

## No. 135, Dominion Hymnal.

Dear Saviour, from thy throne above,  
Where countless children bow.

## No. 138, Dominion Hymnal.

O worship the King all glorious above!  
O gratefully sing his power and his love!

**TIME.**—445 B. C. Almost a century since last lesson. 83d Olympiad. Year of Rome, 308.

**PLACE.**—Shushan, or Susa. (See Descriptive Index.)

**RULERS.**—Artaxerxes Longimanus, king of Persia. Rome under consuls. Judea under a provisional governor.

**CONNECTING LINK.**—Almost a century has gone. The Jews who returned under Zerubbabel are suffering from oppression at the hands of their enemies; the city walls are broken down, the gates burned. In great distress, and in a more pitiable condition than when captives at Babylon, their wretchedness is reported by messengers to Nehemiah at Susa. In sorrow of heart he goes to God with the prayer recorded in our lesson.

**DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.**—The nature of prayer.

**QUESTIONS FOR SENIOR STUDENTS.****1. A People's Need, v. 1-3.**

What people does our lesson describe as in need?  
In what respects were they in need?  
What had brought them to this condition?  
To whom was the story of their need brought?  
What fact is proved concerning the feeling of the Jews in Persia for their friends in Palestine?  
What had been the effect of the captivity on their relation to God?

**2. A Patriot's Prayer, v. 4-11.**

How did Nehemiah prepare himself for this prayer?  
What elements of true prayer appear in these words of Nehemiah?  
What shows his patriotism?  
What one thing does he plead as his hope?  
How is the purpose in his heart foreshadowed?  
What was his purpose?

**Practical Teachings.**

Nehemiah sought to know the need of others, though far away from him. Do you?  
Nehemiah sought how he might relieve that need. Do you?  
Nehemiah prayed all for his loved ones, none for himself. Do you?  
Nehemiah committed his plans for others to God. Do you?

**QUESTIONS FOR INTERMEDIATE SCHOLARS.****1. A People's Need, v. 1-3.**

Who speaks in this lesson?  
Where was he living?  
Who was his king? Neh. 2, 1.  
What was Nehemiah's office? v. 11.  
Who came to him in the palace?  
What inquiries did he make of his visitors?  
About whom did he receive news?  
What was the condition of the people?  
What was the condition of Jerusalem?  
By whose order had it been destroyed? 2 Kings 25, 8-10.

**2. A Patriot's Prayer, v. 4-11.**

How did Nehemiah receive the news?  
To whom did he go for help?  
What confession did he make?  
What had been the offense of the people?  
What threatening of the Lord does Nehemiah call to mind?  
On what condition had help been promised? Deut. 4, 29-31.  
How may every sinner be restored to God's favor? Isa. 59, 7.  
On what ground does Nehemiah plead for God's favor to Israel?  
What special favor did he ask of the Lord?

**Teachings of the Lesson.**

Where, in this lesson, are we taught—1. Sympathy with God's people in trouble? 2. Sorrow for sin? 3. Confidence in God's promises?

**QUESTIONS FOR YOUNGER SCHOLARS.**

Who lived in the palace of the king of Persia? Nehemiah, a wise and pious Jew.

Who came to the palace? Some Jews from Jerusalem.

What news did they bring of the Jews there? That they were poor and despised.

What was the state of Jerusalem? It was without wall or gates.

Why was this a disgrace? In those days a city without wall or gates was not considered a city.

How was Nehemiah affected when he heard these things? He sat down and wept.

To whom did he go in his trouble? To the God of Israel. [Repeat the GOLDEN TEXT.]

What did he confess? His sins and those of his people.

For what did he ask? For mercy and forgiveness. What did he pray God to remember? His promise to Moses.

What was that promise? That he would bless the Israelites when they obeyed and worshiped him.

What brought all their trouble upon them? Forsaking God.

What had brought them prosperity? Obedience to God.

How is it with us to-day? The same—"The word of the Lord standeth forever."

**Words with Little People.**

The dearest mother, father, or friend in all the world cannot help us as Jesus can. Kind and willing as they are they cannot always and every-where be near to help us. But we can never be where God cannot and will not help.

"Praying is but telling Jesus  
All our want and all our woe;  
None but Jesus can relieve us,  
None but Jesus loves us so.  
And to Jesus  
Every one is free to go."

**THE LESSON CATECHISM.**

[For the entire school.]

1. Who was Nehemiah? A nobleman at the court of Persia.

2. When did he live? After the return of the Jews from captivity.

3. In what condition was Jerusalem at that time? It was without gates or wall.

4. What did Nehemiah undertake to do? To rebuild the wall.

5. How did he begin? By seeking God's help.

6. How is his prayer expressed in the GOLDEN TEXT? Give us, etc.

7. How did he succeed in building the wall? By leading the people in the work.

**TEXTS AT CHURCH.**

Morning Text.....

Evening Text.....

**ANALYTICAL AND BIBLICAL OUTLINE.****Prayer to God.****I. NEHEMIAH'S GOD.**

1. O Lord God of heaven. v. 5.

"Created the heavens and the earth." Gen. 1, 1.

2. The great and terrible God. v. 5.

"The Lord most high is terrible." Ps. 47, 2.

3. That keepeth covenant and mercy. v. 5.

"He is God, the faithful God." Deut. 7, 9.

4. For them that love him. v. 5.

"Thou shalt love the Lord." Deut. 6, 5.

5. And observe his commandments. v. 5.

"These words...shall be in thine heart." Deut.

6, 6.