bread.” The argument from the four  
quaternions of soldiers proves nothing:  
the same sixteen (see below) may have had  
him in *permanent* charge, that number  
being appointed as adequate to the duties  
required.

**4. to four quaternions of  
soldiers**] In military arrangements, Herod  
seems to have retained the Roman habits,  
according to which the night was divided  
into four watches, and each committed to  
four soldiers, to two of whom the prisoner  
was chained, the other two keeping watch  
before the doors of the prison, forming the  
*first* and *second guards* of ver. 10. It is  
plain that this number being mentioned is  
no sign that the custody was only for *one  
night*.

**after the Passover**] (see above)  
**after the days of the feast,** i.e. after the  
21st of Nisan. Herod, who (ver. 1, note)  
observed rigorously the Jewish customs,  
would not execute a prisoner during the  
feast.

**5.**] On the *duration* implied  
by this verse, see above.

**6. the same  
night**] emphatic: **that very night**, viz.  
which preceded the day of trial.—The  
practice of attaching a prisoner to one  
keeper or more by a chain is alluded to by  
several ancient authors. In the account  
of the imprisonment of Herod Agrippa  
himself by Tiberius, Jos. Antt. xviii. 6. 7,  
we read of the *soldier who was chained  
with him*. See note on ch. xxiv. 23; see  
also ch. xxviii. 16, 20.

**7.**] It is in  
St. Luke’s manner to relate simultaneously  
the angelic appearance and the shining of  
a light around: cf. Luke ii. 9; xxiv. 4;  
ch. x. 30. The light accompanied, or perhaps *shone from*, the angel.

**9.**] **went  
out,** viz. from the chamber or cell.

**10.**] The *first* and *second* watch or guard  
cannot mean the two soldiers to whom he  
was chained, on account of the mention of  
his *going out* above: but are probably the  
other two, one at the door of the chamber,  
the other at the outer door of the building.  
Then ‘the iron gate leading into the city’  
was that outside the prison buildings, forming the exit from the premises. The situation