

THE GREAT MINISTRY

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The Great Ministry by George E. Horr

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GEORGE E. HERR

**THE GREAT
MINISTRY**



The Great Ministry

BY
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FOREWORD

This book, like its companion volume, *The Training of the Chosen People*, is composed of chapters published on successive weeks during the year, in a number of weekly and daily papers. They were designed to interpret the Bible Study Union Course of Sunday School Lessons on the Gospel History of Christ.

These chapters were not composed by a painful reference to authorities or to the opinions of others. The main lines of investigation as to the gospel narratives were not unfamiliar, and with these in mind the author has sat down before the text, seeking its disclosure of the portraiture of Jesus. While the task of verification and revision has been done with care, the book, as a whole, has almost written itself. It has been a happy experience to record what one has seen of the divine Man in and through the pages of the gospels.

This study has freshly impressed upon the mind of the writer the fact that the person of Christ is the stronghold of evangelical Christianity. The great problem that confronts Naturalism and Agnosticism is the problem of the classification of Jesus. May we not be compelled to put Him back of the mundane order into the cosmic order? No line of investigation is more helpful in answering this vital question than a first-hand study of the New Testament portraiture of Jesus.

Through the whole course of his joyful labor the author has been encouraged to believe that he was doing something worth while by appreciations as to the helpfulness of these expositions written by those into whose hands they fall. Personally unknown to one another, these lovers of the Master and the author of this book discovered that they shared kindred convictions and experiences. The author can desire no better fortune for this child of his spirit than that it may render a like service in a wider circle.

GEORGE E. HERR.

Newton Centre, Mass., October 31, 1908.

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CHAPTER I.

THE PROMISED SAVIOUR.

Scattered References.

The principal argument upon which the Apostles relied to convince their Hebrew brethren that Jesus should be accepted as Lord and Saviour, was based on the Old Testament prophecies of the Messiah. If we accept the theory of many modern scholars that a somewhat later date than formerly was assumed must be assigned to certain parts of the Old Testament, the argument is hardly affected, for the Old Testament, as the Septuagint translation conclusively proves, was in existence in its present form centuries before the Christian era. Nor is the strength of the argument seriously affected by the theory of many of these scholars that certain Messianic references are less specific than the older authorities affirmed. Again, the force of the reasoning does not depend upon the minute interpretation of isolated passages. When we survey the course of prophetic teaching in a large way, its forward look becomes very impressive, and when we combine the specific anticipations of individual prophets in a single conception we can hardly fail to see that we have before us a picture of the Messiah which is almost startlingly actualized in the career of Jesus of Nazareth.

We are all familiar with the way one picture may be concealed in another. When we look intently at the representation from several angles of vision we come to see in it what was not perceptible at first. There emerges, it may be, from a landscape, the form of a