

LESSON VII. REBUILDING THE WALLS OF JERUSALEM November 12, 1899.

Nehemiah 4: 7-18. Commit to memory vs. 15-18. Read chap. 4.

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 adversary 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 dwell by these 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 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.

Revised Version—1 The repairing of the walls went forward; 2 To cause confusion therein; 3 But; 4 Into the midst of; 5 Ten times from all places, ye must return unto us; 6 Lowest part of the space behind; 7 In the open places; 8 Coats of mail; 9 Laded themselves, every one.

GOLDEN TEXT

"Watch and pray." Matt. 26: 41.

DAILY READINGS

M.—Neh. 4: 7-18. Rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem.

T.—Neh. 6: 1-9. Tempters undecided.

W.—Neh. 6: 10-16. The wall finished.

Th.—Neh. 12: 27-30 and 43-47. Dedication and rejoicing.

F.—Psalm 64. Evil designs frustrated.

S.—Eph. 6: 10-18. Able to stand.

S.—Mark 13: 28-37. Watching and prayer.

TIME

Summer of B.C. 444, some months after the date of last lesson.

PLACE

Jerusalem.

CATECHISM

Q. 79. Which is the tenth commandment?

A. The tenth commandment is, Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maid-servant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbour's.

LESSON PLAN

I. In Peril from Foes, 7, 8.

Who through envy and hatred conspired against them.

II. Praying and Watching, 9-14.

At the command and after the example of Nehemiah, their leader.

III. Watching and Working, 15-18.

Girded for battle, but busy on the walls.

LESSON HYMNS

Book of Praise—6, 35 (Ps.) 250, 252, 251.

CONNECTION

The Persian King allowed Nehemiah to go up to Jerusalem to repair the walls of the city (2: 6-8). This lesson shows the difficulties that he had to overcome in carrying out his task.

EXPLANATION

7-9. Sanballat; The satrap of the king of Persia at Jerusalem and neighborhood. Tobiah united with him in opposing the Jews. Heard that the walls were made up. They had been rebuilt to one-half their height (4. 6). The breaches; the mending of the walls would increase the security of the Jews whom they hated (2. 10). Conspired; made a secret plot. Set a watch; to prevent surprise.

10, 11. Judah; the Jewish people. The bearers of burdens; the workmen who were clearing the rubbish and carrying the material for the walls. Is decayed. They felt the effects of over-work (4. 21). Our adversaries; the enemies of v. 7.

12. The Jews that dwell by them; that lived in the country near Sanballat and his party. They said unto us; Rev. Ver., "ten times from all places, ye must return unto us." Ten times; repeatedly, again and again. From all places; from different places in the country. Ye must return unto us; either to defend them, or to save their own lives from the enemy threatening the city. Both adversaries and friends tempted them to give up.

13, 14. In the lower places. He placed the soldiers behind the lowest and therefore the weakest parts of the wall. On the higher places. Some were placed on elevated ground within the walls to watch for the