

Sabbath School Lessons.

NEHEMIAH'S PRAYER.

Feb. 12. B.C. 445.
Lesson, Neh. 1 : 1-11. Golden Text, Ps. 30 : 10.
Memory vs. 8, 9. Catechism Q. 9.

HOME READINGS.

M. Ezra 7 : 1-28. Ezra's Commission.
T. Ezra 8 : 15-33. His Journey to Jerusalem.
W. Ezra 9 : 1-15. Ezra's Prayer and Confession.
Th. Neh. 1 : 1-11. Nehemiah's Prayer.
F. Psalm 30 : 1-12. Lord, be Thou my Helper.
S. Psalm 79 : 1-13. Mourning for Jerusalem.
S. Psalm 80 : 1-19. Prayer for Deliverance.

There is a gap of 70 years between last lesson and this one. Thirteen years before this, Ezra, a Jewish Scribe living in Babylon, led up a band of Jews to Jerusalem, and effected some reforms. Now Nehemiah, a Jew of the tribe of Judah, an officer in the Persian court is moved to help the Jews in Jerusalem.

How long an interval between this lesson and the last? What do you know of the intermediate history? Who was Nehemiah? Title of this lesson? Golden Text? Lesson Plan? Time? Place? Memory verses? Catechism?

I. *Trouble taken to God*, vs. 1-4—Who came to Shushan? What did Nehemiah ask them? What was their reply? How long was this after the return of the captives? How was Nehemiah affected? What did he do?

II. *Sin Confessed*, vs. 5-7—How did Nehemiah begin his prayer? What was his first petition? Whose sins did he confess? How had they sinned? What had been the consequence of their sins? What is promised to those who confess their sins? 1 John 1 : 9.

III. *Promises Pleaded*, vs. 8-11—What did Nehemiah beseech God to remember? What had God threatened in case of transgression? How had He fulfilled this threat? What had He promised if they turned unto Him? What was Nehemiah's plea? What earnest supplication did he offer? In whose sight did he ask favor?

LESSONS LEARNED.

1. When the church suffers we should be filled with sorrow.
2. God is our help in time of trouble.
3. In all our prayers we should confess our sins.
4. God's promises are our greatest encouragement in prayer.

REBUILDING THE WALL.

Feb. 19. B.C. 444.
Lesson, Neh. 4 : 9-21. Golden Text, Neh. 4 : 9.
Memory vs. 19-21. Catechism Q. 10.

HOME READINGS.

M. Neh. 2 : 1-50. Nehemiah's Mission.
T. Neh. 3 : 1-3. The building of the Wall.
W. Neh. 4 : 1-12. The Hostile Plot.
Th. Neh. 4 : 13-21. The Successful Defence.
F. Psalm 134 : 1-3. Escape from the Snare.
S. Psalm 121 : 1-5. The Lord about His People.
S. Psalm 145 : 1-9. A Psalm of Praise.

Nehemiah requested the king's permission to go to Jerusalem and rebuild the city. Artaxerxes consented, appointing him governor of Judah, and ordered the rulers of the provinces through which he passed to afford him assistance. Thus encouraged, Nehemiah went to Jerusalem and rebuilt the city walls.

For what purpose did Nehemiah go to Jerusalem? Describe the progress of the work? By whom was it opposed? Title of this lesson? Golden Text? Lesson Plan? Time? Place? Memory verses? Catechism?

I. *Praying and Watching*, vs. 9-12—What complaint did Judah make? What did their adversaries threaten? What did the country Jews urge their friends to do? How did Nehemiah meet these difficulties? v. 9.

II. *Trusting and Watching*, vs. 13-15—How did Nehemiah guard against the enemies? What did he say to encourage his friends? Who were on their side? For whom were they fighting? In whom were they to trust? What else were they to do? What did the enemies do when they found their plans were discovered?

III. *Watching and Waiting*, vs. 16-21—How did Nehemiah continue the work? What division did he make of his force? How did the builders work? What further provision did Nehemiah make against a surprise? Why had he the trumpeter by his side? What order did he give to those at work?

LESSONS LEARNED.

1. Our Christian life is a constant warfare.
2. Our spiritual enemies are many and active.
3. God furnishes our armor for the fight of faith.
4. He will fight with us and give us the victory.
5. We should therefore watch and pray, and work with unwavering trust in him.