

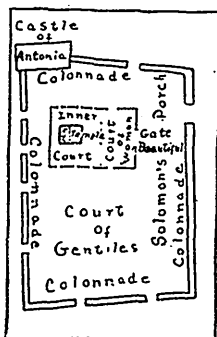
Lest they should have been stoned. The "people" were in a mood to resent with violence any ill-treatment of men whom they esteemed for their character and good works. The high priest asked. Perhaps Caiaphas was afraid to ask about their escape, feeling that God had a hand in it. **Teach in this name**; the great offence of the apostles, in the Sadducees' eyes, that they should teach that the crucified Jesus was living. **Filled Jerusalem with your teaching** (Rev. Ver.); a striking testimony to the apostles' zeal and success. **This man's blood upon us.** Compare Matt. 27, 25.

IV. THE DEFENCE.—29, 30. **Peter and the other apostles**; Peter, as usual, being the spokesman. **We ought to obey God**; the former answer of Peter and John (ch. 4: 19, 20), now boldly given by all the apostles. **The God of our fathers.** The apostles not the rulers, were really obeying Israel's God. **Raised up Jesus.** The high priest had not named Jesus; Peter named Him, and proclaimed again that He has risen. **Ye slew and hanged on a tree**: that is, the cross. Beyond all others, His blood was on Caiaphas and the Sanhedrin, Matt. 26: 3, 4; 27: 1, 2, 20.

31, 32. Him hath God exalted... a Prince and a Saviour; ruling with infinite power and pardoning with infinite love. **Give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness.** Peter charges the rulers with their sin, only to bring them to sorrow for it and a change of mind (see ch. 3: 19). **We are his witnesses... so is also the Holy Ghost**; a double witness, of men who had seen and heard, and of the Holy Spirit. **Given to them that obey him**; a reason why the apostles should obey God (v. 29), and a promise that the Sanhedrin might receive the same gift, if they would only obey.

The apostles were saved from death by the prudent counsel of Gamaliel, and

after being beaten, they were set free, only to continue their preaching and teaching, vs. 33-42.



THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON

Next to the temple, the most famous building in Jerusalem in New Testament times was the **TOWER OF ANTONIA**. This stood at the northwest corner of the temple enclosure, built on a rock 87 feet high, so that it overlooked the whole temple

area. There were passages from the tower by which the guards could find access to the temple. It must have been a building of considerable size, since it held a legion of soldiers. It was a very powerful fortress. It was named after Mark Antony, the famous Roman consul.

LESSON QUESTIONS

What was the result of the miracles wrought by the apostles?

17, 18 Who was the high priest in name? Who possessed the real power of the office? Who were the Sadducees? Why were they specially bitter against the apostles? Where, and how, does Jesus show the error of the Sadducees? (Mark 12: 18-27.)

19-23 How were the apostles delivered from prison? What were they bidden to do? Who were sent to bring the prisoners? With what report did the officers return? Where do we read of Peter's being brought out of prison by an angel? (Acts 12: 1-10.)

24-28 Of what were the apostles accused before the Sanhedrin?

29-32 What crime did Peter bring home to the Jewish rulers? With what purpose?

By whose counsel were the apostles saved from death? What punishment was inflicted on them? What did they do when they were set free?

FOR DISCUSSION

1. Bible prisoners.
2. Persecution—how it has helped the church.

A LESSON FOR LIFE

"Truth crushed to earth shall rise again,
The eternal years of God are hers;
While error wounded, writhes in pain,
And dies among her worshippers."

No truer words than these of Bryant's were ever written. So long as we are in the right, we are sure to win out in the end. If we are in the wrong, no power in the universe can save us from defeat in the long run.

Prove from Scripture—That God is to be feared.

Shorter Catechism—Ques. 7. What are the decrees of God? A. The decrees of God are, his eternal purpose, according to the counsel of his will whereby, for his own glory, he hath foreordained whatsoever comes to pass.

The Question on Missions—7. What is done for sick children in our mission hospitals? Very many are cured of malarial fever, others of abscesses, ulcers and other painful sores. Some are cured of hip-joint disease, or disease of the spine, and many more, of loathsome skin diseases.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. How were the apostles delivered from prison?

2. What was their answer to the high priest's question?