

**LUKE THE
HISTORIAN, IN THE
LIGHT RESEARCH**

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Luke the historian, in the light research by A. T. Robertson

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A. T. ROBERTSON

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LUKE THE HISTORIAN IN THE LIGHT OF RESEARCH

BY

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“Having traced the course of all things
accurately from the first.”

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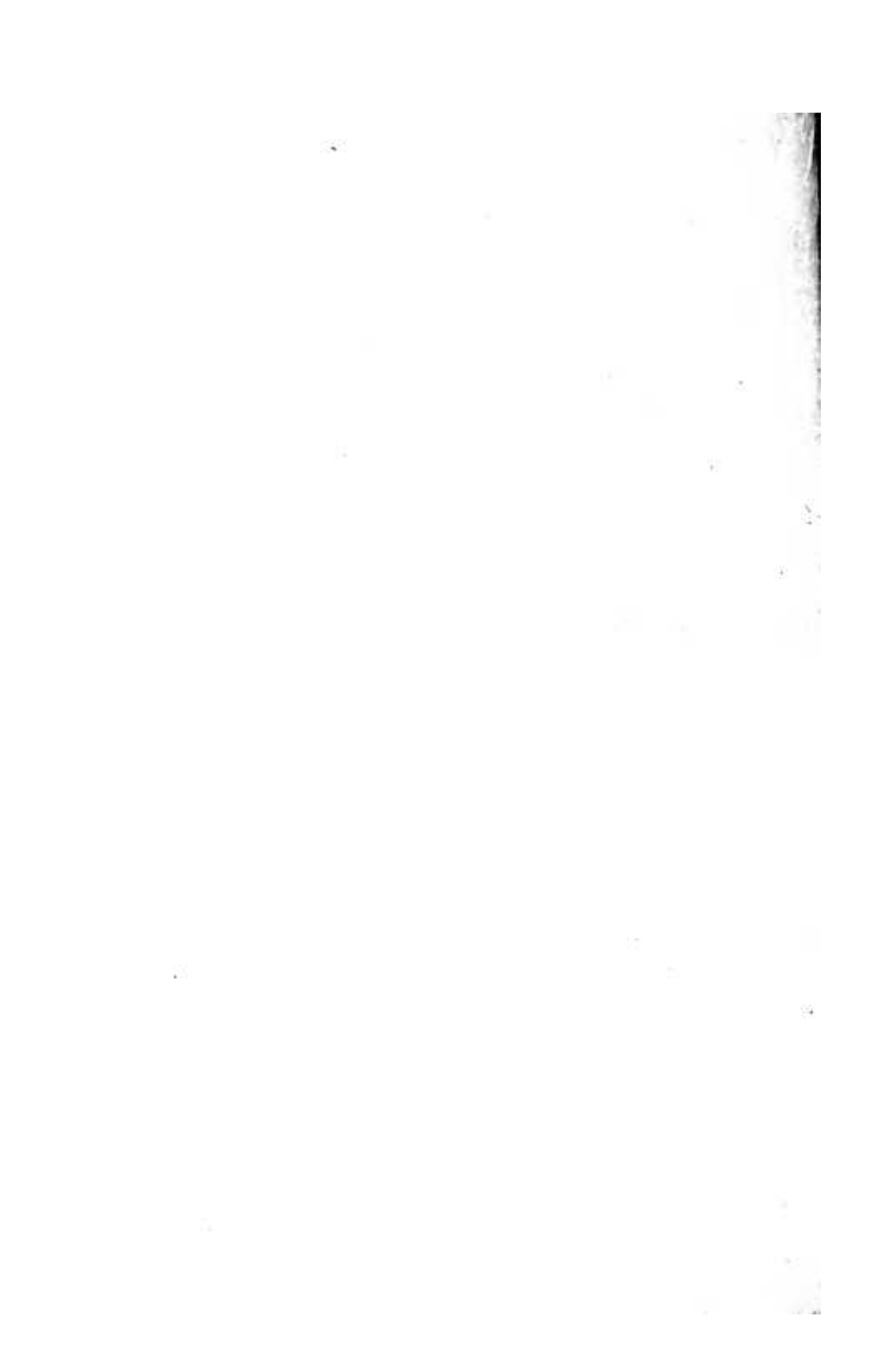
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TO
THE MEMORY OF
DR. AND MRS. J. B. MARVIN
DISTINGUISHED LIKE LUKE
IN SERVICE FOR THE BODIES AND
SOULS OF MEN



PREFACE

The work of the last fifteen years has created new interest in the writings of Luke. The relation of Luke's Gospel to Mark's Gospel and the Logia of Jesus has sharply defined his own critical methods and processes. The researches of Harnack, Hobart, and Ramsay have restored the credit of Luke with many critics who had been carried away by the criticism of Baur, and who looked askance upon the value of Luke as the historian of early Christianity. It has been like mining—digging now here, now there. The items in Luke's books that were attacked have been taken up one by one. The work has been slow and piecemeal, of necessity. But it is now possible to gather together into a fairly complete picture the results. It is a positively amazing vindication of Luke. The force of the argument is cumulative and tremendous. One needs to have the patience to work through the details with candor and a willingness to see all the facts with no prejudice against Luke or against the supernatural origin of Christianity. It is not claimed that every difficulty in Luke's books has been solved, but so many have been triumphantly removed that Luke is entitled to the benefit of the doubt in the rest or at any rate to patience on our part till further research can make a report. Luke should at least be treated as fairly as Thucydides or Polybius when he makes a statement that as yet has no other support or seems in conflict with other writers. Modern scholars are no longer on the defensive about Luke. His books can be used with confidence. The work of research has thrown light in every direction and the story is fascinating to every lover of truth.

These lectures, delivered to the Northfield Christian Workers' Conference, August 2-16, 1919, at the invitation of Mr. W.

R. Moody, have been greatly enlarged for publication. But the toil has been brightened by the memory of the crowds in Sage Chapel who first heard them.

"The long series of discoveries by Sir W. M. Ramsay and his coadjutors in Asia Minor has established the Acts narrative in a position from which later research is unlikely to dethrone it." (*London Times Literary Supplement*, March 13, 1920.) But the work of research goes on with vigor. New books continue to come out concerning Luke's writings, like Carpenter's *Christianity According to S. Luke* and McLachlan's *St. Luke: The Man and His Work*. Both of them I found useful and stimulating. Vol. I of *The Beginnings of Christianity*, by Foakes-Jackson and Kirsopp Lake, came too late to use. It is an ambitious attempt to set forth the historical atmosphere of the Acts, and assumes the thesis that Jesus preached only repentance with no world programme such as later Christianity provided. Lieutenant MacKinlay also has in press a new book on *Luke*.

I have to thank Rev. J. McKee Adams, Louisville, Kentucky, who put the manuscript in typewritten form and for other tokens of interest in the work. The splendid Indices were prepared by Rev. J. Allan Easley, Jr., Manning, South Carolina, whose careful work will make the volume more useful to students. A few of the chapters have appeared as articles in journals, whose publishers have graciously agreed to their use in this volume.

A. T. ROBERTSON.

LOUISVILLE, Ky.,
August, 1920.

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