

Lesson I.

A PLOT THAT FAILED

October 1, 1916

Acts 23 : 14-24. Study Acts, ch. 23. *Scripture Memory Verse, Luke 2 : 7.

Golden Text—They shall fight against thee ; but they shall not prevail against thee : for I am with thee, saith the Lord, to deliver thee.—Jeremiah 1 : 19 (Rev. Ver.).



COPYRIGHTED BY PROVIDENCE LITHOGRAPH CO.

14 And they came to the chief priests and elders, and said, We have bound ourselves under a great curse, that we will eat nothing until we have slain Paul.

15 Now therefore ye with the council signify to the chief captain that he bring him down unto you tomorrow, as though ye would inquire something more perfectly concerning him : and we, or ever he come near, are ready to kill him.

16 And when Paul's sister's son heard of their lying in wait, he went and entered into the castle, and told Paul.

17 Then Paul called one of the centurions unto him, and said, Bring this young man unto the chief captain : for he hath a certain thing to tell him.

18 So he took him, and brought him to the chief captain, and said, Paul the prisoner called me unto him, and prayed me to bring this young man unto thee, who hath something to say unto thee.

19 Then the chief captain took him by the hand, and went with him aside privately, and asked him, What is that thou hast to tell me ?

20 And he said, The Jews have agreed to desire thee that thou wouldest bring down Paul to-morrow into the council, as though they would inquire somewhat of him more perfectly.

21 But do not thou yield unto them : for there lie in wait for him of them more than forty men, which have bound themselves with an oath, that they will neither eat nor drink till they have killed him : and now are they ready, looking for a promise from thee.

22 So the chief captain then let the young man depart, and charged him, See thou tell no man that thou hast shewed these things to me.

23 And he called unto him two centurions, saying, Make ready two hundred soldiers to go to Caesarea, and horsemen threescore and ten, and spearmen two hundred, at the third hour of the night ;

24 And provide them beasts, that they may set Paul on, and bring him safe unto Felix the governor.

THE LESSON RETOLD

In our story of two weeks ago, we saw how Paul was attacked by a crowd of Jews in the temple court, and was rescued by some Roman soldiers who put him in prison. Now, the captain of these soldiers wished to know which was in the right,—Paul or the Jews. So the members of the great council of the Jews were called together and Paul was brought from prison to meet them. Now, some of them were Pharisees and some were Sadducees. The Pharisees believed that people who died would rise again, and the Sadducees did not believe this.

Paul, in speaking to the council, told them that he was a Pharisee and believed that the dead would rise again. The Pharisees began to take his part. They said they did not think Paul was doing anybody any harm, and, if he had a message from God, he should be

allowed to go on telling it. This made the Sadducees very angry, and they began to quarrel with the Pharisees. Both parties grew angrier and angrier till at last there was such a noise and uproar that the captain was afraid they would pull Paul to pieces, and so he hurried some soldiers down to bring Paul back again into the prison for safety.

The same night, as Paul lay asleep, Jesus appeared to him and said : "Be of good cheer, Paul, you have spoken for me in Jerusalem, you shall also speak for me at Rome." Then Paul knew that Jesus would take care of him till his work was done.

Of course the Jews were very angry when the captain took Paul away from the council. Next day, forty of them banded themselves together, and each promised that he would neither eat nor drink till they had

* For correct recitation of the Scripture Memory Passages of the three Parts of List II., at one sitting for each Part, a Certificate in Colors is given. For Form of Application, apply to Rev. J. C. Robertson, our General Secretary for Sabbath Schools, Confederation Life Building, Toronto.