

**JESUS AND THE SINNER: GOSPEL  
RECORDS OF CONVERSION  
SELECTED FROM "FOUND BY THE  
GOOD SHEPHERD"**

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Jesus and the sinner: gospel records of conversion selected from "Found by the good shepherd"  
by Adolph Saphir

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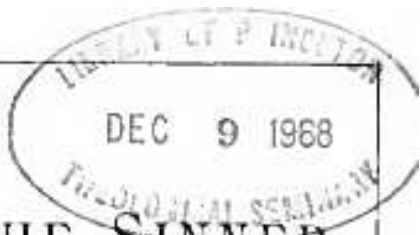
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**ADOLPH SAPHIR**

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# JESUS AND THE SINNER.

Gospel Records of Conversion

SELECTED FROM

*"FOUND BY THE GOOD SHEPHERD,"*

BY

ADOLPH SAPHIR, D.D.

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## THE FIRST FIVE DISCIPLES.

JOHN I. 35—51.

**W**HAT heavenly peace, calmness, confidence, innocence, breathes in the picture which the beloved evangelist has given us of the first gathering of disciples round the Divine Saviour! After thirty years of quiet, unobtrusive obedience to His Father in heaven and to His earthly parents, He had been solemnly set apart to His Prophetic and Messianic office. John the Baptist, who, as a living embodiment, summed up the teaching of the law, in its awful severity and inflexible justice, and the hope-inspiring predictions of the prophets, had acknowledged and introduced Him before and to Israel; the Father had declared His infinite delight in His person, and His infinite approbation of His work; and the Spirit of the Lord, who had been upon Him even from His infancy, now anointed Him

### *THE FIRST FIVE DISCIPLES.*

to go forth and preach the glad tidings of salvation to the poor and broken-hearted. Called through the voice of law and prophets, and set apart for His great work by the Father Himself, who gave unto Him the Spirit without measure, He was led into the wilderness, and there, as the second Adam, the Lord from heaven, the Covenant-head of His people, He resisted temptation and triumphed over Satan, who had concentrated all the energies of his malice and cunning in order to defeat the Holy One of Israel ; and, after having achieved this victory for Himself and His people, the angels of God came down to minister unto Him, thus acknowledging Him as the Lord of hosts, the beloved Son of the eternal Father, and the appointed Heir of all things.

Now the time is fulfilled. Having become perfectly acquainted with Satan's strength and subtilty, with man's frailty and vulnerability, with the intense agony of the struggle, with the warfare of faith, even the wielding of the sword of the Spirit—He now possessed sympathy with His brethren, and was fully prepared to begin His Messianic career.

Again we behold Him walking beside Jordan, in quiet, silent dignity waiting for the guidance of His heavenly Father; for this had been the precious jewel of which Satan had endeavoured to rob Him, which He now was guarding with all His strength and soul—viz., that He was the Son, who would do nothing of Himself, but whatsoever He seeth the

### *THE FIRST FIVE DISCIPLES.*

Father do, He doeth likewise. No pride, no haughtiness, no self-confidence, no flush of triumph can be discerned in His countenance; Satan's defeat and the homage of angelic hosts cannot disturb the tranquillity of His soul—cannot alter His true humility and meekness, His filial reverence and obedience. When John the Baptist sees Him, he exclaims, "Behold the Lamb of God!" When He was brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and opened not His mouth, even as a sheep before her shearers is dumb—when He returned the mockery and cruelty of His ungrateful and bitter enemies by lifting up His voice in supplication for their forgiveness—when, in sorrow and agony, He exclaimed, "I thirst!"—then, truly, we see in Him the Lamb of God, the gentle, meek, lowly, patient Redeemer, who, in perfect heart-obedience to His Father, and in wondrous love to His Church, emptied the cup, endured the cross, and despised the shame. But though it is on Golgotha that we see it most clearly and brightly written that He is the Lamb of God, the same perfect obedience to God, love to His people, meekness, and lowliness characterised Him while He was on earth in His infancy, childhood, youth; and all the words and acts and steps of the three years of His ministry. And throughout the centuries which preceded His advent in the flesh, He revealed Himself to Israel as the same loving, obedient, self-denying, and self-sacrificing Servant of Jehovah, and Saviour of His people—