

INTERNATIONAL BIBLE LESSONS.

FOURTH QUARTER: STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

LESSON X. KEEPING THE SABBATH.

[Dec. 3.]

GOLDEN TEXT. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Exod. 20. 8.

AUTHORIZED VERSION.

[Read the chapter. Compare Isa. 56. 1-8; Jer. 17. 19-27.]

Neh. 13. 15-22. [*Commit to memory verses 15-17.*]

15 In those days saw I in Ju'dah some treading wine presses on the sabbath, and bringing in sheaves, and lading asses; as also wine, grapes, and figs, and all manner of burdens, which they brought into Je-ru'sa-lem on the sabbath day; and I testified against them in the day wherein they sold victuals.

16 There dwelt men of Tyre also therein, which brought fish, and all manner of ware, and sold on the sabbath unto the children of Ju'dah, and in Je-ru sa-lem.

17 Then I contended with the nobles of Ju'dah, and said unto them, What evil thing is this that ye do, and profane the sabbath day?

18 Did not your fathers thus, and did not our God bring all this evil upon us, and upon this city? yet ye bring more wrath upon Is-ra-el by profaning the sabbath.

19 And it came to pass, that when the gates of Je-ru sa-lem began to be dark before the sabbath, I commanded that the gates should be shut, and charged that they should not be opened till after the sabbath: and some of my servants set I at the gates, that there should no burden be brought in on the sabbath day.

20 So the merchants and sellers of all kind of ware lodged without Je-ru sa-lem once or twice.

21. Then I testified against them, and said unto them, Why lodge ye about the wall? if ye do so again, I will lay hands on you. From that time forth came they no more on the sabbath.

22 And I commanded the Le'vites, that they should cleanse themselves, and that they should come and keep the gates, to sanctify the sabbath day. Remember me, O my God, concerning this also, and spare me according to the greatness of thy mercy.

REVISED VERSION.

15 In those days saw I in Ju'dah some treading wine presses on the sabbath, and bringing in sheaves, and lading asses therewith; as also wine, grapes, and figs, and all manner of burdens, which they brought into Je-ru'sa-lem on the sabbath day: and I testified against them
16 in the day wherein they sold victuals. There dwelt men of Tyre also therein, which brought in fish, and all manner of ware, and sold on the sabbath unto the children of Ju'dah, and
17 in Je-ru sa-lem. Then I contended with the nobles of Ju'dah, and said unto them, What evil thing is this that ye do, and profane the
18 sabbath day? Did not your fathers thus, and did not our God bring all this evil upon us, and upon this city? yet ye bring more wrath upon Is-ra-el by profaning the sabbath.
19 And it came to pass that, when the gates of Je-ru sa-lem began to be dark before the sabbath, I commanded that the doors should be shut, and commanded that they should not be opened till after the sabbath: and some of my servants set I over the gates, that there should no burden be brought in
20 on the sabbath day. So the merchants and sellers of all kind of ware lodged without Je-ru sa-lem
21 once or twice. Then I testified against them, and said unto them, Why lodge ye about the wall? if ye do so again, I will lay hands on you. From that time forth came they no
22 more on the sabbath. And I commanded the Le'vites that they should purify themselves, and that they should come and keep the gates, to sanctify the sabbath day. Remember unto me, O my God, this also, and spare me according to the greatness of thy mercy.

Time.—Perhaps about B. C. 433. **Place.**—Jerusalem.

Home Readings.

M. Keeping the Sabbath. Neh. 13. 15-22.

Tu. The Sabbath appointed. Gen. 1. 26 to 2. 3.

W. Sabbath to be hallowed. Jer. 17. 19-27.

Th. Sabbath-breaking denounced. Ezek. 20. 10-20.

F. Blessings in keeping. Isa. 56. 1-7.

S. Sabbath joy. Isa. 58. 8-14.

S. Christ's teaching. Luke 6. 1-10.

Lesson Hymns.

No. 285, New Canadian Hymnal.

Lord of the Sabbath, hear our vows,
On this thy day, in this thy house;
And own, as grateful sacrifice,
The songs which from thy servants rise.

No. 286, New Canadian Hymnal.

With joy we hail the sacred day
Which God has called his own;
With joy the summons we obey
To worship at his throne.