

**THE MIRACLES OF JESUS: A
STUDY OF THE EVIDENCE:
BEING THE DAVIES LECTURE
FOR THE YEAR 1913**

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The miracles of Jesus: a study of the evidence: being the Davies lecture for the year 1913 by E. O. Davies

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E. O. DAVIES

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THE MIRACLES OF JESUS

A STUDY OF THE EVIDENCE

Being
THE DAVIES LECTURE FOR
THE YEAR 1913

By

E. O. DAVIES, B.Sc.

Author of 'Theological Encyclopædia,' 'Prolegomena to
Systematic Theology,' etc

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1913

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EXTRACT FROM THE TRUST DEED
OF THE 'DAVIES LECTURE'

THOMAS DAVIES, of Bootle, near Liverpool,
being deeply interested in the success and prosperity of the religious denomination known as

THE WELSH CALVINISTIC METHODISTS,

and being actuated by a desire to perpetuate the memory of his late father,

DAVID DAVIES,

who was for many years a faithful and consistent member of the said denomination, lately resolved to found and endow a Lectureship to be called

THE DAVIES LECTURE,

in connexion with the said denomination ; and for that purpose, in June, 1893, paid to Trustees, appointed by the General Assembly, the sum of £2,000, to produce annually the sum of £50.

The Lecturer shall be a fully ordained Minister of the Welsh Calvinistic Methodists.

The subject of the Lecture shall be RELIGION.

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The Lecturer shall be allowed considerable latitude in the treatment of the subject.

While special attention should be given to the Christian Religion, it is not intended to exclude the subject of other religions.

Such topics as the following may be taken up by successive Lecturers :—

The Definition of Religion.

The Origin, Growth, and Development, together with the Universality of Religion.

The Philosophy of Religion.

The Science of Comparative Religion.

The Jewish Religion in its various stages.

The Christian Religion in its Developments and Corruptions, in its Doctrines and Practices.

The Relation of Science to Religion.

The Relation of Morality to Religion.

All topics fairly connected with Religion in any of its aspects, whether Theological, Philosophical, or Historical.

PREFACE

AT the end of 1905 the Lecturer published a work entitled, *Theological Encyclopædia: an Introduction to the Study of Theology*. The book aims at giving a scientific classification of the theological *disciplinæ*, and at indicating the method to be followed in their pursuit. In 1909 he published a *Prolegomena to Systematic Theology* which attempts to apply the scientific method in *A Study of Authority*.

The present Lecture on *The Miracles of Jesus* is intended to illustrate further the application of the same method in a study involving scientific, philosophical, and historical criticism.

In Book I the alleged miracles are studied simply as extraordinary events which, judging by the face value of the narratives recording them, do not happen in the course of nature as known to us. The evidence for the alleged events is examined, and an attempt is made to judge it in the light of analogy. In Book II the term miracle is used with the implication that the extraordinary acts attributed to Jesus were 'acts for which the immanent causal nexus could not account (even if our knowledge were adequate).' The following aspects

of miracle, regarded in this sense, are dealt with in succession:—Physical Impossibility and Possibility, Moral Impossibility and Possibility, and Antecedent Probability. Then, the view of Hume that no amount of evidence can substantiate a miracle is examined. In conclusion, the evidence, as determined in Book I, for the extraordinary acts attributed to Jesus is reconsidered in the light of the results reached in Book II respecting miracles as there regarded.

In dealing with such a topic as *The Miracles of Jesus* nothing is more important than an exact definition of terms, and a strictly scientific method of procedure. It is hoped that the present Lecture will be helpful to clear thinking on the subject.

The Lecturer has benefited much by the criticism of several eminent scholars, to all of whom he tenders his sincere thanks.

MONTANVERT, LLANDUDNO,

June, 1913.

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