

BETWEEN THE LESSONS—The lesson follows immediately on Lesson XII., Sept. 17, ch. 22 : 17-29

GOLDEN TEXT—They shall fight against thee ; but they shall not prevail against thee : for I am with thee, saith the Lord, to deliver thee.—Jeremiah 1 : 19 (Rev. Ver.).

*Memorize Eph. 6 : 10, 11. **THE LESSON PASSAGE**—Acts 23 : 14-24. Study Acts, ch. 23.

14 And they came to the chief priests and ¹elders, and said, We have bound ourselves under a great curse, ² that we will eat nothing until we have ³ slain Paul.

15 Now therefore ⁴ ye with the council signify to the chief captain that he bring him down unto you ⁵ to-morrow, as though ye would ⁶ inquire something more perfectly concerning him : and we, or ever he come near, are ready to ⁷ kill him.

16 ⁸ And when Paul's sister's son heard of their lying in wait, ⁹ he went and entered into the castle, and told Paul.

17 ¹⁰ Then Paul called one of the centurions unto him, and said, Bring this young man unto the chief captain : for he hath ¹¹ a certain thing to tell him.

18 So he took him, and brought him to the chief captain, and ¹² said, Paul the prisoner called me unto him, and ¹³ prayed me to bring this young man unto thee, who hath something to say ¹⁴ unto thee.

19 ¹⁵ Then the chief captain took him by the hand,

Revised Version—the ; ² to taste nothing ; ³ killed ; ⁴ do ye ; ⁵ Omit to-morrow ; ⁶ judge of his case more exactly ; ⁷ slay ; ⁸ But Paul's ; ⁹ and he came and entered ; ¹⁰ And Paul called unto him one of the centurions ; ¹¹ something ; ¹² saith ; ¹³ asked ; ¹⁴ to ; ¹⁵ An I the ; ¹⁶ going aside asked him privately ; ¹⁷ ask thee to bring down Paul to-morrow unto ; ¹⁸ thou wouldest ; ¹⁹ more exactly concerning him ; ²⁰ Do not thou therefore yield ; ²¹ under a curse, neither to eat nor to drink ; ²² slain ; ²³ Omit then ; ²⁴ go, charging him, T. 11 ; ²⁵ signified ; ²⁶ of the ; ²⁷ and said ; ²⁸ as far as Cæsarea ; ²⁹ he bade them provide beasts ; ³⁰ might set Paul thereon.

HOME DAILY BIBLE READINGS

M.—A plot that failed, Acts 23 : 1-13.

T.—A plot that failed, Acts 23 : 14-24.

W.—A plot that failed, Acts 23 : 25-35.

Th.—God is our helper, Ps. 37 : 30-40.

F.—God disappointeth the wicked, Isa. 8 : 9-18.

S.—Triumph of right, Esth. 8 : 7-17.

Sunday—Praise for deliverance, Ps. 50.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED



A LIGHT-ARMED ROMAN SOLDIER

Vs. 1-13 tell of Paul's appearance before the Sanhedrin, of the vision which he saw in his prison cell and of the conspiracy formed against his life.

I. DANGER THREATENED.—14, 15. They ; the forty conspirators of vs. 12, 13. These may have been a band of such desperate men as the "murderers" (literally, "dagger men") of ch. 21 : 38. 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. V. 15 tells how it was proposed to carry out the plot. Bound ourselves under a . . . curse ; called down God's vengeance upon themselves if they should fail in their undertaking. Eat

nothing, etc. ; so swiftly did they mean to make away with Paul.

II. DANGER DETECTED.—16-18. Paul's sis-

ter's son ; the only reference to Paul's family in Acts, but compare Rom. 16 : 7, 11. Heard . . . entered into the castle (of Antonia, at the northwest of the temple area), and told Paul. Now that Paul was known to be a Roman citizen (see ch. 22 : 27-29), while he was held for safe keeping, he was allowed considerable liberty, and his friends were permitted to visit him. When the young man (see v. 17) had told Paul of the plot, he was taken, at the apostle's request, by one of the centurions to the chief captain or commander of the Roman garrison. Paul the prisoner. Compare Eph. 3 : 1 ; 4 : 1 ; 2 Tim. 1 : 8 ; Philemon 1, 9. The readiness of the centurion to comply with Paul's request shows the influence which Paul, though a prisoner, had secured over those about him by his personal character.

19-22. Took him by the hand ; an action intended to encourage the young man. The messenger of a Roman citizen was entitled to some consideration. When the commander had heard the lad's story, he sent him away, charging him to keep the matter a secret from all others.

III. DANGER PREVENTED.—23, 24. Called . . . two of the centurions (Rev. Ver.) ; selected as specially trustworthy. Two hundred ; a natural number for two centurions, a centurion being an officer over a

* For the recitation of the Scripture Memory Passages in any one Part of List IV., a Diploma in Colors is given. A Red Seal and a Golden Seal are added for the verses of the other two Parts respectively. For Form of Application, apply to Rev. J. C. Robertson, our General Secretary for Sabbath Schools, Confederation Life Building, Toronto.

† Courtesy of I. B. R. Association, Mr. S. C. Bailey, Hon. Secretary, 56 Old Bailey, London, England.