Lesson II.

PAUL A PRISONER-THE PLOT

October 10, 1909

BETWEEN THE LESSONS-There is no break between Lessons I. and II.

GOLDEN TEXT—I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.—Psalm 91: 2.

Memorize v. 11. THE LESSON PASSAGE-Acts 23: 11-24. Study Acts 22: 30 to 23: 35.

11 And the night following the Lord stood by him, and said, he of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified for megan Jeru'salem, so must thou hear witness also at Rome.

12 And when it was day, 4 certain of the Jews banded together, and bound themselves under a curse. oannes together, and bound themselves under a curse, saying that they would neither eat nor drink till they had killed Paul.

13 And they were more than forty which 5 had made this conspiracy.

14 And they came to the chief priests and 6 elders, and said, We have bound ourselves under a great curse, 7 that we will eat nothing until we have 8 slain Paul.

Paul.

15 Now therefore "ye with the council signify to the chief captain that he bring him down unto you "o to morrow, as though ye would "enquire something more perfectly concerning him; and we, or ever he come near, are ready to "2 kill him.

16 "3 And when Paul's sister's son heard of their lying in wait, "the went and entered into the castle, and told Paul.

17 "Then Paul called one of the centarions unto

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him, and said. Bring this young man unto the chief captain: for he hath 16 a certain thing to tell him.

18 So he took him, and brought him to the chief

captain, and 17 said, Paul the prisoner called me unto thee, who hath something to say 19 unto thee.

19 20 Then the chief captain took him by the hand,

10 20 Then the chief captain took him by the hand, and 21 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 22 desire thee 22 that thou wouldest bring down Paul to morrow 21 into the council, as though 25 they would enquire somewhat 26 of him more perfectly.

21 27 But do not thou yield unto them: for there lie in wait for him of them more than forty men, which have bound themselves 28 with an oath, that they will neither eat nor drink till they have 20 killed him: and now me they ready, looking for 6 a prohim : and now are they ready, looking for a promise from thee.

22 So the chief captain 30 then let the young man

22 So the chief captain ³⁰ then let the young man ³¹ depart, and charged him, See thou tell no man that thou hast ³² shewed these things to me.
23 And he called unto him two ³²centurions, saying, Make ready two hundred soldiers to go ³⁴ to Cæsare'a, and horsemen threescore and ten, and spearmen two hundred, at the third hour of the night;
24 And ³⁵ provide them beasts, that they ³⁶ may set Paul ³⁷ on, and bring him safe unto Fe'lix the governor.

nor.

Revised Version—1 Omit Paul; 2 concerning; 3 at; 4 Omit certain of; 5 Omit had; 6 the; 7 to taste notining; 8 killed; 9 do; 10 Omit to morrow; 11 judge of his case more exactly; 12 slay; 13 But Paul's; 14 and he came; 15 And Paul called unto him one of the centurions; 16 something; 17 saith; 18 asked; 19 to; 20 And the; 4 going aside asked him privately; 22 ask; 22 to bring down, 22 anto; 23 thou wouldest; 25 more exactly concerning him; 2 Do not thou therefore yield; 23 under a curse, neither to eat nor to drink; 22 slain; 30 Omit then; 34 go, charging him, tell; 32 signified; 33 of the centurions, and said; 34 as far as; 33 he bade them provide beasts; 30 night; 37 thereon.

Daily Readings-(Courtesy, I.B.R.A.)-M.-Paul a prisoner -the plot, Acts 22: 30 to 23: 11. T.-Paul a prisoner—the plot, Acts 23: 12-22. W.—Paul a prisoner—the plot, Acts 23: 23-35. Th.—Paul a Pharisee, Phil. 3: 1-14. F.-Warning and comfort, Luke 21: 10-19. S.-A hiding place, Ps. 27. S.-My Refuge, Ps. 91.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED



A LIGHT-ARMED ROMAN SOLDIER

The day following Paul's arrest, the Roman commander summoned a meeting of the Sanhedrin. Paul addressed the Council, laying stress on the resurrection of the dead. This caused so violent a dispute between the Pharisces. who believed in the resurrection and the Sadducees who disbelieved it,-the Pharisecs protecting Paul and the Sadducees trying to tear him from them-, that the commander feared for the apostle's life and sent soldiers to rescue him by force, ch. 22: 30 to 23: 10.

J. A PLOT CONTRIVED. -11. The night following: Paul's appearance before the Sanhedrin. The Lord; that is, Jesus. Stood by him: as in Corinth, when Paul had

met with bitter opposition, ch. 18: 6, 9, 10. Be of good cheer; words often on the lips of Jesus during His earthly life, Matt. 9:2;14:27; John 16: 33. As thou hast testified . . in Jerusalem; borne witness which had brought down on him the

wrath of the Jews, but had won the approval of the Master. So must thou; because it is God's purpose, which no human opposition could overthrow Bear witness also at Rome; where Paul had longed to preach (Rom. 1: 11-13), and whither he had made plans to go, Acts 19: 21.

12-15. When it was day; having been busy plotting murder, while the Lord was cheering Paul. Certain., Jews banded together. These may have been some such desperate men as the "murderers" (literally, dagger-men) of ch. 21:38. Bound themselves under a curse; called down on themselves the most terrible punishments of God, if they should not fulfil their word. Neither eat nor drink till they had killed Paul. So swiftly did they mean to make away with him. More than forty.. made this conspiracy (plot). So widely had the excitement about Paul spread. Came to the chief priests (who belonged to the Sadducees, Paul's bitter enemies) and the elders (Rev. Ver.); that is, such of them as were of the same party. These would gladly approve the plan of the murderers to rid them of Paul. Vs. 14 and 15 tell how it was proposed to carry out the plot.

II. A PLOT REVEALED .-- 16-22. sister's son; the only reference to Paul's family in Acts (but compare Rom. 16: 7, 11). Heard . entered into the castle (Antonia), and told Paul.