

**EPOCHS IN THE LIFE OF JESUS;
A STUDY OF DEVELOPMENT
AND STRUGGLE IN THE
MESSIAH'S WORK**

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Epochs in the life of Jesus; a Study of Development and Struggle in the Messiah's Work by A. T. Robertson

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A STUDY OF DEVELOPMENT AND
STRUGGLE IN THE MESSIAH'S WORK

BY

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"Sir, we would see Jesus."

JOHN 12 : 21.

CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS
NEW YORK : : : : : 1907

TO
CHARLES E. TAYLOR
SOMETIME PRESIDENT OF
WAKE FOREST COLLEGE

P R E F A C E

I MAKE no apology for presenting another book on Jesus. The theme is exhaustless. Who can tell "the unsearchable riches of Christ"? Each age has to interpret Christ for itself. Indeed, each man has to do the same thing. We have passed through an age of acute criticism of the sources. The result, on the whole, has been exceedingly helpful. All that pertains to the historical aspects of Christ's career has been sifted. We know more of the times and the thought of the period. The background of the work of Christ is now well worked out. We are entering another period of theological controversy over the person of Christ. It is still the dominant issue in the thoughts of modern men.

This little book attempts a straightforward constructive discussion of the career of Jesus as set forth in the Gospels. There is no technical criticism of the sources, though the writer has reached his own conclusions on many points which come out incidentally. The eight chapters were delivered as popular lectures at a summer Chautauqua at Pertle

Springs, Mo., July, 1906, to an audience composed of ministers and a large and intelligent body of other Christian workers. The assembly requested the publication of the lectures. It is hoped that as published they may be useful to some who desire a positive presentation of the career of Jesus in the light of modern knowledge and in full sympathy with the position given to Christ in the Gospels.

No attempt is here made to tell the story of the life of Jesus, save as a brief summary now and then is necessary to the interpretation of that life. The attention is rather called to the movement and climactic power in the career of Christ. The historic forces of that life seem narrow from one point of view, but the current runs deep and swift. The turning points in the life of Christ are brought out sharply with less accent on other things, so that one may the better feel the titanic struggle that Jesus had with ecclesiastical tyranny and bigotry. If the reader can thus "realize" Jesus, he will find the Gospels luminous with fresh light. The lumber of learning is all left out here, that the attention of the reader may be focussed on Christ, who battled for human freedom in the most heroic of all conflicts. He won the freedom of the human spirit at the greatest possible cost. The Gentiles can now indeed see Jesus without throwing any preachers into a panic.

The whole world can now see Christ, if forsooth men have eyes to see. "In the midst of you standeth one whom ye know not" (John 1:62).

I might add that for twenty years I have been teaching theological students "the things of Christ." I give no bibliography, but my obligations to the great writers on the Life of Christ are too numerous to mention. I cannot, however, forbear acknowledging my debt to the matchless teaching of John A. Broadus in this institution. But the Gospels themselves have been my chief inspiration in this study.

A. T. ROBERTSON.

LOUISVILLE, KY.,
SEPTEMBER, 1907.

