

them not? (2 Kings, vi. 15-17.) Raised him up (*Revision*, "awoke him"): the angel roused him from sleep. Perhaps Peter thought it the summons to execution. Chains fell off: he arose unbound; and without awakening the soldiers beside him.

Ver. 8.—Gird thyself, etc.: the angel told him to dress himself and follow him. God demands the use of our faculties.

Ver. 9.—Thought he saw a vision: perhaps to everyone there comes at times a feeling of unreality—things all seem in a dream, and then the feeling passes off again. So with Peter.

Ver. 10.—First and second ward: "Passing through a first ward, and a second."—Rotherham's Tregelles. Not keepers, but compartments or courts of the prison; each with a sentinel. The iron gate: the great iron-plated and iron fastened gate opened by God's power, and no noise or alarm was made. Passed on through one street: having led him some distance from the gate of the prison, the angel left him.

Ver. 11.—When Peter was come to himself: only now did he realize that it was all true, and not a dream. The Lord hath sent his angel: now he knew God had delivered him by a miracle. How often are we delivered—from spiritual as well as bodily danger—and how often fail to see God's g: at hand in it?

Ver. 12.—Came to the house of Mary: Mark's mother is not elsewhere mentioned. She was aunt to Barnabas. (Col. iv. 10, *Revision*.) Many . . . praying: no doubt spending the whole night thus. In 1630, on a Sacrament Sabbath, at the Kirk of Shotts, in Scotland, hundreds were converted on the spot; and it came to be known afterward that John Livingstone, the young man who preached, had, with one or two more, spent the whole preceding night in an agony of prayer!

Ver. 13.—A damsel came to hearken: their doors did not communicate direct with the street, as ours. And this was far in the night, and they might think it enemies come to arrest them. Rhoda: "rose": a beautiful name; ever-fragrant!

Ver. 14.—She knew Peter's voice: through all time and change, no mark of identity remains with us like the voice!

Ver. 15.—They said . . . thou art mad: they had, after all, but slight faith their prayers would be heard. Perhaps they had formerly too much depended on the strong faith of James and Peter, and now felt weak and desponding without them. She constantly affirmed: well done, Rogai! She knew Peter was there; she knew their prayers were heard! It is his angel: either a spirit (Matt. xiv. 26), or more likely a guardian angel of Peter (Matt. viii. 10); so they thought—but could not believe it was Peter, in his own body.

Ver. 16.—Continued Knocking: dangerous to be on the street, an escaped prisoner. They were astonished: God had answered all their prayers, and was better to them than their fears!

Ver. 17.—Beckoning . . . to hold their peace: he calmed them and told them how he had been delivered. Shew these things unto James: this was "James the less," from henceforth apparently the leader of the Church at Jerusalem. The other apostles travelled much; James, apparently, not at all. Went into another place: we infer that Peter often went to this house—perhaps lived there; and, not judging it a safe place, hid somewhere else; or escaped for a time from Jerusalem.

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

1. Christian conquered when he fought Apollyon with the weapon of "All-prayer." (See Bunyan.)

2. Killing an apostle does not destroy the message to sinners!

3. Herod only gave Peter a few days to live; but within a few days of his own death, *ver.* 23.

4. Unceasing prayer will be answered in some Luke xviii. 1, 7, 8.

5. Christ's voice in the soul is recognized by the believer, *ver.* 14.

6. The Lord delivers us out of many prisons and afflictions. Has he yet delivered me?

May 27 | PAUL AND BARNABAS IN CYPRUS. 1883.

GOLDEN TEXT.—"Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them."—Acts 13: 2.

CONNECTION.—Herod, finding Peter escaped, ordered the keepers to be put to death; and returned to Cesarea, a quarrel having arisen with the Phenicians, he listened to their deputation, and made a speech to them. They said that "He was a God!" He did not rebuke the messenger, and God smote him with a fatal infliction. This relates his miserable end. These things seem to have taken place while Barnabas and Saul were at Jerusalem. They now returned to Antioch; and Mark, cousin to Barnabas, went with them. Time, about A.D. 45.

NOTES.—Antioch: a noted city and capital of Syria, founded about 300 B.C., on the river Orontes, sixteen half miles from the Mediterranean, Seleucia being its seaport. It was called "Antioch the Great" to distinguish it from another Antioch in Pisidia. Simeon: a common Hebrew name, to which is here added the Roman surname, (black), perhaps because he was an African. Lucius: possibly the same as the kinsman of Paul (Rom. 16: 15) and one of the Cyrenians driven from Jerusalem who preached in Antioch (Acts 11: 20). Cyrene: a city of Libya (Acts 2: 10), in north Africa, founded by the Greeks; became a Roman colony about 75 B.C.; now called Grenna. Menahem: Greek form of Menahem (2 Kings 15: 14). In the margin he is called Herod's "foster-brother"—that is, either "a playmate," or, what is more probable, "his mother was Herod's nurse."—*Hackett*. Herod: the tetrarch Herod Antipas, who beheaded John Baptist. He was of "Herod the Great," and uncle of Herod Agrippas mentioned in chap. 12. He was an exile at this time, but used the title "the tetrarch" because he had filled that office. Barnabas: a companion of Paul (see Acts 4: 36; 9: 27; 13: 43; and Hand-book, Part VI, p. 65). Saul: also called Paul; born at Tarsus; one of the tribe of Benjamin; a Pharisee; also Roman citizen, educated under Gamaliel; taught the trade of a tent-maker; consented to Stephen's martyrdom; a violent persecutor of Christians; converted on his way to Damascus; becomes the apostle Paul. His mission to us we are now to study. Seleucia: the seaport to Antioch in Syria. Cyprus: an island of the Mediterranean about 100 miles west of the coast of Syria. It is about 200 miles long and fifty miles wide. There were seventeen cities on the island, of which Salamis and Paphos were the largest. Paphos: the Roman capital of Cyprus, where the procurator "deputy," or governor resided. It was about 100 miles from Salamis, and was a chief seat of the worship of Venus. It is now called *Baffa*. Elymas—*Bar-jesus*: a son of Elymas in Arabic means "hidden knowledge," and Bar-jesus in Aramaic means "son of Jesus" or "Jesus." Sergius Paulus, "deputy"—that is, "proconsul" of Cyprus. Coins have been found which confirm the name. Pagra, Pamphylia: Perga was a chief city of Pamphylia, a province in Asia Minor (see map).

I. SENDING OUT MISSIONARIES.—Ver. 1.—In the Church . . . prophets and teachers: the Church at Antioch, founded by the dispersed disciples, and now