

**CHRISTIAN BELIEFS  
RECONSIDERED  
IN THE LIGHT OF  
MODERN THOUGHT**

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Christian Beliefs Reconsidered in the Light of Modern Thought by George Henslow

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**GEORGE HENSLOW**

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# CHRISTIAN BELIEFS

RECONSIDERED IN THE LIGHT

OF

MODERN THOUGHT,

BY

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TO THE

REV. H. R. HAWEIS,

*Incumbent of St. James's, Marylebone.*

MY DEAR HAWEIS,

I thank you for allowing me to dedicate this book to you, as a slight mark of esteem; not only for yourself,—acquired during a friendship which has lasted for more than a quarter of a century,—but for your constant and earnest zeal in leading your congregation to apprehend all that is pure, noble and spiritual in our Religion.

Believe me to be,

Most truly yours,

GEORGE HENSLOW.

DRAYTON HOUSE, EALING.

## P R E F A C E.

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IN reconsidering certain Christian Beliefs, I have not attempted to discuss several of paramount interest and importance; such as the existence of God, the Doctrine of the Holy Trinity, of Immortality, &c.; but only such with which the so-called "Scheme of Redemption" is mainly concerned. It might be at once observed that a future life is intimately connected with the Redemption of Mankind; but the reader will find that I adopt the view that a future life is comparatively seldom alluded to in the New Testament, and that the Salvation there spoken of affects a man *here*, and only by implication, *hereafter*. I would nevertheless add that I regard a future life, either in compensation or fulfilment, as a necessary part of our existence. I assume, as I fully believe in the existence of God the Father, who created the Universe by the methods of Evolution. I am equally convinced of the Divinity of our Lord, as will become apparent in the last chapter, at least; and that the Holy Spirit is the greatest source of spiritual strength to man, I accept in the fullest faith, as God's answer to prayer; in accordance with the promise of Jesus Christ, "If ye, being evil, know how to give good



gifts unto your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?"

It may perhaps be thought that I ignore too much any theory of inspiration which may, at least, concern the earlier chapters of Genesis. Although I do not advance any theory of my own, I do hold the belief that there has ever been a divine purpose maintained throughout the entire Scriptures; that while the presence of an over-ruling Divine hand may not be evidently or even logically deducible in Genesis, yet the great end of Revelation, namely, the manifestation of the Moral character of God, as exemplified in Jesus Christ, fully justifies the belief that the Holy Spirit has been ever present throughout, working out the salvation of mankind through human and other secondary agencies according to His will.

If the saying recorded of Abbé Baintain be true that "Logic is a terrible cause of error," I plead guilty to having tried to be as logical as I can; but I trust, as the discovery of Truth is the sole object of the following "Re-considerations," that whatever logic may be herein found, it may be the humble means of removing error and not a fresh cause of it.

G. H.

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