

not only asleep, but further, *he is bound with two chains*. It was the custom to bind the prisoners with two chains to their guards in these times here spoken of (see *Acts xxi. 83*); this is very significant in the case of the sinner. First, two—both hands as well as feet, completely, hopelessly bound. These chains represent the chains of sin and darkness, and are referred to in *2 Peter ii. 4*.

All unsave sinners are bound thus by sin, as well as in prison, and it is the glorious gospel of glad tidings, peace and good will towards man, that is now offered by God through Jesus Christ that can set us free; as is said in *Isaiah lxi. 1, 2*, "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; He hath sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord". This is typified by the Angel, in *verse 7*.

Secondly. The chains were heavy, and therefore strong; see what the Psalmist says, "Mine iniquities are gone over my head: as an heavy burden they are too heavy for me" (*Psalms xxxviii. 4*). Thus are poor sinners weighed down by these chains; they cannot rise without help, for their burden is too great for them. A similar judgment is prophesied regarding the time of the end in *Isaiah xxiv. 20*, in similar language, "The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall and not rise again". These chains gain their strength from God's broken law (*1 Corinthians xv. 56*), and thus by these heavy strong chains that we cannot break, are we bound.

**3rd—Two Soldiers.**—The first one may well represent God's JUDGMENT.—It is God's unalterable decree, "The soul that sinneth it shall die," death being the penalty of the transgression of God's law.