

**A COURSE OF SERMONS ON THE
BIBLICAL PASSAGES ADDUCED BY
CHRISTIAN THEOLOGIAN
IN SUPPORT OF THE DOGMAS OF THEIR
FAITH, PREACHED IN THE BAYSWATER
SYNAGOGUE**

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A Course of Sermons on the Biblical Passages Adduced by Christian Theologians in Support of the Dogmas of Their Faith, Preached in the Bayswater Synagogue by Hermann Adler

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HERMANN ADLER

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נפתולי אלהים

A COURSE OF SERMONS

ON THE BIBLICAL PASSAGES ADDUCED BY CHRISTIAN
THEOLOGIAN IN SUPPORT OF THE
DOGMAS OF THEIR FAITH.

Preached in the Bayswater Synagogue

BY

HERMANN ADLER, Ph. D.,

Minister of the Congregation.

זהו שקוד ללמוד תורה
ודע מה שתשיב לאמיקורום



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PREFACE.

THESE Sermons have been committed to the Press in deference to the wishes expressed by a great number of my own Congregation, as well as by other members of the Jewish Community. But, while complying with these wishes, I feel it my duty to repeat here emphatically what I have mentioned in the body of this little work,—that it is intended for *defence*, and not for *offence*. It was not my purpose when I delivered these Discourses, nor is it my intention in now printing them, to attack the religion professed by the majority of our countrymen. My object is simply to acquaint my brethren in faith with the true meaning of the passages in the Bible, which are commonly cited by theologians in support of the dogmas of

Christianity; and to expose the unsoundness of interpretations, which are disseminated among us by missionaries with a zeal as misguided in its motives, as it is barren in results.

I have given in the following pages what I conceive to be the true explanations of those passages; they have been culled, in the main, from the writings of the principal commentators on the Bible and of our religious philosophers. I have also derived considerable assistance from the controversial works bearing upon the subject, such as **חזק אמונה** by R. Isaac Troki, **נצחון** by R. Lippman Mühlhausen, and **כור מצדף האמונות ומראה האמת** by R. Isaac Lopez.

With the exception of some necessary revisions, the Sermons are printed in the same form as that in which they were delivered. I have, for this reason, retained the brief exhortations which were addressed to young congregants on the occasion of their becoming **בר מצוה** (attaining their religious majority). I have also added the Sermon preached last Pentecost; for, although it did not form a portion of the course, it treated of a kindred topic.

A few of the subjects touched upon in these pages,

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have for the reason above mentioned been treated with less explicitness than their importance would seem to demand. I ardently hope, that I have acted judiciously, both in what I have said, and in what I have left unsaid.

May these Sermons contribute, by the blessing of God, to achieve the object, which must be dear to the heart of every Israelite—to vindicate the truth of his heaven-born Faith!

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SERMON I.

PREACHED ON SABBATH פ' תור"ע ובצו"ע
(APRIL 25TH), 5628.

MY DEAR BRETHREN,

JUDAISM is not a proselytizing faith: it seeks neither to make converts nor to attack other creeds, believing as it does that "the sincere and virtuous professors of every religion may hope to enjoy future bliss."* But Judaism is at the same time filled with the greatest solicitude to defend the citadel of its faith from all assaults; Judaism is exceedingly jealous not to allow one single member of its flock to stray from the fold.

* Maimonides, Hithoth Melachim, chap. viii., 10, 11.
Teshuba, chap. iii., 6.