

Lesson II.

PETER DELIVERED FROM PRISON

April 11, 1909

Acts 12: 1-11. Commit to memory v. 7. Study Acts 12: 1-19.

GOLDEN TEXT—The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.—

Psalm 34: 7.

1 Now about that time Herod the king¹ stretched forth his hands to² vex certain of the church.

2 And he killed James the brother of John with the sword.

3 And³ because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded⁴ further to⁵ take Pe'ter also. ⁶ (Then were the days of unleavened bread.)

4 And when he had⁷ apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to⁸ keep him; intending after⁹ Easter to bring him forth to the people.

5 Pe'ter therefore was kept in¹⁰ prison: but prayer was made¹¹ without ceasing of the church unto God for him.

6 And when Herod¹² would have brought him forth, the same night Pe'ter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and¹³ the keepers before the door kept the prison.

7 And, behold, ¹⁴ the angel of the Lord¹⁵ came upon him, and a light shined in the¹⁶ prison: and he smote Pe'ter on the side, and¹⁷ raised him up, saying,

Revised Version—¹ put forth; ² afflict; ³ when he saw that; ⁴ Omit further; ⁵ seize; ⁶ (Omit brackets) And those were; ⁷ taken; ⁸ guard; ⁹ the Passover; ¹⁰ the; ¹¹ earnestly of; ¹² was about to bring; ¹³ guards; ¹⁴ an; ¹⁵ stood by him; ¹⁶ cell; ¹⁷ awoke him; ¹⁸ Rise up; ¹⁹ he did not; ²⁰ Omit him; ²¹ he; ²² And; ²³ into; ²⁴ its; ²⁵ straightway; ²⁶ truth; ²⁷ forth; ²⁸ Omit hath.

LESSON PLAN

I. Imprisoned, 1-4.

II. Prayed For, 5.

III. Delivered, 6-11.

DAILY READINGS

(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association)

M.—Peter delivered from prison, Acts 12: 1-10.

T.—Peter delivered from prison, Acts 12: 11-19.

W.—A strong Deliverer, Ps. 33: 10-22. Th.—

Prayer and answer, Ps. 34: 1-10. F.—The delivering

angel, Dan. 6: 16-23. S.—Promise of answer,

Matt. 7: 1-11. S.—Trust in God, 2 Cor. 1: 1-11.

Shorter Catechism—Ques. 13. Did our first

parents continue in the estate wherein they were created?

A. Our first parents, being left to the freedom of their

own will, fell from the estate wherein they were creat-

ed, by sinning against God.

The Question on Missions—2. What do these newcomers do for a living? There are some of all classes of workers. There are (1) professional men, as, clergymen, lawyers, doctors, teachers, musicians and merchants; (2) skilled laborers, as, farmers, bakers, tailors, shoemakers, carpenters, clerks, miners, and masons; and (3) unskilled laborers and servants.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise, Ps. Sel. 65 (Supplemental Lesson); 59; 61; 16 (Ps. Sel.); 370 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY); 64.

Special Scripture Reading—Acts 16: 25-40. (To be read responsively or in concert by the whole School.)

Lantern Slides—For Lesson, B. 114, Peter Delivered from Prison; B. 115, The Women at the Sepulchre (Easter Picture). For Question on Missions, H. M. 8, Doukhobors in Wagon.

EXPOSITION

Time and Place—Immediately before Passover, A.D. 44; in Jerusalem.

Connecting Links—After narrating Peter's defence of his preaching the gospel to the Gentiles, against the criticisms of his brethren at Jerusalem, Luke tells of the events, including the conversion of Saul, which led to the founding of the church in Antioch, in which Barnabas and Saul became fellow laborers, and which sent help to the members of the Jerusalem church during a famine predicted by a Christian prophet named Agabus, ch. 11. In order to complete the part of the narrative in which Peter is the chief figure, these events, covering a period of four or five years, are passed over, in the meantime, to be taken up in Lessons III. and IV.

I. Imprisoned, 1-4.

V. I. About that time; the time of the visit of Barnabas and Saul to Jerusalem, mentioned above and referred to in ch. 11: 30.

Herod; Agrippa I., grandson of Herod the Great, ruler at this time, as his grandfather had been, over all Palestine. Josephus describes him as a vain man, whose chief desire was to win popularity with the Jews. To vex (Rev. Ver., "afflict"); oppress. Certain of the church. Herod decided to arrest the leaders out of deference to Jewish, and especially Sadducean (compare ch. 5: 17), influence.

Vs. 2, 3. Killed James; one of the sons of Zebedee (Mark 1: 19), who took a leading part in the gospel history, being often chosen by Jesus for special recognition, along with his brother John, and Peter (see Mark 5: 37; Luke 9: 28; Matt. 26: 37). The fiery nature of this "son of thunder" (Mark 3: 17, compare John 9: 51-56) would impel him to venture into places of danger, so that Herod's move to put him to death is quite natural. With the sword. This mode of