

**GOSPEL ORIGINS; A  
STUDY OF THE  
SYNOPTIC PROBLEM**

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Gospel origins; a study of the synoptic problem by William West Holdsworth

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**WILLIAM WEST HOLDSWORTH**

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# GOSPEL ORIGINS

A Study in the Synoptic Problem

BY THE REV.

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'THE LIFE OF FAITH,' ETC.

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I DEDICATE THIS WORK  
TO THOSE BEST TEACHERS  
MY STUDENTS  
OF THE EAST AND OF THE WEST

Ἐπειδήπερ πολλοὶ ἐπεχείρησαν ἀντιτάξασθαι διήγησιν  
περὶ τῶν πεπληροφορημένων ἐν ἡμῖν πραγμάτων, καθὼς  
παρέδοσαν ἡμῖν οἱ ἀπ' ἀρχῆς αὐτόπται καὶ ὑπηρέται  
γενόμενοι τοῦ λόγου, εἶδον ἐγὼ καὶ ἐμοὶ, σαρρακευλοθηκῆτι  
Ἄνωθεν πᾶσιν ἀκριβῶς, καθέξῃς σοὶ γράψαι, κράτιστε  
Θεόφιλε, ἵνα ἐπιγνῶς περὶ τῶν κατηχῆθης λόγων τὴν  
ἀσφάλειαν.

ST. LUKE.

## PREFACE

THE chapters which make up this little book are so many studies in the Synoptic Problem. The author makes no claim to originality in dealing with this question. He has made full use of the minute research and laborious work of those who have preceded him ; but he has tried to carry their work on to a further stage in endeavouring to define more closely than they have done the sources used by the three evangelists. In doing so he has given the fullest consideration to the many different theories advanced by modern scholars, and in consequence, though it cannot be claimed that this work is a ' Handbook ' on the subject with which it deals, yet the hope is cherished that students will be able, in following the line of thought advanced, to bring into view the several positions taken up by those who have attempted a solution.

The line followed in treating this subject was first suggested by the distinction made by Dr. Arthur Wright between the three editions of the Markan narrative which appear in the three Gospels as we know them, and Dr. Wright's well-known titles for these editions—proto-Mark, deutero-Mark, and trito-Mark—have been freely used in the pages which follow. The author, however, has ventured to differ from Dr. Wright in an important particular, in that he applies this differentiation not to an oral tradition, but to *documents*, and a study of the Gospels, extending