

**MESSIANIC PHILOSOPHY: AN
HISTORICAL AND CRITICAL
EXAMINATION OF THE EVIDENCE
FOR THE EXISTENCE, DEATH,
RESURRECTION, ASCENSION, AND
DIVINITY OF JESUS CHRIST**

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Messianic philosophy: an historical and critical examination of the evidence for the existence, death, resurrection, ascension, and divinity of Jesus Christ by Gideon W. B. Marsh

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EXPOSITORY ESSAYS IN CHRISTIAN
PHILOSOPHY

EDITED BY THE REV. FRANCIS AVELING, D.D.

MESSIANIC
PHILOSOPHY

AN HISTORICAL AND CRITICAL EXAMINATION OF
THE EVIDENCE FOR THE EXISTENCE, DEATH,
RESURRECTION, ASCENSION, AND DIVINITY
OF JESUS CHRIST

BY

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P R E F A C E

THE subject of this work is one which appeals to all Christians, irrespective of creed, as it is the foundation of "our common Christianity". The author, in endeavouring to place the arguments for and against his thesis, has freely availed himself of the invaluable services rendered to the elucidation of the discussion by non-Catholic as well as by Catholic authorities, and he has made copious use of the productions of the leading Agnostic and Rationalistic authors. He begs to make this general acknowledgment of indebtedness to them all. Many references to them by name will be found in the course of the book. Hitherto, for the most part, writers have confined themselves to dealing with various portions of the subject. The author has attempted to place the

entire controversy before his readers in a succinct fashion; and to state in concise terms the considerations and proofs that establish his thesis,—the Divinity of Jesus Christ. In dealing with the Scriptural quotations, he has not entered into the question of their authenticity, as this subject will receive separate treatment in another volume of the present series.

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LENT, 1908.

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INTRODUCTION

THERE are no questions which have so deeply en-
grossed the human race as those regarding the
existence of its God, the immortality of man's soul,
and the relationship of that soul to its Creator.
Life is full of perplexing problems, and we are
everywhere confronted with "the Riddle of the
Universe," and with sin and suffering. Man's exis-
tence as an individual is short, and his days are
full of many sorrows and cares. Sunshine and
shadow, storm and calm, chequer his career, and
his heart is ever restless, ever longing for that
which never comes—perfect happiness. The richest
and the poorest, the wisest and the most ignorant
—all alike must die ; all alike seek to live and
prolong their sojourn, in hopes of obtaining a few
more years of what pleasure life can give them.
And in every heart is implanted the mysterious
yearning for life after death ; in every heart is the
fond hope of perfect peace in reunion with those
"whom we have loved long since, but lost awhile".
And yet amidst it all ever arise the questions, "Is
there a God, seeing that the world is so full of evil ?"