

Lesson XI.

PAUL AT ROME

June 14, 1903

Acts 28 : 16-24, 30, 31. Study vs. 16-31. Commit to memory vs. 30, 31. Read Acts 28 : 1-15.

16 And when we came to Rome, the centurion delivered the prisoners to the captain of the guard: but Paul was suffered to dwell by himself with a soldier that kept him.

17 And it came to pass, that after three days Paul called the chief of the Jews together: and when they were come together, he said unto them, Men and brethren, though I have committed nothing against the people, or customs of our fathers, yet was I delivered prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans.

18 Who, when they had examined me, would have let me go, because there was no cause of death in me.

19 But when the Jews spake against it, I was constrained to appeal unto Cæsar; not that I had ought to accuse my nation of.

20 For this cause therefore have I called for you, to see you, and to speak with you: because that for the hope of Israel I am bound with this chain.

Revised Version—I entered into: 2 Omit, from the centurion to but: 3 abide; 4 guarded; 5 had done; 6 desired to set me at liberty; 7 did I intreat you to see and to speak with me: for because of the hope; 8 from Judea; 9 nor did; 10 come hither and report or speak; 11 they came to him; 12 in great number; 13 the matter, testifying; 14 from the; 15 disbelieved; 16 he abode; 17 dwelling; 18 went; 19 the things concerning; 20 boldness, none forbidding him.

GOLDEN TEXT

Rom. 1 : 16. I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ.

DAILY READINGS

M. — Acts 28 : 1-15. Journey to Rome.
T. — Acts 28 : 16-22. } Paul at Rome.
W. — Acts 28 : 23-31. }
Th. — Isa. 6 : 5-13. Isaiah's words.
F. — Rom. 10 : 11-21. Hearing and obeying.
S. — Heb. 3 : 1-13. The heart of unbelief.
S. — Rom. 1 : 1-16. Paul's letter to Rome.

CATECHISM

Q. 82. Is there any man able perfectly to keep the commandments of God?

A. No mere man since the fall is able in this life perfectly to keep the commandments of God, but doth daily break them in thought, word, and deed.

EXPOSITION

Connecting Links—On the island of Melita, or Malta, Paul and the ship-wrecked soldiers, sailors and passengers remained all winter, where they were kindly treated by the inhabitants, over whom Paul exercised a very great influence by his miraculous power, vs. 1-10. In the spring they resumed their voyage in another vessel and, arriving at Puteoli in Italy, they proceeded to Rome by land, vs. 11-15.

I. An Explanation Offered, 16-22.

V. 16. *When we came to Rome.* It had been Paul's great desire, in accordance with his policy of preaching in the great centres of population, to visit Rome, ch. 19 : 21. It was the capital of the empire, which then embraced nearly the whole known world. A blow struck at Rome against idolatry and

TIME AND PLACE

61 A.D. to 63 A.D.; Rome, on the Tiber, in Italy, the capital of the Roman empire. Nero was emperor. Festus who had sent Paul to Rome, died about the time of Paul's arrival. During the interval between Festus' death and the appointment of his successor, James, the writer of the Epistle of James, was murdered by the Jews in Jerusalem.

LESSON PLAN

I. An Explanation Offered, 16-22.

By Paul to his fellow-countrymen of his arrest.

II. Work Begun, 23, 24.

By preaching the gospel to the Jews.

III. Work Extended, 30, 31.

By preaching the gospel to the Gentiles.

LESSON HYMNS

Book of Praise, 64 : 2 (Ps. Sel.) ; 445 : 449 ; 457 : 557.

for the kingdom of Christ would be felt throughout the whole empire. *The centurion*; Julius, ch. 27 : 1. He had proved a good friend to Paul. *The captain of the guard*; "that is, of the prætorian troops, about 10,000 strong, who served as the body-guard of the emperor." The command of these troops had been divided originally between two officers, called prefects, but in the reign of Claudius (41-54 A.D.) the sole command was given to Burrus Afranius, who retained it till at least A.D. 62. It was the duty of this officer to take charge of prisoners sent to Rome from the provinces for trial. To him Paul was handed over. The fact that one prefect is spoken of here instead of two is one of the many instances of Luke's accuracy in details. *Paul was suffered to dwell by himself.* The centurion Julius, who was