

**ANNO DOMINI: OR A
GLIMPSE AT THE
WORLD INTO WHICH
MESSIAS WAS BORN**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649056637

Anno Domini: Or a Glimpse at the World into Which Messiah Was Born by J. D. Craig Houston

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J. D. CRAIG HOUSTON

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BY

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THE RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY:

56, PATERNOSTER ROW; 65, ST. PAUL'S CRUICHIYARD; AND
164, PICCADILLY.

1885.

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PREFACE.

THIS little volume is not at all designed for the 'learned and wise.' Neither is it meant for such as have time and opportunity to consult the standard works, wherein may be found all the information it contains in better form and greater fulness. It has been written solely for the benefit of those—and they are the majority—who, through lack of leisure or from infelicity of circumstance, are unable to drink of the stream of knowledge nearer to the fountain-head, or who, to vary the metaphor a little, are obliged to content themselves with the rivulet rather than the river.

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PART I.



THE GENTILES.

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I.—INTRODUCTION.

SIXTY ships of war are running before a fair wind and under full sail along the shores of Greece, southward, towards the ancient land of the Pharaohs. They are escaping from the scene of a desperate conflict between the fleet of Octavian The Battle of Actium. Cæsar and that of Mark Antony, the two rulers of the Roman world. In the foremost of the fleeing ships—the one with the purple sails—is the Queen of Egypt, the celebrated Cleopatra, who, terrified by the din of battle, seeks safety in flight. Antony, catching a glimpse of the retreating squadron, and impelled by an amorous impulse, springs from his war-ship into a light galley, and hastens away after the queen. Thus does he ingloriously relinquish to his rival the laurels that might possibly have been his own; for up till the time of his defection and for some hours afterwards the victory was valiantly disputed. However, before the evening stars appear,