

application is that all should be servants of God and patriots, that is, lovers of country, and show their patriotism by praying and working for their country.

## Lesson VII.

## NEHEMIAH'S PRAYER ANSWERED November 18, 1917

Nehemiah 2 : 1-11. Scripture Memory Verses.

GOLDEN TEXT—Ask, and it shall be given you.—Matthew 7 : 7.

1 And it came to pass in the month Nisan, in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes the king, <sup>1</sup>that wine was before <sup>2</sup>him; and I took up the wine, and gave it unto the king. Now I had not been *beforetime sad* in his presence.

2 <sup>3</sup>Wherefore the king said unto me, Why is thy countenance sad, seeing thou art not sick? this is nothing else but sorrow of heart. Then I was very sore afraid.

3 And said unto the king, Let the king live for ever: why should not my countenance be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' sepulchres, lieth waste, and the gates thereof are consumed with fire?

4 Then the king said unto me, For what dost thou make request? So I prayed to the God of heaven.

5 And I said unto the king, If it please the king, and if thy servant have found favour in thy sight, that thou wouldest send me unto Judah, unto the city of my fathers' sepulchres, that I may build it.

6 And the king said unto me, (the queen also sitting by him,) For how long shall thy journey be? and when

Revised Version—when; <sup>2</sup>him, that I; <sup>3</sup>And the; <sup>4</sup>let me pass through till; <sup>5</sup>unto; <sup>6</sup>castle; <sup>7</sup>appertaineth; <sup>8</sup>with me; <sup>9</sup>Omit with me; <sup>10</sup>And when; <sup>11</sup>for that.

## LESSON PLAN

I. Nehemiah's Sadness, 1, 2.

II. Nehemiah's Confession and Request, 3-8.

III. Nehemiah's Success and Difficulties, 9-11.

## DAILY READINGS

(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association, Mr. S. C. Bailey, Hon. Secretary, 55 Old Bailey, London, England.)

M.—Nehemiah's prayer answered, Neh. 2 : 1-11. T.—Elijah's prayer answered, 1 Kgs. 18 : 30-39. W.—Effectual prayer, James 5 : 11-18. Th.—A covenant-keeping God, Lev. 26 : 39-46. F.—The Lord heareth. Ps. 34 : 8-17. S.—A joyous return, Isa. 51 : 9-16. S.—Returning to the Lord, Hosea 6 : 1-7.

Primary Catechism—*Ques. 56. What will the Holy Spirit do for us? The Holy Spirit will dwell in our hearts, cleansing them from sin and helping us to be good.*

wilt thou return? So it pleased the king to send me; and I set him a time.

7 Moreover I said unto the king, If it please the king, let letters be given me to the governors beyond the river, that they may convey me over till I come into Judah;

8 And a letter unto A'saph the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the palace which appertaineth to the house, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall enter into. And the king granted me, according to the good hand of my God upon me.

9 Then I came to the governors beyond the river, and gave them the king's letters. Now the king had sent captains of the army and horsemen with me.

10 When Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, heard of it, it grieved them exceedingly that there was come a man to seek the welfare of the children of Israel.

11 So I came to Jerusalem, and was there three days.

Shorter Catechism—*Ques. 107. What doth the conclusion of the Lord's prayer teach us? A. The conclusion of the Lord's prayer (which is, For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever, Amen) teacheth us to take our encouragement in prayer from God only, and in our prayers to praise him, ascribing kingdom, power, and glory to him. And, in testimony of our desire, and assurance to be heard, we say, Amen.*

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise: Memory Hymn—Primery, 17; Junior, 19, 403, 397, 580, 404.

Special Scripture Reading—Ps. 105 : 1-8; given also in Departmental Graded Teacher's Quarterlies. (To be read responsively or in concert by the whole School.)

Hymn for Opening Worship—Hymn 17, Book of Praise; given also in Departmental Graded Quarterlies.

Lantern Slides—For Lesson, B. 830, Nehemiah's Prayer Answered. For Question on Missions, C. 665, Men's Hospital. (Slides are obtained from the Presbyterian Lantern Slide Department, 96 Queen St. East, Toronto.)

## THE LESSON EXPLAINED

**Time and Place**—B.C. 445; four months after Nehemiah learned about the distress of the Jews and the desolation of Jerusalem (see last lesson); Susa.

**Connecting Links**—To-day's lesson follows directly upon that for last Sunday.

## I. Nehemiah's Sadness, 1, 2.

V. 1. *In the month Nisan*; the first month of the Jewish year, our March-April. *Artaxerxes*; the same king as in our last lesson. He was the son of the famous Xerxes, the invader of Greece, the Ahasuerus of the Book of Esther. *When wine was before him* (Rev. Ver.); when the king was at a repast. According to Rawlinson, the Persian king himself rarely dined with his guest, but, for the

most part, dined alone. Sometimes the queen and two or three of his children were admitted to the table. Occasionally at a "banquet of wine" (Esth. 7 : 2), a certain number of boon companions were received. *I took up the wine*; as cupbearer (see ch. 1 : 11), whose duties were to pour out the wine for the king, and, before presenting it, to taste it in order to prevent any scheme of poisoning. *Had not been beforetime sad*. Nehemiah had controlled his grief so as to appear cheerful in the king's presence until a favorable time came for making the request which was in his heart. Sadness was forbidden in the presence of the king.

V. 2. *Thy countenance sad*. It was Arta-