

**STUDIES IN THEOLOGY:
LECTURES
DELIVERED IN CHICAGO
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649169689

Studies in theology: lectures delivered in Chicago Theological Seminary by James Denney

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JAMES DENNEY

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SEMINARY: BY THE REV.
JAMES DENNEY, D.D.



Fourth Edition



LONDON

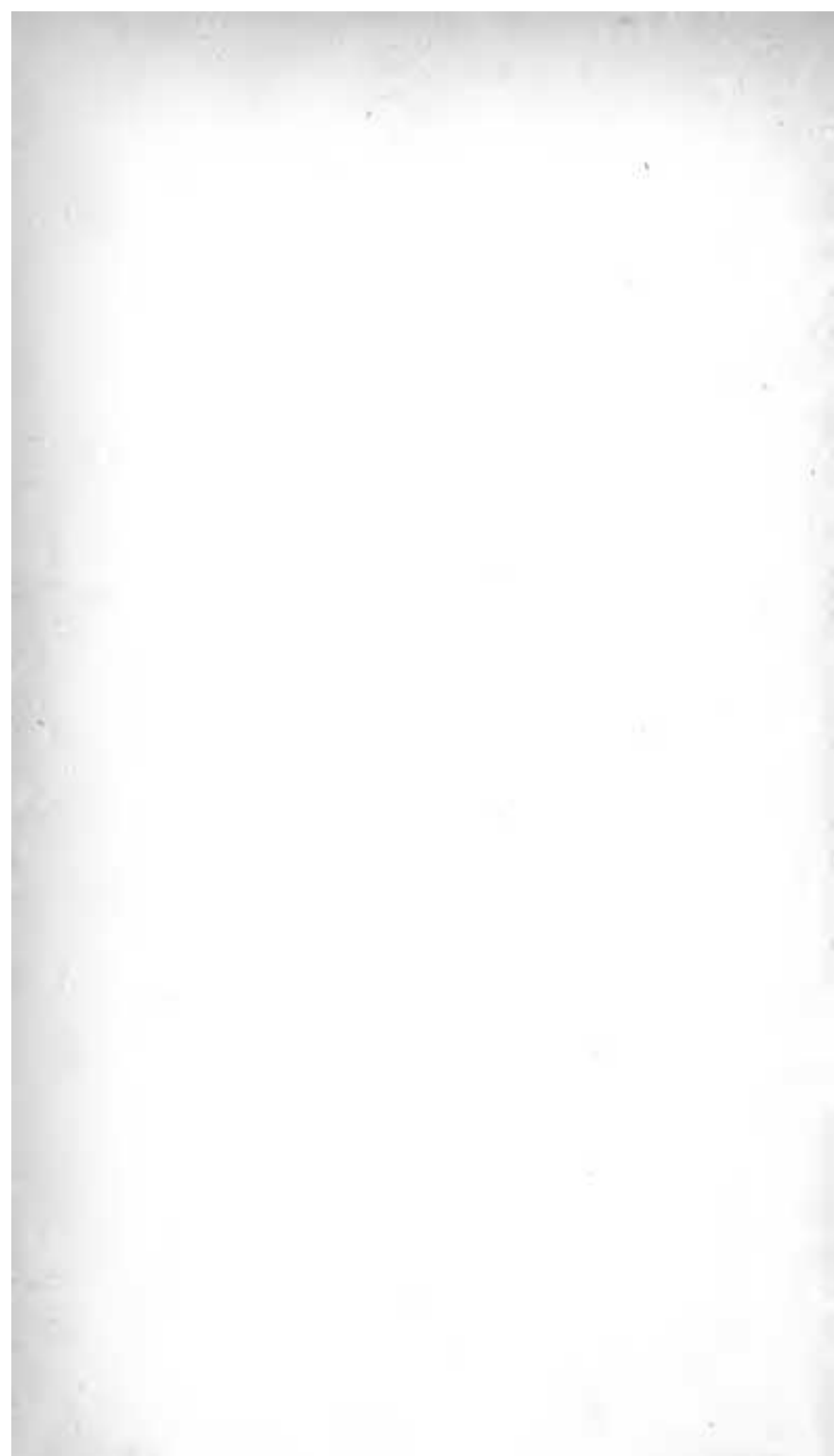
HODDER AND STOUGHTON

27 PATERNOSTER ROW

1895

PREFACE

THE lectures which compose this volume were delivered in April 1894 to the Chicago Theological Seminary, and are published at the request of the Faculty of that Institution. They do not amount to a system of theology, but the writer believes they are consistent with each other, and would find their place in a system. They are printed as they were delivered, with one exception. The ninth lecture, which excited considerable discussion in the circles to which it was first addressed, has been re-written; not with the view of retracting or qualifying anything, but in order, as far as possible, to obviate misconception, and secure a readier acceptance for what the writer thinks true ideas on the authority of Scripture. The notes have been added, partly to justify the statements made in the lectures as to the opinions of various theologians and schools, partly to acknowledge the writer's obligations to others.



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LECTURE I

THE IDEA OF THEOLOGY

A TREATISE ON systematic theology usually begins with a definition, the analysis and defence of which may show all that the theologian has to teach us. For the purpose which I have in view, it is not necessary that I should aim here at excessive precision; but it is necessary to indicate what I conceive the subject to be, what can be made of it, and what a fair treatment of it requires. If this lecture seems too abstract or indefinite, I can only hope that this appearance will be removed when we come to consider the various special topics.

Theology is the doctrine of God: systematic theology is the presentation in a systematic form of that doctrine. But the doctrine of God, in the very nature of the case, is related to everything that enters into our knowledge; all our world depends upon Him; and hence it follows that a systematic presentation of the doctrine of God involves a general view of the world through God. It must contain the ideas and the principles which enable us to look at our life and our world as a whole, and to take them into our religion, instead of leaving them outside. What, however, we have specially to deal with is not theology, but Christian theology—that knowledge of God which belongs to us as Christians, and which is traced back to Christ. We know that