ADVENT AND ASCENSION: OR, HOW JESUS CAME AND HOW HE LEFT US

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D. W. FAUNCE

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EXPLANATORY NOTE.

CHRISTIANITY, defined in terms of conduct, is that course of action which accords with the requirements of Christ; defined in terms of life, it is that vital experience which comes from contact of the Spirit of Christ with the human soul; defined in terms of doctrine, it is the teaching of Jesus and his apostles; defined in its more general historic aspect, it is that unique development which, commencin with Christ himself, has extended through the Christian centuries; but defined specifically and distinctively, it is that series of events belonging to the earthly career of Jesus Christ which began with the Advent and closed with the Ascension.

These two events of his peculiar advent and of his peculiar ascension, if duly proved, carry with them a peculiar intervening life in harmony with the events themselves.

In this little volume it is proposed to discuss certain questions, first of all, concerning the advent and then certain other questions concerning the resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ—these latter considered as the two parts of a single event.

In the first chapter, on "Preliminary Questions," the discussion turns on the possibility and probability of an advent. This is followed, in the second chapter, by inquiries as to the ability of the New Testament writers rightly to apprehend and to report our Lord in his unique career and his especial teachings; their credibility as witnesses to certain alleged facts. Then comes a third chapter, devoted to a critical examination of the contents of their testimony to the advent.

The same order of inquiry is preserved in discussing the termination of the earthly career of our Lord. In the fourth chapter the probability of such a resurrection and ascension are considered. In the fifth chapter the witnesses and their means of knowing the facts to which they testify are passed in review. In the sixth chapter the testimony they give is carefully examined. And the two related facts, of such a beginning and such an ending of the earthly life of Jesus, are shown to carry with them the conviction to careful students that some such intermediate life was lived as that claimed by the New Testament writers.

If we can ascertain "how Jesus came and how he left us," then new emphasis is given to further questions concerning "who he was" and "what he did when he was with us." Then the birth, the life, the death, the resurrection will each demand the other, and together will make up the completed whole.

If the perusal of this little book shall be as helpful to the reader as its preparation has been to the author he will be abundantly rewarded for his study of the subject discussed.

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