

salem ; and that possibly he was of the royal house of David. He was highly educated, deeply religious even amidst the luxuries of a heathen court, courageous, and, above all, a true patriot with a great yearning for Jerusalem.

3. How was this yearning shown when news came of the desperate state of affairs in Jerusalem ? Bring out clearly the following elements in Nehemiah's prayer :

(a) Knowledge of the sorrows and needs of Jerusalem aroused Nehemiah's intense sympathy. That is natural in a patriot. (See Ps. 137 : 5, 6.)

(b) Sympathy filled him with a desire to help, to place his life alongside those who were in distress, v. 11. Such sympathy should always be the parent of a self-sacrificing life.

(c) That desire drove him back on God, in whom alone he could find divine help, wis-

dom, guidance, v. 5. All true service is service *with* God. (See Matt. 7 : 21-23.)

(d) Approach to God brought a willingness to put away sin, the greatest barrier to a full and free communion with him, vs. 6, 7. We can do this through Jesus.

(e) Nehemiah believed absolutely that God would answer his prayer. He did not ask once or twice and forget ; he did not grow discouraged although the months passed ; he did not insist on the answer coming in any way but as God himself willed.

4. What can the boys and girls do for their friends, their country, for children in non-Christian lands ? What does Tennyson say ? What does Jesus say ? Emphasize that one of the greatest forces helping the missionaries to-day is the intelligent, persistent, earnest prayers of those who already love God.

ADDED HINTS AND HELPS

In this section will be found further assistance under various headings.

Something to Look Up

1. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins," said John. Give the book, chapter and verse.

2. Where does Peter say we should cast all our care upon God ?

ANSWERS, Lesson V.—(1) Prov. 15 : 33.

(2) Prov. 22 : 32.

For Discussion

1. Does religion make people truer patriots ?


2. Is faith a help or a hindrance to active effort ?

Prove from Scripture

That prayer should be constant.

FOR TEACHERS OF THE LITTLE ONES

A Look Forward—Our lesson shows God teaching his people that they may ask him for things which they need.



NEHEMIAH
 THE KING'S CUPBEARER
PRAYED TO GOD TO
HELP HIM TO HELP HIS
COUNTRY—

O, GOD HELP ME TO DO
SOMETHING TO HELP
MY COUNTRY!

Lesson Thought—Teach the children that they may bring all their wants to God in prayer.

Approach to the Lesson—We are going to hear about a man who lived in a palace. "Oh," you say, "that must be a king, for only kings live in palaces." Yes, but the king's family and friends and officers and servants live in the palace too.

The man in our story was a high officer of the king of Persia. He lived many hundred years ago in the palace of the heathen king