

PETER IN PRISON.

ACTS XII.

THE account given here of the imprisonment of Peter, and the answer of God to the prayers of the saints on his behalf, is not only a wonderful interposition of Divine power in favour of Peter, but a very blessed example of the faithfulness of God in answering the prayers of His children according to the many precious promises written in His Word, and which are given to those who walk according to the mind and will of God (1 John iii. 22; James i. 5, &c.).

But this most interesting history of Peter's imprisonment and release, carries beneath the surface of its narrative a succession of important lessons singularly applicable to every sinner, who by nature is in a similar position to that of Peter—morally imprisoned in sin and death, and only enabled to escape the doom awaiting him by the intervention of the Angel—Christ—by Whom alone he can be brought into the "glorious liberty of the children of God" (*Romans viii. 21*).

It was evidently the intention of Herod to execute Peter, as he had killed James, 'because it pleased the Jews', showing his personal vanity and love of popularity, and which is also further seen in *verses 21, 22*.

The blessed truths spoken by James and Peter, were of no interest to a mind thus pre-occupied: (see the words of Jesus in *John 7. 44*). What words of warning! as true now as in days of old: a fearful and seducing snare to souls is the love of the praise of men. So Herod imprisons Peter, delivering him to four quarternions, or sixteen soldiers, each quarternion being a guard of four soldiers, intending to