Nehemiah - Commentaries by Henry Allan Ironside

Daily Sacrifice, March 3

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“The seed of Israel separated themselves from all strangers, and stood and confessed their sins, and the iniquities of their fathers. And they stood up in their place, and read in the book of the law of the Lord their God one fourth part of the day; and another fourth part they confessed, and worshipped the Lord their God”— Neh. 9:2, 3.

CONVICTED of the evils resulting from unequal yokes (2 Cor. 6:14) with the wicked inhabitants of the land, the people of the Lord separated themselves, not from their fellow-Israelites but from these idolatrous strangers, and in contrition of heart judged their past compromising behavior and confessed their own disobedience and departure from God and the ways of their fathers, as a result of which God had dealt with them in judgment. The Word of God is profitable for reproof and correction (2 Tim. 3:16), so they spent the first part of the day over the Scriptures in order that they might learn the mind of the Lord and see wherein they had failed. Then the next part of the day they acknowledged these failures, judging all in the light of the Word, and when their consciences were freed by confession, they worshiped the Lord for His loving-kindness in bearing with them and revealing His Word to them.

—S. Stennett.

Continual Burnt Offering: Daily Meditations, March 20

“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 hold a weapon. For the builders, every one had his sword girded by his side, and so builded. And he that sounded the trumpet was by me”— Neh. 4:17, 18.

THE story of the building up again of Jerusalem’s ruined wall, as told in the book of Nehemiah, is most interesting and suggestive. A wall speaks of separation and also of security. God’s children need to be walled in from the world if they would enjoy fellowship with their Lord and with one another. But the maintaining of this means activity in service and watchfulness against the enemy. Into all of our hands God puts the trowel for service and the sword for conflict. Then we need to be ever on the alert listening for the trumpet call that so we may act consistently for God and glorify Him as we take our places on the walls of Zion.

Daily Sacrifice, March 2

“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” —Nehemiah 4:14.

HE who fears God need fear no one else. Nehemiah, strong in the assurance that the Lord had sent him to build the walls of Jerusalem, did not quail before the opposition of the enemy; his confidence was in the One who had commissioned him. So should it ever be with us. When God gives the word we need not dread the power of the enemy nor be discouraged because of opposition. He who is in us is greater than all that can be against us. That which He bids us do He will give us the power to accomplish, and He Himself will stand between us and the foe.

—Charles Wesley.

Daily Sacrifice, March 1

“O Lord, I beseech Thee, let now Thine ear be attentive to the prayer of Thy servant, and to the prayer of Thy servants, who desire to fear Thy name: and prosper, I pray Thee, Thy servant this day, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man. For I was the king’s cupbearer”— Nehemiah 1:11.

HERE indeed is a most interesting and precious suggestion. Although Nehemiah’s prayer was that God might move the heart of the great king Artaxerxes, when he prays to the Lord about him, he simply prays that the Lord would grant him mercy in the sight of this man. The faithful cupbearer of the king realized that in the sight of God his master was but a man like any other, and he counted on God to so exercise the king that he would carry out what seemed to be very evidently the Lord’s will in regard to the welfare of the returned remnant. Faith does not quail at difficulties nor is it troubled because of the seeming greatness of the agencies that Providence may use. Faith realizes that God is above all circumstances and above all personalities.

—William H. Bathurst.