

## LESSON VI.

## NEHEMIAH'S PRAYER

November 5, 1899

Nehemiah 1: 1-11. Commit to memory vs. 8-10. Read chap. 2

1 The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah. 2 And it came to pass in the month of Chisleu, in the twentieth year, as I was in Shushan the palace;

3 That Hanani, one of my brethren, came, he and certain men of Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews that had escaped, which were left of the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem.

4 And they said unto me, The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province are in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem also is broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire.

5 And it came to pass, when I heard these words that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven,

6 And said, I beseech thee, O Lord, God of heaven, the great and terrible God that keepeth covenant and mercy for them that love him and observe his commandments:

7 Let thine ear now be attentive, and thine eyes open, that thou mayest hear the prayer of thy servant, which I pray before thee now, day and night, for the children of Israel thy servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel, which we have

sinned against thee: both I and my father's house have sinned.

8 We have dealt very corruptly against thee, and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the judgments, which thou commandedst thy servant Moses.

9 Remember, I beseech thee, the word that thou commandedst thy servant Moses, saying, If ye transgress, I will scatter you abroad among the nations:

10 But if ye turn unto me, and keep my commandments, and do them; though there were of you cast out unto the uttermost part of the heaven, yet will I gather them from thence, and will bring them unto the place that I have chosen to set my name there.

11 Now these are thy servants and thy people, whom thou hast redeemed by thy great power, and by thy strong hand.

12 O Lord, I beseech thee, let now thine ear be attentive to the prayer of thy servant, and to the prayer of thy servants, who desire to fear thy name: and prosper, I pray thee, thy servant this day, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man. For I was the king's cupbearer.

**Revised Version.**—1 Now; 2 Chisleu; 3 Out of; 4 The God; 5 With; 6 Keep; 7 Hearken unto; 8 At this time; 9 While; 10 Yea, I and; 11 Trespass; 12 Peoples; 13 Return; 14 Though your outcasts were in the uttermost part; 15 Cause my name to dwell there; 16 Now I

## GOLDEN TEXT

"Prosper, I pray thee, thy servant this day." Neh. 1: 11.

## DAILY READINGS

M.—Neh. 1. Nehemiah's prayer.  
T.—Neh. 2: 1-11. The request granted.  
W.—Neh. 2: 12-20. A good resolve.  
Th.—Lev. 26: 40-46. Confession and forgiveness.  
F.—Deut. 30: 1-10. Precious promises.  
S.—1 Kings 8: 46-53. Solomon's prayer.  
S.—Psalm 80. Turn us, O Lord!

## TIME

Date in 445 or early in 441 B.C., the twentieth year of the reign of Artaxerxes (ch. 1: 1), thirteen years after Ezra first went to Jerusalem.

## PLACE

Shushan (Susa), the winter capital of the Persian empire.

## CATECHISM

Q. 78. What is forbidden in the ninth commandment?

A. The ninth commandment forbiddeth whatsoever is prejudicial to truth, or injurious to our own or our neighbour's good name.

## LESSON PLAN

I. A Courtier, 1, 11 last clause. In the king's palace, and the king's cupbearer.

II. A Patriot, 2, 3.

Eager for news of his countrymen, and grieved because of their sad estate.

III. A Man of Prayer, 4-11.

Taking the case of his people to his God and theirs.

## LESSON HYMNS:

Book of Praise—159, 42 (Ps.), 171, 95, 160.

## CONNECTION

Some few years after Ezra went up to Jerusalem discouraging reports were brought back to Nehemiah at the Persian court. He placed the matter before God, and this lesson is a study of his prayer.

## EXPLANATION

1, 2. The words; referring to what follows. Chisleu, about December. Hanani, Nehemiah's own brother (7: 2). Came; from Jerusalem. The Jews that had escaped; from exile and had returned to Jerusalem.

3, 4. The remnant that are left; the returned exiles distinguished from these still living in foreign countries. Affliction and reproach: There were difficulties among themselves (Neh. 5: 1-5) and enemies without (Ezra 4: 4). The wall . . . is broken; by hostile neighbors. Fasted; expressive of his deep grief and his desire to find God.

5, 6. The great and terrible God; great in mighty deeds, and terrible in judgment.

Keepeth covenant and mercy; keeps his promise and shows mercy (Ps. 103: 17, 18). Confess the sins. Sin was the cause of all their troubles, and they must forsake it through confession. Which we have sinned. He assumes his full share of the people's sin.

7-9. Very corruptly; showing his deep sense of the greatness of their sin. Commandments . . . statutes . . . judgments; the law from every point of view (Deut. 6: 1). If ye transgress. See Lev. 26: 33; Deut. 28: 64. But if ye turn unto me. See Lev. 26: 40-42; Deut. 30: 1-5. The fact that God had kept His word as to the judgments was a proof to Nehemiah that He would fulfil His