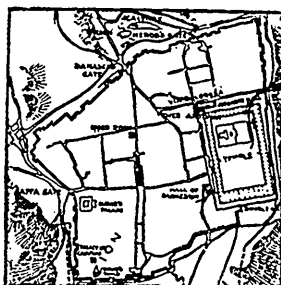


rich. **Garment**; outer robe, taken off and used for a covering during sleep.

9-11. **Past the first** ("ward"); perhaps the places where the "keepers" (v. 6, see comment) were stationed. **Second ward**; another part of the prison, where sentinels were also stationed. **Unto the iron gate**; which, if kept shut, would have barred their progress. **Opened... of its own accord** (Rev. Ver.); without touch of human hand. **Angel departed**; leaving Peter to do the rest, in which no supernatural help was needed. **Come to himself**; his vision now an actual reality.

Vs. 12-19 relate the interesting sequel.

THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON



It may have been in the **TOWER OF ANTONIA** that Peter was imprisoned. Besides ordinary prisons, for the sake of convenience, there was accommodation for prisoners in fortresses, barracks, palaces and temples.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. How was Peter guarded in the prison?
2. In what manner was he delivered?

Memorize vs. 15, 16. **EASTER LESSON**—1 Cor. 15: 12-20. Study 1 Cor. 15: 12-28.

AN ALTERNATIVE LESSON.

GOLDEN TEXT—Now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.—1 Cor. 15: 20.

While the apostle Paul was in Ephesus, in Asia Minor, probably about the year A.D. 58, he wrote the letter known as First Corinthians to the church in Corinth in Greece. He had heard that some of the Corinthian Christians did not believe in the resurrection of the bodies of believers, though they did believe that Christ's body had risen. In the Lesson chapter, Paul first gives reasons for believing that Jesus rose from the dead, and then shows that the bodies of believers will rise, as certainly as did that of their Lord.

12-14. **Christ... preached that he rose**. The apostles, in their preaching, made much of the resurrection of Jesus. In this fact they saw the strongest proof that He was the long-promised Messiah, and that He was able to save from sin (see Acts 3: 15; 4: 33; 17: 31; Rom. 1: 4). **No resurrection... Christ not risen**. If, as some in Corinth said, the bodies of believers do not rise from the dead, then neither did the body of Christ

rise. **Christ... not risen... preaching vain... faith... vain**. The only Saviour who can really save is a Saviour who has risen.

15-19. **False witnesses of God**. It was the mission of the apostles to testify to the resurrection of Jesus. Indeed, it was one of the qualifications of an apostle, that he had seen the risen Saviour, ch. 9: 1. **Faith... vain... yet in your sins**. Redemption, forgiveness, salvation are all built on the foundation of the resurrection of Jesus. **They... fallen asleep... perished**; instead of having entered, as they had hoped, on a life of endless bliss. **Of all men most miserable**; because all our bright hopes for the future would be disappointed.

20. But Christ has indeed risen from the dead, and thus has conquered, for His people as well as for Himself, the last grim enemy, death. As surely as He rose and ascended to His heavenly throne, they will rise to reign with Him forever.

LESSON QUESTIONS

1-4 Which of the apostles was now put to death? By what king? In what manner? What other apostle did the king imprison? When did he intend to put him to death?

5 By whom was prayer made on Peter's behalf?

6-11 When did an angel come to Peter in the prison? What indications does the story give of Peter's trust in God? How was Peter bound to his keepers? Tell how his chains fell off. How was the prison gate opened?

To whose house did Peter go? What message did he give? Whither did he then go? What was done to the prison guards?

Prove from Scripture—That God is greater than man.

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 created, 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.