

# INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By REV. P. B. FITZWATER, D. D., Teacher of English Bible in the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.)  
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## LESSON FOR NOVEMBER 18

### NEHEMIAH'S PRAYER ANSWERED

LESSON TEXT—Nehemiah 2:1-11.  
GOLDEN TEXT—Ask and it shall be given unto you.—Matthew 7:7.

It was four months after Nehemiah learned of the desolation of Jerusalem that he had the opportunity to make known his request to the king. Just why he did not test the king's attitude toward him and his project earlier, we have no information. Perhaps there was no great function at which he was called upon to minister in this interval, or his turn of service had not arrived, or his duties were so exacting that no opportunity was afforded for him to unbosom his grief to the king.

**I. Nehemiah's Request to the King (vv. 1-8).** (1) Its occasion, v. 1. As cup-bearer he was ministering before the king. The cup-bearer was more than a mere valet. He entered very closely into the life's interests of the king, so that the inner life and spirit of the cup-bearer was known. It was expected of such servants that they manifest perfect happiness while in the presence of the king. To appear in his presence otherwise would likely be to the displeasure of the king. Nehemiah's sad countenance while thus serving awakened the king's suspicion. The matter was serious for Nehemiah was afraid under the circumstances.

(2) The king's inquiry, v. 2. The king perceived that Nehemiah's countenance was sad, though he was not sick, and he knew that something extraordinary had come into the life of his cup-bearer.

(3) The effect upon Nehemiah, v. 2. His heart was filled with fear. He did not know but what this impropriety was so great as to cause his dismissal. His fear was more than that of losing his position; to be dismissed from being cup-bearer would mean the loss of an opportunity to present his request to the king; and, without the king's sanction and aid, his enterprise would fail.

(4) Nehemiah's tactful reply, v. 3. He seeks to conciliate the king by expressing a deep interest in the royal life and person. He says: "May the king live forever," and then tells that the cause of his grief was the desolation of the city where his fathers were buried.

(5) The contents of Nehemiah's request, vv. 5-8. (a) To be sent to Judah to build the walls of Jerusalem, vv. 5, 6. This request virtually meant to be granted a leave of absence from the Persian court and to be appointed military governor of that part of the kingdom of Artaxerxes. The king, doubtless, saw that such a move would be of particular benefit to his kingdom politically, owing to the strategic position of Jerusalem, between Babylon and Egypt. In the case of the breaking out of hostilities between these powers, to have a fortified city in Palestine would be of immense importance. At the king's request, a definite time was set for this leave of absence, v. 6. He remained in Jerusalem for twelve years. A side light on the king's gracious attitude toward Nehemiah is given in this: "The queen also sitting by him." She is not named, but in all probability it was Esther.

(b) For letters to the governors be-

hind the river, v. 8. Countless the path of his journey was a dangerous one, and the travelers' safety depended upon having credentials from the king. These letters were more than mere credentials. They were orders for actually conveying him and his party to Judah. Ezra, years before, had desisted from asking a band of soldiers, but Nehemiah was free to ask such a favor. It was right in both cases, but not expedient in that of Ezra. Many problems are clear, if we distinguish between that which is lawful and that which is expedient.

(c) A letter of requisition for supplies of timber, v. 8. This timber was needed, first for the palace or castle, that is, for the fortress near the temple; second, for the walls and gates of the city; and third, for the king's official residence.

**II. Nehemiah's Request Granted, v. 8.** Nehemiah was a tactful diplomat. He exercised sound sense and prudence in all things, but he supremely depended upon God and prayed for God's disposal of the king's heart as he made his request known, v. 4. The king granted his request "according to the good hand of my God upon me," v. 8. He ascribes the success of his undertaking to God.

**III. Nehemiah's Journey to Jerusalem, vv. 9-11.** He journeyed from Shushan to Jerusalem under the protection of a military escort. This was of double value: protection and safety. When it was known that Nehemiah was undertaking this work with the consent of the king, Sanballat and Tobiah were greatly grieved. It always is a grief to the enemy when that which will further the interest of God and his people is being made to succeed. When he reached Jerusalem, he did not at once make his purpose known. He waited for three days and then viewed the situation at night.

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### NOTICE

To Cora J. Reynolds, James G. Lennord, and John Doe.

Notice is hereby given that Martha J. Cox on the 3rd day of November, 1917, purchased at public sale, of the County Treasurer of Box Butte County, Nebraska, the following described land, to-wit:

The SW 1/4 of section 28, Township 27, North, Range fifty-one (51), West of the 6th P. M., in Box Butte County, Nebraska, for taxes for the year 1912; that she has since and after the same became delinquent, paid as subsequent tax, the taxes for the years 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916; that said land was taxed and assessed for the years 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917 in the name of James G. Lennord; and that said land stands in the name of Cora J. Reynolds in the Register of Deeds office in said county; and that after the expiration of three months from the 25th day of October, 1917, the said Martha J. Cox will apply to the Treasurer of said county for a tax deed to said land.

Dated this 12th day of September, 1917.

MARTHA J. COX,

42-5t-852-8353 Purchaser.

Serial No. 017026.

Department of the Interior, U. S. Land Office at Alliance, Nebraska, October 12, 1917.

Notice is hereby given that Christian A. Bollerup, of Alliance, Nebraska, who, on November 14, 1914, made Homestead Entry, Serial No. 017026, for Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4, S 1/2 NE 1/4, SE 1/4 NW 1/4, NW 1/4 SE 1/4, Section 5, Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4, Section 6, Township 22 North, Lots 8, 9 and 10, SE 1/4 SW 1/4, Section 31, and Lot 5, Section 32, Township 23 North, Range 47 West, Sixth Principal Meridian, has filed notice of intention to make final three-year Proof, to establish claim to the land above described, before the Register and Receiver of the United States Land Office, at Alliance, Nebraska, on the 27th day of November, 1917.

Claimant names as witnesses: George F. Cantwell, Charles Snow, Harry Smith, Henry Smith, all of Alliance, Nebraska.

T. J. O'KEEFE,

46-6t-859-8817 Register.

Serial No. 015484.

Department of the Interior, U. S. Land Office at Alliance, Nebraska, October 11, 1917.

Notice is hereby given that John R. Graham, of Cleman, Nebraska, who, on November 30, 1912, made Homestead Entry, Serial No. 015484, for S 1/2 SE 1/4 Section 14, Lots 1, 2, 3, SE 1/4, and north half Section 23, Township 22 North, Range 47 West, Sixth Principal Meridian, has filed notice of intention to make final three-year Proof, to establish claim to the land above described, before the Register and Receiver of the United States Land Office, at Alliance, Nebraska, on the 26th day of November, 1917.

Claimant names as witnesses: George S. McNurlin, Alliance, Nebraska, William H. Archer, of Alliance, Nebraska, Harry I. Smith, of Alliance, Nebraska, Thomas Squibb, of Hemingford, Nebraska.

T. J. O'KEEFE,

46-6t-856-8814 Register.

Notice for Publication—Isolated Tract.

Public Land Sale. Department of the Interior, U. S. Land Office at Alliance, Nebraska, Nov. 6, 1917.

Notice is hereby given that, as directed by the Commissioner of the General Land Office, under provisions of Sec. 3455, R. S., pursuant to the application of Earl C. Barker, of Alliance, Nebr., Serial No. 018157, we will offer at public sale, to the highest bidder, but at not less than \$3.00 per acre, at 10 o'clock A. M., on the 8th day of January, next, at this office, the following tract of land: SE 1/4 NW 1/4, Section 25, Township 25 North, Range 50 West, Sixth Principal Meridian.

The sale will not be kept open, but will be declared closed when those present at the hour named have ceased bidding. The person making the highest bid will be required to immediately pay to the Receiver the amount thereof.

Any persons claiming adversely the above-described land are advised to file their claims, or objections, on or before the time designated for sale.

T. J. O'KEEFE, Register,  
J. C. MORROW, Receiver,  
49-8819-861-St Serial No. 018157.

### NOTICE TO PUBLIC

I wish to publicly and most emphatically impress upon the inhabitants of this vicinity that I am not now, nor never have been, nor do I ever expect to be, affiliated with any local piano dealer of Alliance. My business is tuning pianos and is conducted on straightforward business principles. It is immaterial to me what make of an instrument you have. But what I want most is to satisfy each and every patron, and at a live and let-live price. No one has been authorized to quote prices on my work. Prices vary according to the condition of the piano, length of time since last tuning, repairs, cleaning, regulating, etc. If you want your instrument properly cared for by a reliable and competent workman, I will be pleased to receive your order by mail, and guarantee you satisfaction. W. D. FIELD, Alliance, Nebr.

Advertising blotters keep your name before the public—have them printed by The Herald's job department.

Serial No. 017053.

Department of the Interior, U. S. Land Office at Alliance, Nebraska, Nov. 7, 1917.

Notice is hereby given that John G. Hennings, of Hemingford, Nebraska, who, on December 8, 1914, made Homestead Entry, Serial No. 017053, for L 4, Sec. 2, lots 1, 2, 3 and 4, S 1/2 NE 1/4, S 1/2 NW 1/4, N 1/2 SE 1/4 and N 1/2 SW 1/4 of Section 3, Township 23 North Range 50 West, Sixth Principal Meridian, has filed notice of intention to make final three-year proof to establish claim to the land above described, before the Register and Receiver of the United States Land Office at Alliance, Nebraska, on the 19th day of January, 1918.

Claimant names as witnesses: Charles C. Coker, George H. Haganman, R. R. Reddish and A. G. Underwood, all of Alliance, Nebraska.

T. J. O'KEEFE,

50-9t-862-8820 Register.

### NOTICE

Sealed bids will be received up to 6:00 P. M. on Tuesday, November 13, 1917, for the removal of all necessary dirt on the west side of the street, on Box Butte avenue between Fifth and Sixth streets, and all necessary dirt on Fifth street from Box Butte avenue to the alley between Box Butte avenue and Laramie avenue on the north side of street, and all necessary dirt on Sixth street from Box Butte avenue to the alley between Box Butte avenue and Laramie avenue on the south side of the street. The walks shall be removed and replaced by separate bids. Estimates in the hands of the City Engineer.

T. P. ROLFSON,

49-1t-8728 City Clerk.

### REGULAR STATE TEACHERS' EXAMINATIONS

Regular teachers' examinations will be given at the Court House in Alliance on November 17th. One day only. Notice change in order of subjects.

November 17th, A. M.—Subjects: Reading, Arithmetic, Geography, Penmanship, Orthography, Drawing, Grammar, Composition, Algebra, History.

November 17th, P. M.—Subjects: Mental Arithmetic, History, Physiology, Civics, Agriculture, Theory, Bookkeeping, Geometry, Physics.

OPAL RUSSELL,

48-3t. County Supt.

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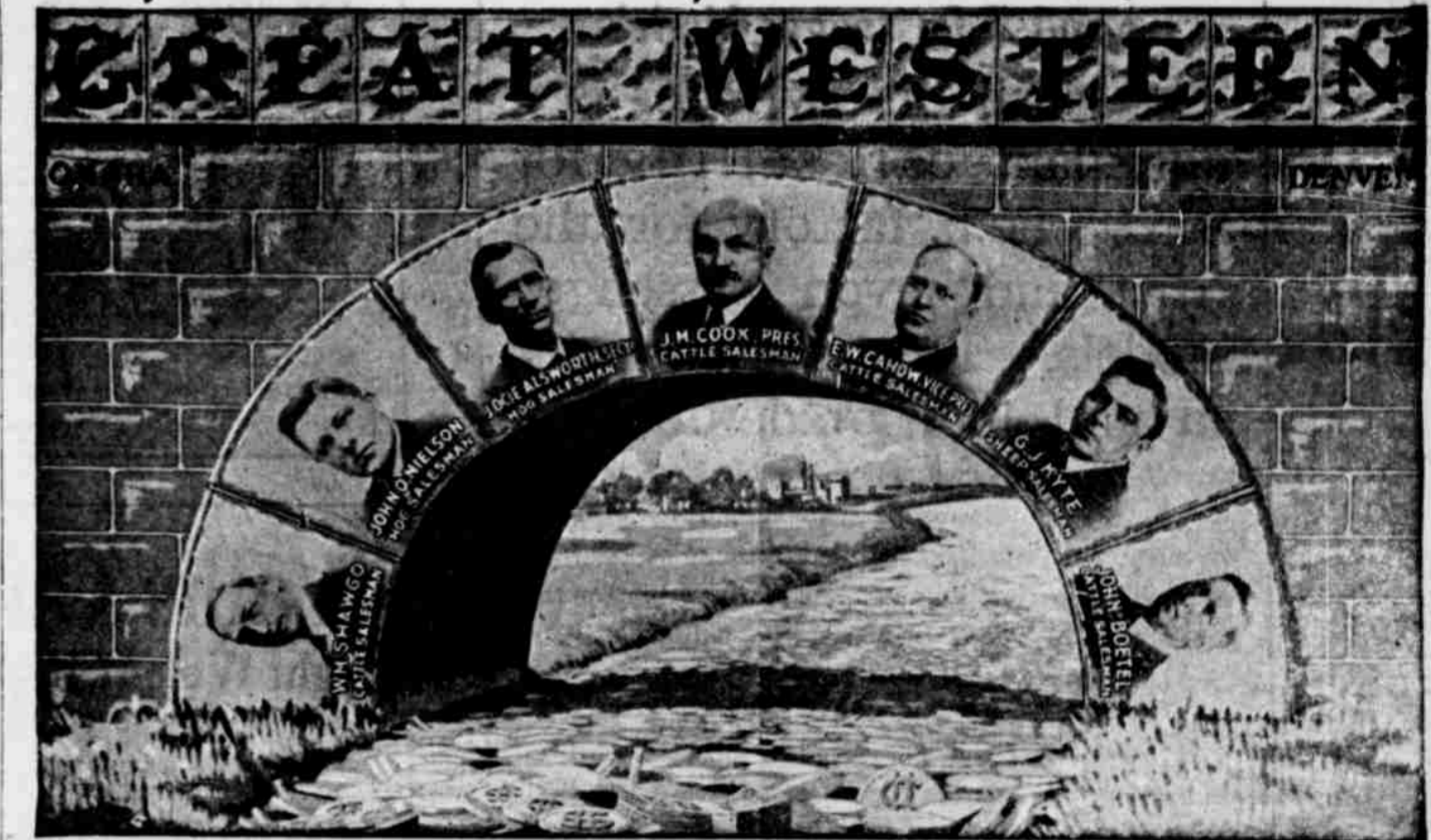
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