

heaven and the high priest on earth, an angel is sent by the Lord to open the prison doors where the apostles were confined.

5th. The angel, bringing the apostles forth, said, Go, take your stand in the most public place, the temple, and speak to the people all the words of this life.

6th. Faithful to the angelic summons delivered in the name of the Lord, they enter into the temple and teach.

7th. Meantime the high priest, full of dignity and as full of indignation, counselling with those immediately attending him, called a Council and the entire senate of the children of Israel. The whole wisdom, civil and ecclesiastical, of the Jewish nation was in that assembly called by the high priest and his friends.

8th. The apostles are sent for. The officers go to the prison for them. They go—but return as they went; and a very sorrowful report they bring to the high priest and his company:—"The prison truly found we shut with all safety, and the keepers standing without before the doors, but when we had opened, we found no man within." The angel had strictly attended to his business—all he wanted was to put the apostles in their place. The prison was not the place for them, but the temple. But the Lord's messenger did not even break a lock or burst a hinge of the prison: all was safe:—and he was very-kind to the keepers in not revealing himself to them.

9th. While the high priest and the wise men with him began seriously to doubt where all this might end, some one enters the place of assembly, and says, "Behold, the men whom ye put in prison are standing in the temple, teaching the people."

10th. Being brought peaceably before the Council, they were interrogated by the high priest, and censured in these words, "Did not we straitly charge you that you should not teach in this name? and, behold, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and would bring this man's blood upon us."

The defence of the apostles is simply an announcement of the gospel. Here is their reply—

11th. We ought to obey God rather than man.

12th. You slew Jesus, and hung him on a tree.

13th. The God of the Jewish fathers raised him up after he was crucified.

14th. God exalted him at his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour.

15th. All this to grant repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.

16th. We are witnesses of the things we speak.