

**A KEY TO THE
NARRATIVE OF
THE FOUR GOSPELS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649042678

A Key to the Narrative of the Four Gospels by John Pilkington Norris

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JOHN PILKINGTON NORRIS

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THE FOUR GOSPELS**

A KEY
TO THE GOSPEL NARRATIVE

RIVINGTONS

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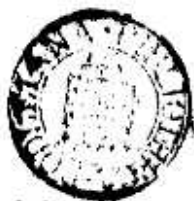
A KEY

To the Narratives of

THE FOUR GOSPELS

BY JOHN PILKINGTON NORRIS, M.A.

CANON OF BRISTOL, AND FORMERLY ONE OF H. M. INSPECTORS OF SCHOOLS



RIVINGTONS

London, Oxford, and Cambridge

1870

[New Edition.]

101. g 398.

Preface

THIS is an age of historical criticism. Some think we are carrying it too far. It is difficult to see how it can possibly be carried too far, so long as it is sincere and thoroughgoing. But, rightly or wrongly, so it is. Everything purporting to be a fact in the world's history is being thus tested, that we may see for ourselves whether it have about it the character of an authentic fact or no. The Gospel narratives cannot escape this kind of criticism.

The purpose of the following pages is to help our younger students to realize to themselves the narrative of these four Gospels: to show that they are not *contradictory* but *supplemental* to each other.

It may not be possible to weave into one consistent chronicle *all* their anecdotes of our blessed Lord's ministry. But it may be possible so far to succeed in reconstructing the original order of events, as to satisfy any candid mind that their

discrepancies are only such as might naturally be expected in four independent portraiture; and to quicken the reader's consciousness of the *reality* of the Divine original.

This last is the all-important thing. We may or we may not be able to answer all the cavils of one who is unwilling to receive the truth. But to strengthen our own convictions, to learn to read these records of Christ with a vivid perception of their intense truthfulness, to freshen and deepen those impressions which long familiarity may have weakened, this is of infinite concern, if to know Him be indeed to us eternal life.

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