

## Lesson IX.

## NEHEMIAH'S PRAYER

November 26, 1911

Nehemiah, ch. 1—Memory verse, 9.

**Golden Text**—The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.—James 5 : 16.



1 The words of Nehemi'ah the son of Hachali'ah. And it came to pass in the month Chis'leu, in the twentieth year, as I was in Shu'shan the palace,

2 That Hana'ni, one of my brethren, came, he and *certain* men of Ju'dah ; and I asked them concerning the Jews that had escaped, which were left of the captivity, and concerning Jeru'salem.

3 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 Jeru'salem also is broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire.

4 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,

5 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 :

6 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 Is'rael,

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

7 We have dealt very corruptly against thee, and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the judgments, which thou commandedst thy servant Mo'ses.

8 Remember, I beseech thee, the word that thou commandedst thy servant Mo'ses, saying, *If* ye transgress, I will scatter you abroad among the nations :

9 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.

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

11 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.

## THE LESSON RETOLD

It was now ninety years since Cyrus, king of Persia, had allowed the Jews to go back to Jerusalem. Artaxerxes was still king of Persia, and Nehemiah, a Jew, was his cupbearer.

One day, when Nehemiah was in the palace of his master at Shushan, there came to see him some friends from the land of Judah ; and Nehemiah asked them about the Jews who had gone back to that land, and about the holy city of Jerusalem. His friends told him the sad news, that the Jews were in great trouble and affliction, that the walls of Jerusalem were still in ruins, and that the gates of the city had never been set up.

When Nehemiah heard this, he wept for the sorrows of his people and the city of Jerusalem, and he fasted, and prayed to God to hear and answer his prayer. He confessed to God that he and his people had not kept His laws and commandments which He had given them through His servant Moses ; they had sinned greatly and did not deserve forgiveness. He remembered, however, that God had said to His people : " If ye do evil, I will scatter you among other nations." They had done evil, and they had been torn from their own land and punished, as God had said. But God had also promised, that, if they repented of their sins and kept His com-