

REBUILDING THE WALLS OF JERUSALEM

Lesson VII.

Nehemiah 4 : 7-18—Memory Verses, 15-18

November 12, 1899

7 But it came to pass, *that* when Sanbal'lat and Tobi'ah, and the Ara'bians, and the Am'monites, and the Ash'dodites, heard that the walls of Jeru'salem were made up, *and* that the breaches began to be stopped, then they were very wroth,

8 And conspired all of them together to come *and* to fight against Jeru'salem, and to hinder it.

9 Nevertheless we made our prayer unto our God, and set a watch against them day and night, because of them.

10 And Ju'dah said, The strength of the bearers of burdens is decayed, and *there* is much rubbish ; so that we are not able to build the wall.

11 And our adversaries said, They shall not know, neither see, till we come in the midst among them, and slay them, and cause the work to cease.

12 And it came to pass, that when the Jews which dwelt by them came, they said unto us ten times, From all places whence ye shall return unto us *they will be upon you.*

13 Therefore set I in the lower places behind the wall, *and* on the higher places, I even set the people after their families with

their swords, their spears, and their bows.

14 And I looked, and rose up, and said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, Be not ye afraid of them : remember the Lord *which* is great and terrible, and fight for' your brethren, your sons, and your daughters, your wives, and your houses.

15 And it came to pass, when our enemies heard that it was known unto us, and God had brought their counsel to nought, that we returned all of us to the wall, *every* one unto his work.

16 And it came to pass from that time forth, *that* the half of my servants wrought in the work, and the other half of them held both the spears, the shields, and the bows, and the habergeons ; and the rulers *were* behind all the house of Ju'dah.

17 They which builded on the wall, and they that bare burdens, with those that laded, *every* one with one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other hand held a weapon.

18 For the builders, every one had his sword girded by his side, and *so* builded. And he that sounded the trumpet *was* by me.

THE LESSON RETOLD

When Nehemiah had prayed to God, he told the king his trouble and asked leave to go to Jerusalem. After making him promise to come back, the king allowed him to go, and gave him money and letters to those who could help him.

Now, there were living near Jerusalem two heathen rulers named Sanballat and Tobiah, who had done the Jews a great deal of mischief. When they heard that Nehemiah had come to mend the wall and build up the city, they were very angry and did everything they could to frighten him.

But Nehemiah called the Jews together, and began the work, though their enemies watched them and tried to break in when they were not looking.

Then Nehemiah planned that, whilst half the builders worked, the other half would keep Sanballat and his soldiers away with swords and spears and bows.

As they worked and fought, they prayed ; so that soon the wall was half done.

Then the people began to get tired.

But Nehemiah said, "Remember God is with us, and

