



LESSON VII.—NOVEMBER 12.

## Rebuilding the Walls of Jerusalem.

Nehemiah iv., 7-18. Memory verses 15-18. Read chapter iv.

### Golden Text.

Watch and pray. Matt. xxvi., 41.

### Home Readings.

M. Neh. 4: 7-18. Rebuilding the Walls of Jerusalem.  
 T. Neh. 6: 1-9. Tempters unheeded.  
 W. Neh. 6: 10-16. The wall finished.  
 Th. Neh. 12: 27-30, 43-47. Dedication and rejoicing.  
 F. Psalm 64. Evil designs frustrated.  
 S. Eph. 6: 10-18. Able to stand.  
 Su. Mark 13: 23-37. Watching and prayer.

### Lesson Text.

Supt.—7. But it came to pass, that when San-bal'lat, and To-bi'ah, and the A-ra'bi-ans, and the Am'mon-ites, and the Ash'dod-ites, heard that the walls of Je-ru-sa-lem were made-up, and that the breaches began to be stopped, then they were very wroth,

School.—8. And conspired all of them together to come and to fight against Je-ru-sa-lem, and to hinder it.

9. Nevertheless we made our prayer unto our God, and set a watch against them day and night, because of them.

10. And Ju'dah said, The strength of the bearers of burdens is decayed, and there is much rubbish; so that we are not able to build the wall.

11. And our adversaries said, They shall not know, neither see, till we come in the midst among them, and slay them, and cause the work to cease.

12. And it came to pass, that when the Jews which dwelt by them came, they said unto us, ten times, From all places whence ye shall return unto us they will be upon you.

13. Therefore set I in the lower places behind the wall, and on the higher places, I even set the people after their families with their swords, their spears, and their bows.

14. And I looked, and rose up, and said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, Be not ye afraid of them; remember the Lord, which is great and terrible, and fight for your brethren, your sons, and your daughters, your wives, and your houses.

15. And it came to pass, when our enemies heard that it was known unto us, and God had brought their counsel to nought, that we returned all of us to the wall, every one unto his work.

16. And it came to pass from that time forth, that the half of my servants wrought in the work, and the other half of them held both the spears, the shields, and the bows, and the habergeons; and the rulers were behind all the house of Ju'dah.

17. They which builded on the wall, and they that bare burdens, with those that laded, every one with one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other hand held a weapon.

18. For the builders, every one had his sword girded by his side, and so builded. And he that sounded the trumpet was by me.

### The Bible Class.

Building—Luke vi., 48, 49; xiv., 27-33: I. Cor. iii., 9-16: Acts xx., 32: Eph. II., 19-22: Col. II., 6, 7. Hag. i., 2, 4: I. Pet. II., 4-8. Acts. iv., 10-12. Ps. cxxvii., 1; cxlvii., 1, 2.

### Suggestions.

When Nehemiah reached Jerusalem he found the city desolate and the people discouraged. But he brought new courage and hope to them and enthusiastically persuaded them to set to work immediately to rebuild the walls of the city.

So the priests and the rulers and men of all classes began to build the gates and the walls, each doing a certain portion. Their

loyalty and patriotism might be judged by their faithful building.

But the enemies of the Jews, led on by Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem, Samaritans, Ammonites and Arabians, ridiculed and mocked the builders. The hard work of gathering from the heaps of rubbish sufficient stone to build strong walls, was made doubly difficult by the cruel sarcasms and miserable jests of the enemy. Also the constant fear of an attack kept the builders from giving their whole attention to the work. But Nehemiah prayed constantly to God for protection and set men to watch day and night lest the enemy should come on them suddenly. The Jews outside of the city kept sending to warn the builders, of their danger from the aliens. So Nehemiah prepared the men for battle by placing them armed, each man in front of his own family. He bade them have no fear but to fight remembering that the Lord of hosts was on their side.

The cowardly enemies, when they found that their plot was discovered, decided not to fight against the people of God. So the Jews returned to their building and worked with courage and perseverance. But at any moment the enemies might return to vex the builders. So they worked with their weapons beside them. Those who carried the stones, carried in one hand a weapon. Those who needed both hands for building wore their swords. The trumpeter stood by Nehemiah to be ready at any moment to sound the call to arms, should the enemy attempt to surprise them. So they worked and watched and prayed. And the Almighty God protected and prospered them.

### Illustration.

We are building for eternity and he who builds into his daily life sweet acts of charity will find at the end that he has made himself a fine palace, as it were a beautiful character. But of what use is the finest building if the foundation be not secure? Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. (I. Cor. iii., 11-15.) He who has built on self-interest or for the applause of men or for any other reason than the glory of God, will find his house on shifting sands, and when the storm comes, that house cannot stand. (Matt. vii., 26, 27.)

But one will say, 'This is unfair. I have spent many years building this palace, I paid dear for the foundation, and if it is not safe, God should accept and protect my building. I have done the best that I could.' Stay, here is a master-builder, a contractor to whom the architect has given the plans of a mansion to be built within a certain time. The contractor is a good sort of fellow and says that he will do the best he can. He glances at the plans, then folds them carefully away, having some idea of what is to be done. He sets to work at the building, he gets his four walls about square, but not one of them is exactly plumb. He forgets how many doors there should be, and puts in windows to suit his own fancy. He spends much time in adorning the mansions, especially are the outer walls and roof gables beautiful to look upon, but the inner rooms are draughty and cheerless.

The builder may be planning further decoration and support of the building, when the time limit expires and the architect and owner appear to claim his mansion. What would be the feelings of the owner on being shown the building, handsome and admired by the workmen and neighbors, but incorrect in every detail, totally different from the plan. 'Did I not give you the plan?' asks the amazed architect. 'Yes,' replies the builder, 'and I had an idea you wanted it about like this. I did the best I could.' But this is not the house that the architect planned, and he cannot accept the work of such a man.

Beloved, is not this a picture of the man who closes his eyes to God's plan for his life, given to him in God's own Book? If he does what he considers 'about right,' without consulting the Book, is God to accept his work as worthy? What claim has such a man on God? Yet our Saviour in boundless mercy is constantly offering to such an one opportunities of repentance and wisdom. No man can truly say, 'I have done my best,' unless he has allowed the Lord of glory to work in and through him. No man can tell when his last opportunity for salvation shall come, for there is a time after which it is said, 'he that is

unjust, let him be unjust still.' (Rev. xxii., 11.)—'Daily Witness.'

### Junior C. E.

Nov. 12. How should your body be like a church? I. Cor. 3: 16-23.

### C. E. Topic.

Nov. 12. The living Bread. John 6: 26-35.



## Tobacco Catechism.

(By Dr. R. H. McDonald, of San Francisco.)

### CHAPTER XXIII.—HOW TOBACCO AFFECTS NATIONS.

1. Q.—What nation has grown weak and insignificant through the use of tobacco within the past few years?

A.—The Turks; they were strong and brave once, and all Europe was afraid of them. Now they are lazy and degraded, and afraid of all Europe.

2. Q.—What did an experienced army, physician say of them?

A.—Had the Turks never used tobacco they would now be as powerful as in the days of the ancient Sultans.

3. Q.—Why are they weaker?

A.—Because they have used tobacco from their childhood, and it has destroyed their strength and their ambition.

4. Q.—The Germans are great smokers; will they become a weak nation like the Turks?

A.—The government has taken the subject in hand, and now every boy under sixteen years of age in Germany, who is found smoking is arrested and fined.

5. Q.—Is the use of tobacco tolerated in Berlin colleges?

A.—No. It is strictly prohibited; and no professor or teacher, who uses it, is employed.

6. Q.—Has any other nation become alarmed upon the subject of boys smoking?

A.—Yes, smoking is strictly forbidden in French military schools, because it was found that smokers were more feeble in body and dulger in intellect than those who did not use tobacco.

7. Q.—What else has the French Government done about tobacco?

A.—It has prohibited the use of tobacco to children and youth.

8. Q.—What does Chambers's Encyclopedia say?

A.—That in Great Britain 'sailors are generally limited to chewing, smoking at sea being prohibited.'

9. Q.—How was the custom formerly treated in Persia?

A.—The Shah of Persia made the use of the drug a capital crime, and proclaimed that 'every soldier in whose possession tobacco was found, should have his nose and lips cut off, and afterwards be burned alive.'

10. Q.—Was smoking tolerated in Switzerland at the beginning of the custom of smoking?

A.—It was not, but was ranked a crime, and was punished as such.

11. Q.—What action has the 'council,' of Berne, in Switzerland, taken to suppress the tobacco plague?

A.—It has issued a decree prohibiting boys under fifteen years of age from using tobacco.

12. Q.—Name one of the terms of admission to the training school at Oxford, Ohio?

A.—'No pupil shall be received into the boarding hall who uses tobacco in any form.'

13. Q.—What step has been taken by the Free Methodists?

A.—No person is allowed to become a church member who uses tobacco in any form, and ministers are also strictly prohibited from using it.

14. Q.—What resolution was adopted at a Universalist convention?

A.—Resolved, 'That this convention memorialize the General Convention at the next session asking it to refuse beneficiary aid