

**THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST: ITS
ULTIMATE COMPLETE AND UNIVERSAL
TRIUMPH OVER EVIL, IN THE
SUBJECTION AND RECONCILIATION OF
ALL THINGS TO GOD**

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The Kingdom of Christ: Its Ultimate Complete and Universal Triumph Over Evil, in the
Subjection and Reconciliation of All Things to God by A. R. Symonds

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A. R. SYMONDS

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THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST:

ITS ULTIMATE
COMPLETE AND UNIVERSAL TRIUMPH
OVER EVIL,

IN THE SUBJECTION AND RECONCILIATION
OF ALL THINGS TO GOD.

BY REV. A. R. SYMONDS, M.A.,
WADHAM COLLEGE, OXFORD.

γράφας ἡμῖν τὸ μυστήριον τοῦ θελήματος αὐτοῦ, κατὰ τὴν εὐδοκίαν
αὐτοῦ, ἣν προέθετο ἐν αὐτῷ εἰς οἰκονομίαν τοῦ πληρώματος τῶν καιρῶν,
ἀνακεφαλαιώσασθαι τὰ πάντα ἐν τῷ Χριστῷ, τὰ ἐπεφάνησιν οὐρανοῖς καὶ
τὰ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς. - ΕΡΟΥΣ. i. 9, 10.



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P R E F A C E.

THE following sermons, with the exception of the eighteenth and nineteenth, were originally preached in St. Thomas's Church, Madras, and it is, in part, at the request of many who heard them that they are now published. The sermons are therefore printed almost word for word as they were preached, it being thought that by retaining the pulpit style of address and discussion they would be more acceptable in the reading to those who had been interested in hearing them.

But although I have been induced, in the first instance, to publish these sermons by the request of members of my late congregation, still I confess that I am desirous of testifying more widely than could be done by any spoken discourses to the great truth, as I believe it to be, of the final universal triumph over evil of Christ's kingdom in the subjection and reconciliation of all things to God. There are very many, I am persuaded, among the clergy (not to speak of the laity) who have long since in their own hearts discarded the notion of endless torment, and have ceased to preach it, though they may not formally and publicly have declared their rejection of it. There are many too, I have reason to believe, whose minds are opening to the reception of the blessed doctrine of the Restitution of All Things. Every additional published testimony, then, on this subject will, it may be hoped,

serve to embolden those plainly and openly to repudiate the dogma of eternal torture, who have already ceased to hold or preach it. I would humbly hope, also, that to those who are studying the subject, and who are feeling their way towards the recognition of the truth of the ultimate complete victory of Christ's kingdom, these sermons may be of some use in helping them to arrive at definite conclusions.

It was not hastily that I at the first ventured to preach these sermons. They are the fruit of years of study and of much travail of mind. As to the main line of argument pursued in them, I can honestly say that it has been independently thought out, though as to particular points I am anxious to acknowledge my obligations to other minds. On the continuous use in Holy Scripture of fire as a symbol of the divine nature and energy (Sermon XIII.) I have made use in part of an admirable discourse by the Rev. A. Maclaren on the Baptism in Fire. In the sixteenth sermon I have given, as will be seen, several extracts from a striking sermon by the Rev. E. H. Plumptre on *The Spirits in Prison*. The eighteenth and nineteenth sermons are largely indebted to that most interesting and able book of the Rev. A. Jukes, *'The Restitution of all Things.'*

In the sincere conviction that the view advocated in this volume is to the glory of the Saviour King and of his redeeming grace and power, I now commend these sermons to the divine blessing, and to the candid and careful consideration of those who may be pleased to read them.

December, 1872.

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