

PUBLIC READING OF THE SCRIPTURES

Lesson VIII.

Nehemiah 8 : 1-12—Memory Verses, 1-3

November 19, 1899

1 And all the people gathered themselves together as one man into the street that was before the water gate ; and they spake unto Ez'ra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Mo'ses, which the LORD had commanded to Is'rael.

2 And Ez'ra the priest brought the law before the congregation both of men and women, and all that could hear with understanding, upon the first day of the seventh month.

3 And he read therein before the street that was before the water gate from the morning until midday, before the men and the women, and those that could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive unto the book of the law.

4 And Ez'ra the scribe stood upon a pulpit of wood, which they had made for the purpose ; and beside him stood Mattithi'ah, and She'ma, and Anai'ah, and Uri'jah, and Hilki'ah, and Maasei'ah, on his right hand; and on his left hand, Pedai'ah, and Misha'el, and Malchi'ah, and Ha'shum, and Hashbad-a'na, Zechar'iah, and Meshul'lam.

5 And Ez'ra opened the book in the sight of all the people ; (for he was above all the people;) and when he opened it, all the people stood up :

6 And Ez'ra blessed the LORD, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands : and they

bowed their heads, and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

7 Also Jesh'ua, and Ba'ni, and Sherebi'ah, Ja'min, Ak'kub, Shabbetha'i, Hodi'jah, Maasei'ah, Keli'ta, Azari'ah, Joz'abad, Ha'-nan, Pelai'ah, and the Levi'tes, caused the people to understand the law : and the people stood in their place.

8 So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading.

9 And Nehemi'ah, which is the Tirsha'tha, add Ez'ra the priest the scribe, and the Le'vites that taught the people, said unto all the people. This day is holy unto the LORD your God ; mourn not, nor weep. For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the law.

10 Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared : for this day is holy unto our LORD: neither be ye sorry ; for the joy of the LORD is your strength.

11 So the Le'vites stilled all the people, saying, Hold your peace, for the day is holy ; neither be ye grieved.

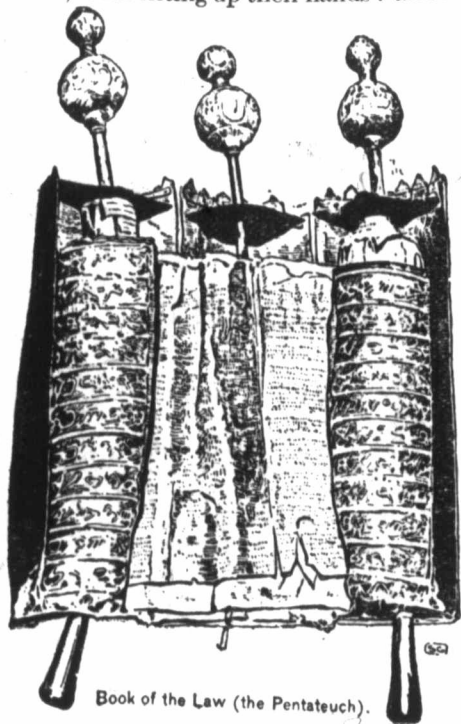
12 And all the people went their way to eat, and to drink, and to send portions, and to make great mirth, because they had understood the words that were declared unto them.

THE LESSON REVIEW

All the time the builders were mending the wall, Ezra the scribe was busy studying and copying out in writing the law given by God to Moses. His book, you will remember, was written on a large piece of parchment made of sheepskin and then rolled up.

At this time there were not many books, and very few persons could read, but everyone was anxious to hear what Ezra had written. So, the week after the wall was finished and when the people were well rested, Ezra invited them to meet early one morning in front of the Water gate to hear the word of the Lord. They built a high pulpit in the street, and Ezra stood up where everybody could see and hear him.

As soon as he unrolled the book, they all stood up, men and women and children. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, and the people shouted "Amen ! Amen !" and bowed their heads.



Book of the Law (the Pentateuch).