THE LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST. NEW EDITION

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The Life of Jesus Christ. New Edition by James Stalker

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JAMES STALKER

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OF

JESUS CHRIST.

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REV. JAMES STALKER, M.A.

NEW EDITION.

EDINBURGH: T. & T. CLARK, 38 GEORGE STREET. 1885.

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PREFACE.

THIS book was published nearly six years ago in the now well-known series of Handbooks for Bible Classes edited by the Rev. Dr. Whyte and the Rev. Dr. Dods. In that form it has had an extensive circulation, and will, it is hoped, continue to circulate. But numerous requests have been addressed to the publishers and the author to issue it also in a better form, without the marks of a Handbook, which impede the genoral reader.

In this new edition, accordingly, these have been omitted. The omissions, indeed, are very trivial. Nothing has been left out except the mechanical helps of the classroom. The removal of these will enable the book to serve more exactly the purpose for which it was written—to throw the great masses of our Lord's life into prominence and point out its hingeevents, without regard to details. These details are better known to the general mind than any other portion

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Preface.

of human knowledge; what most readers of the Gospels require is a scheme let down on the details, in whose divisions they may so arrange themselves that the Life will present itself to the eye as a whole.

The works on this subject are very numerous, and are constantly multiplying. Even since the publication of this Life important additions have been made to the literature, such as the Lives by Nicoll, Edersheim and Weiss. But no other book has, as far as the author is aware, been written on the plan of this one—to exhibit in the briefest possible space the main features and the general course of the Life, so as to cause the well-known details to flow together in the reader's mind and shape themselves into an easilycomprehended whole.

Continued attention to the subject has convinced the author that what is most needed by those to whom Christ is an endless study is a brief and comprehensive exhibition of His ideas. Though His words are known by heart, His teaching is seldom grasped as a whole. Few could trace the outline of the circle of His teaching or tell what were His favourite ideas, and how they arose in Him; much less how the details of His teaching were related to each other in His own mind. It is the author's most

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cherished wish, if life and strength be granted him, to write a description of the Mind of Christ on the same succinct plan on which he has here attempted to describe His Life.

KIRECALDY, December 1, 1884.

EXTRACT FROM PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION.

THE changes introduced into this new edition are few and slight. But I am glad to have this opportunity of pointing out more distinctly than is done in the text that the names given to the different years of our Lord's public ministry are descriptive only of their most prominent characteristics, and especially that in what I have called the Year of Public Favour, although the disposition of the general mind towards Him was such as fully to justify the designation, He was already assailed by the authorities with much of the kind of opposition which is described in the sixth chapter.

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