

Benefit 4, *Guidance*. "The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him"; so says the Golden Text, and so found Ezra in his journey from the land of captivity to the Holy City. He and his company were a little handful of unprotected people in a robber-infested district, safe because in God's keeping.

Benefit 5, *Freedom*. It was a journey, last lesson; it is a song now, a song of deliverance. A people singing and shouting. "The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad." They had sown in tears, they were reaping in joy, because God had remembered them. (See Golden Text.)

Benefit 6, *The privilege of prayer*. Nehemiah was eager to help his countrymen. Note the way hedged in against him, and the way opened out through prayer.

Benefit 7, *Freedom from enemies*. The scene changes from the palace of the Persian king, where Nehemiah had been cup-bearer, to the ruins of the walls of Jerusalem, which Nehemiah now undertakes to rebuild. Like all others who work for God, he met with opposition. But God will protect us in our duty as He protected Nehemiah, if we will but do as he did while we work—"watch and pray."

Benefit 8, *God's Holy Word*. Recall the picturesque scene of the reading of the Law from the pulpit of wood in the streets of Jerusalem, and the eagerness of the people to hear. A lesson both for teachers and scholars; for the teachers to take pains to explain the Word clearly, and for the scholars to show eagerness to learn whilst there is opportunity.

Benefit 9, *Words of warning*; which are no less a benefit than words of blessing, since they are meant to keep us from falling into sin. The woes of intemperance are described so vividly and truthfully that surely none will risk tampering with that which "biteth like a serpent and stingeth like an adder."

Benefit 10, *The Lord's day*. Nehemiah, dealing with the Sabbath-breakers, gives a capital object lesson on how to enforce the keeping of Sabbath laws upon those who, for the sake of gain or pleasure, would rob other people of their Sabbath rest.

Benefit 11, *Opportunity*. What encouragement there is for our gifts! "God loveth a cheerful giver"; so the Golden Text says, and the promise in the lesson of the opening of the windows and the showers of heavenly blessing shows how well it is for us to give back freely to God what He so freely bestows upon us.

Benefit 12, *Blessed promises*. "We are all so formed that the promise of reward is a great help towards right doing. God recognizes this, and in these closing words of the Old Testament He holds out promises of great blessing to those who fear His name, even the immeasurable blessings that spring from the rising of the Sun of righteousness on this dark world.

Benefit 13—which is the sum of all the others, and of all the blessings of which the Book of God tells—*The wonderful Savior*. Earnestly seek to lead the scholars to open their hearts to their Redeemer and Lord. Show them everything that is good and joyous for time and eternity has been received through Him.

THE REVIEW might well close with that marvellous saying of the loving Savior: "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."