpire in this time?

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“Already the Lord’s restraining power is being withdrawn from the earth, and Satan is seeking to stir up the various elements in the religious world, leading men to place themselves under the training of the great deceiver, who works with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in the children of disobedience. Already the inhabitants of the earth are marshaling under the leading of the prince of darkness, and this is but the beginning of the end.

“The law of God is made void. We see and hear of confusion and perplexity, want and famine, earthquakes and floods; terrible outrages will be committed by men; passion, not reason, bears sway. The wrath of God is upon the inhabitants of the world, who are fast becoming as corrupt as were the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah. Already fire and flood are destroying thousands of lives and the property that has been selfishly accumulated by the oppression of the poor. The Lord is soon to cut short

His work and put an end to sin.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 8, p. 49 (cf. *The Desire of Ages*, p. 234; *Testimonies*, vol. 5, pp. 9, 10; *The Great Controversy*, p. 356).

**6** What did Christ predict would follow the long period of papal persecution? Mark 13:24, 25. What warning did He add? Matthew 24:37–39; Luke 21:34–36.

“In the Saviour’s conversation with His disciples upon Olivet, after describing the long period of trial for the church—the 1260 years of papal persecution, concerning which He had promised that the tribulation should be shortened—He thus mentioned certain events to precede His coming, and fixed the time when the first of these should be witnessed: ‘In those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light’ (Mark 13:24). The 1260 days, or years, terminated in 1798. A quarter of a century earlier, persecution had almost wholly ceased.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 306.

“Who reads the warnings given by the fast-fulfilling signs of the times? What impression is made upon worldlings? What change is seen in their attitude? No more than was seen in the attitude of the inhabitants of the Noachian world. Absorbed in worldly business and pleasure, the antediluvians ‘knew not until the Flood came, and took them all away’ (Matthew 24:39). They had heaven-sent warnings, but they refused to listen. And today the world, utterly regardless of the warning voice of God, is hurrying on to eternal ruin.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 14.

□ **Wednesday**  
December 27

## FROM 1844 TO THE CLOSE OF PROBATION

**7** What assurance was given to Daniel concerning his visions? Daniel 12:8–10.

“As the message of Christ’s first advent announced the kingdom of His grace, so the message of His second advent announces the kingdom of His glory. And the second message, like the first, is based on the prophecies. The words of the angel to Daniel relating to the last days were to be understood in the time of the end.”—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 234.

**8** What blessing belongs to the true believers under the threefold message? Daniel 12:12; Revelation 14:13.

“There are living upon our earth men who have passed the age of fourscore and ten. The natural results of old age are seen in their feebleness. But they believe God, and God loves them. The seal of God is upon them, and they will be among the number of whom the Lord has said, ‘Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord.’”—*The SDA Bible Commentary* [E. G. White Comments], vol. 7, p. 982.

□ **Thursday**  
December 28

## A SPECIAL RESURRECTION

**9** What event takes place at the commencement of the seventh plague? Daniel 12:2.

“In the midst of the angry heavens is one clear space of indescribable glory, whence comes the voice of God like the sound of many waters, saying: ‘It is done’ (Revelation 16:17).

“That voice shakes the heavens and the earth. There is a mighty earthquake, ‘such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great’ (Verses 17, 18). The firmament appears to open and shut. The glory from the throne of God seems flashing through. The mountains shake like a reed in the wind, and ragged rocks are scattered on every side. . . .

“Graves are opened, and ‘many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth . . . awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt’ (Daniel 12:2). All who have died in the faith of the third angel’s message come forth from the tomb glorified, to hear God’s covenant of peace with those who have kept His law. ‘They also which pierced Him’ (Revelation 1:7), those that mocked and derided Christ’s dying agonies, and the most violent opposers of His truth and His people, are raised to behold Him in His glory and to see the honor placed upon the loyal and obedient.”—*The Great Controversy*, pp. 636, 637.

**10** After this special or partial resurrection, how many living saints will there be on earth? Revelation 7:4.

“The sky opened and shut and was in commotion. The mountains shook like a reed in the wind and cast out ragged rocks all around. The sea boiled like a pot and cast out stones upon the land. And as God spoke the day and the hour of Jesus’ coming and delivered the everlasting

covenant to His people, He spoke one sentence, and then paused, while the words were rolling through the earth. The Israel of God stood with their eyes fixed upward, listening to the words as they came from the mouth of Jehovah and rolled through the earth like peals of loudest thunder.”—*Early Writings*, pp. 285, 286.

“The living saints, 144,000 in number, knew and understood the voice, while the wicked thought it was thunder and an earthquake.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 1, p. 59.

## REVIEW AND THOUGHT QUESTIONS

□ **Friday**  
December 29

- a. What should be our greatest desire?
- b. What has been revealed in the time of the end?
- c. What events will transpire in the last days?
- d. Explain the 1290 days and the 1335 days.
- e. How is the number of the 144,000 completed?

## FOR FURTHER STUDY

*The Great Controversy*, pp. 635–652.  
*Early Writings*, pp. 236, 237.

*“Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: and he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding.”*

*Daniel 2:20, 21.*