

**THE SYNOPTIC
PROBLEM FOR
ENGLISH READERS**

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The Synoptic Problem for English Readers by Alfred J. Jolley

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BY
ALFRED J. JOLLEY

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Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God : because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God ; every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God.

1 JOHN iv. 1, 2.



46,668

PREFACE

THE existence and importance of the Synoptic Problem are ignored by the majority of Englishmen, cleric and lay. Unprejudiced study of the gospels, on which so much of popular Christianity is based, is surely desirable, and it is hoped may be promoted by this little work. Frank acceptance of its results does not involve, as might be hastily assumed or recklessly asserted, denial of the Divine Nature and Mission of Jesus. The Gospels, though they have promoted, did not originate belief in His Divine Nature. They are not the cause, but an effect, of that belief.

✓ Doubtless the student who, first freeing himself as far as possible from prejudice, compares carefully the Synoptic Gospels, will arrive at some conclusions not usually regarded as orthodox; but the lover of truth will not be deterred by words or by any fear of consequences.

The work is intended for English readers; and in the version of the Primitive Gospel, the text of the Authorised version has, as far as possible, been adhered to. The original Greek has, however, in every passage been carefully read, the various readings have received due consideration, and it is hoped that the version is not unworthy of the perusal of scholars, and may be suggestive and helpful to the general reader.

The Appendices and Indices will facilitate reference, and may help English

readers to understand not only the true value of the gospels, but the difficulties in the way of a complete and satisfactory solution of the Synoptic Problem.