

Lesson X.

NEHEMIAH REBUILDS THE WALLS
OF JERUSALEM

December 3, 1905

Nehemiah 1: 7-20. Study the chapter. Commit to memory vs. 19, 20.

GOLDEN TEXT—Watch and pray.—Matthew 26: 41.

7 But it came to pass, that when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and the Arabians, and the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites, heard that the walls of Jerusalem 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 Jerusalem, 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 Judah 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 whencesoever 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

Revised Version—repairing of the walls of Jerusalem went forward: they: and fight: cause confusion therein: But we: into the midst of them: Ye must return: Omit they will be upon you: lowest parts of the space behind the wall, in the open places: Omit both: coats of mail: Omit on: held themselves, every one: held his weapon: and: soever ye hear.

LESSON PLAN

- I. The Foes, 7-12.
- II. The Leader, 13, 14.
- III. The Workers, 15-20.

DAILY READINGS

(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association)

M.—Nehemiah rebuilds the walls of Jerusalem, Neh. 4: 1-12. T.—Nehemiah rebuilds the walls of Jerusalem, Neh. 4: 13-23. W.—Crafty enemies, Neh. 6: 1-9. Th.—Nehemiah's courage, Neh. 6: 10-16. F.—Dedication of the walls, Neh. 12: 27-30, 43-47. S.—Our help and shield, Psalm 33: 10-22. S.—Our armor, Eph. 6: 10-20.

EXPOSITION

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Time and Place—444 B.C.; Jerusalem.

Connecting Links—Nehemiah's prayer (Lesson VIII.) had been answered: he had secured permission to go and rebuild the broken walls of Jerusalem. With an escort of cavalry (ch. 2: 9, 10), he arrived at Jerusalem, and having rested three days, went out by night to inspect the walls, ch. 2: 12-15. Without delay he summons his people to begin the rebuilding, dividing up the work among families, guilds and individuals (chs. 2: 16 to 3: 32), and in fifty-two days the walls are completed, ch. 6: 15. The Lesson tells of enemies who opposed the work.

I. The Foes, 7-12.

V. 7. A complete list of the foes of Jerusa-

lem. Sanballat, 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 Judah.

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.

19 And I said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, The work is great and we are separated upon the wall, one far from another.

20 In what place therefore ye hear the sound of the trumpet, resort ye thither unto us: our God shall fight for us.

Shorter Catechism—Ques. 105. What do we pray for in the fifth petition? A. In the fifth petition (which is, And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors) we pray, That God, for Christ's sake, would freely pardon all our sins; which we are the rather encouraged to ask, because by His grace we are enabled from the heart to forgive others.

The Question on Missions—46. What is meant by bazaar preaching? It means preaching in the market or street to people who cannot be got into the churches. Our missionaries do much of this work.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise, 438 (Supplemental Lesson); 250; 262; 100 (Ps. Sel.); 260 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY); 251.

lem. Sanballat; supposed by some scholars to have been a Moabite chief from east of the Jordan, evidently (v. 2) a leader among the Samaritans (see Lesson IV., Oct. 22). Possibly he was the Persian official at the head of the province of Samaria. He was probably moved by rage at being refused permission to assist in rebuilding the temple. Tobiah; a chief of the Ammonites, a small tribe east of the Jordan. Arabians; wandering tribes of the desert, who scented prey in the plan of a warlike expedition. Ashdodites; inhabitants of Ashdod, one of the principal cities of the Philistines, those old foes of Israel. Sanballat and Tobiah (vs. 1-3) had mocked the Jews, and laughed to scorn with stinging ridicule