

Lesson VII.

THE APOSTLES IMPRISONED

February 14, 1909

Acts 5: 17-32. Commit to memory vs. 19, 20. Study Acts 5: 17-42.

GOLDEN TEXT—Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for their's is the kingdom of heaven.—Matt. 5: 10.

17 ¹ Then the high priest rose up, and all they that were with him, (which is the sect of the Sadducees,) and ² were filled with ³ indignation,

18 And laid ⁴ their hands on the apostles, and put them in ⁵ the common prison.

19 But ⁶ the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them ⁷ forth, and said, 20 Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this ⁸ life.

21 And when they heard ⁹ that, they entered into the temple ¹⁰ early in the morning, and taught. But the high priest came, and they that were with him, and called the council together, and all the senate of the children of Israel, and sent to the ¹¹ prison to have them brought.

22 But ¹² when the officers came, and found them not in the prison, ¹³ they returned, and told,

23 Saying, The ¹⁴ prison truly found we shut ¹⁵ with all safety, and the keepers standing ¹⁶ without before the doors; but when we had opened, we found no man within.

24 Now when ¹⁷ the high priest and the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these ¹⁸ things, they doubted of them whereunto this would grow.

Revised Version.—¹ But he; ² they; ³ jealousy; ⁴ Omit their; ⁵ public ward; ⁶ an; ⁷ out, and said, Go ye and stand; ⁸ Life (large L); ⁹ this; ¹⁰ about daybreak; ¹¹ prison-house; ¹² the officers that came; ¹³ and; ¹⁴ prison-house we found shut; ¹⁵ in; ¹⁶ at the doors; ¹⁷ Omit the high priest and; ¹⁸ words, they were much perplexed concerning them; ¹⁹ And there came; ²⁰ Omit saying; ²¹ the; ²² in the temple standing; ²³ but; ²⁴ be stoned; ²⁵ We straitly charged you not to teach; ²⁶ teaching; ²⁷ But Peter; ²⁸ Omit other; ²⁹ must obey; ³⁰ hanging him on; ³¹ did God exalt; ³² remission; ³³ Omit his; ³⁴ Omit also.

LESSON PLAN

- I. The Imprisonment, 17, 18.
- II. The Deliverance, 19-23.
- III. The Examination, 24-28.
- IV. The Defence, 29-32.

DAILY READINGS

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

M.—The apostles imprisoned, Acts 5: 17-28.
T.—The apostles imprisoned, Acts 5: 29-42. W.—Bold for the truth, Jer. 26: 8-16. Th.—Fear not! Matt. 10: 16-22. F.—Ready to suffer! 1 Pet. 3: 8-18. S.—Suffering with Christ, 1 Pet. 4: 12-19.
S.—Reasons for joy, Matt. 5: 1-16.

Shorter Catechism—Ques. 7. What are the de-

crees 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.

■ Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise, 107 (Supplemental Lesson); 90; 97; 2 (Ps. Sel.); 250 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY); 107.

■ Special Scripture Reading—Rev. 7: 9-17. (To be read responsively or in concert by the whole School.)

EXPOSITION

Time and Place—A.D. 30; Jerusalem.

Connecting Links—The growth of the kingdom proceeds rapidly. Its influence extends beyond the city of Jerusalem, and affects the villages in the neighborhood. One way in which the new believers showed their faith was by bringing their sick to the apostles for healing. All the sick brought were cured.

I. The Imprisonment, 17, 18.

Vs. 17, 18. But (Rev. Ver.). The success of the apostles stirred up the Jewish authorities to more determined opposition. The high priest; either Annas, who, though he had been deposed from the office of high priest in A.D. 14 to be succeeded by his son Eleazer (A.D. 14 to A.D. 18), continued to be "the power behind the throne", or Caiaphas, the actual high priest from A.D.

18 to A.D. 36. Sect of the Sadducees; one of the three chief religious parties amongst the Jews, the other two being the Pharisees and Essenes. Filled with indignation. The Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection (Matt. 22: 23-33), and were greatly chagrined at the wide circulation given to that doctrine. Laid their hands on the apostles; arrested them all, as Peter and John (ch. 4: 3) had formerly been seized. Put them in public ward (Rev. Ver.); a place of temporary imprisonment, until the Sanhedrin should meet next day.

II. The Deliverance, 19-23.

Vs. 19-23. An angel (Rev. Ver.); whose appearance refuted the teaching of the Sadducees, that "there is neither angel, nor spirit", ch. 23: 8. Opened the prison doors.