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We have a number of visitors today and so I'm wondering if some of the students who are in the back half of the room would move up and take some of these front seats and make room for some of them back there. . . .

I'd like to start this morning with reading the 136th Psalm ---the first 4 verses. (Reading text . . . ) This morning at this Thanksgiving season I want to look back a little bit at our history and to see just why it is that this is a important time for us in America. About 10 years ago one time the Sat. Eve. Post, which was then a magazine that was sold in every town and hamlet in the U.S. came out with a big headline on its cover at about this time of year ---It said, Let's have no more nonsense about the Pilgrims. See page so and so, and then you turned to page so and so in the Post and there was an article written by a man who said that he thought that it was utterly ridiculous that so much attention was paid to the Pilgrims, and so much talk about them at Thanksgiving time. He said that his ancestors had come over to Main some time before the pilgrims came to Mass., and his ancestors were fishermen in Main having a good business up there and he said that he had gone through some of the old family materials and he had found that friends of theirs in England had written them and had said that these poor people are coming over and settling there in Mass. and they were probably going to run into real difficulty, and would these people in Main please keep an eye on them and see if they could give them some help if they got into trouble. So they said, Why should we have all this fuss about the pilgrims? Why all this talk about them at this time of year? Well you know that's a good question. Why Why do we have all this talk about the pilgrims? Why is it important at all? The fact is that it is tremendously important. The fact is that if it were not for the pilgrims, American history would have been entirely ~~diff~~ different, and the history of the world would have been entirely different. And so I want with you this morning to see a little bit of what it was the pilgrims did, and then I want to see a little bit of why it was important what they did, and all the way through it I want to see just how the Lord worked in such a way that if it were not for His marvelous work it is just hard to believe that the pilgrims ever could have succeeded in what they undertook to do.