A CHILD'S LIFE OF CHRIST

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A Child's Life of Christ by Anonymous

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ANONYMOUS

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JESUS QUESTIONING THE DOCTORS.

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COPYRE Dr., 1899, By G. H. McKIBBIN

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PREFACE.

It is delightful to witness the deep interest which children take in the History of their Saviour; they are early attracted and sweetly riveted by the wonderful Story of the Master from the Manger to the Throne.

If God has implanted in the infant heart a desire to hear of Jesus, surely it behooves the friends of little children (whom Jesus delighted so to gather around him) to bring together from Scripture every incident, expression, and description within the verge of their comprehension, and to weave them into a memorial garland of their Saviour.

Children will gaze with admiring love upon each wondrous act and word—from the pure snow-drop of innocence in the manger to the passion-flower of agony in the Garden of Gethsemane, and thence to the glorious Ascension of our Divine Saviour into Heaven.

The command given by our Lord to those He sent forth was to "Preach and Teach." We, in this little book, humbly try to follow in their steps. We have introduced a profusion of illustrations, regarding them as being very important in a narrative of occurrences so distant from this modern life of ours, both in time and place.

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CHAPTER I.

PALESTINE AT THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD—THE ANNUNCIA-TION TO MARY—THE SAVIOUR BORN IN BETHLEHEM— THE WISE MEN AND THE STAR,

VERY far away from our own country lies the land where Jesus Christ was born. More than five thousand miles stretch between us and it. It rests in the very heart and centre of the Old World, encircled by Asia, Europe, and Africa. A little land, it is only about two hundred miles in length and but fifty miles broad; but its hills and valleys, its dusty roads and green pastures, its vineyards and olive yards, and its village streets have been trodden by the feet of our Lord; and for us, as well as for the Jews, it is the Holy Land.

Nearly nineteen hundred years ago there lived in the quiet town of Nazareth a pious Jewish maiden: her name was Mary. She was going to be married to a poor man named Joseph, who was a carpenter by trade. Though living thus in humble life, they were of the royal family of Judah, and were the descendants of King David.

The Jews were very particular to keep exact lists of the names of their families—genealogies they called them—and these lists went back for many

hundred years.

Though Joseph and Mary belonged to the royal family of David, yet they lived in Nazareth of Galilee, far away from King David's city, Bethlehem.

The Roman Emperor Augustus had conquered Palestine and put a king of his own choosing on the throne of Judah. His name was Herod the Great and he was obliged to rule as the emperor ordered.

We now go back to Nazareth, and see Mary, who is sitting alone in her own house. A glorious visitor stands before her, and says, Peace be with you, Mary. Be glad, for the Lord is with you, and has blessed you more than any other woman. Mary saw that her bright visitor was an angel of God, and she felt troubled at his saying. What did it mean, why was he sent to her? she asked herself.

Then the angel told her not to fear; for he came to tell her that God would send her a baby—a wonderful baby. It would be no other than Jesus,

the long-promised Saviour of the world.

Oh, how long the world had waited for this Seed of the woman, which was to undo the mischief caused by Satan, according to the promise made thousands of years ago to Adam and Eve! And