

**THE CREED OF CREEDS: A  
SERIES OF  
SHORT EXPOSITIONS OF  
THE APOSTLES' CREED**

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The creed of creeds: a series of short expositions of the Apostles' Creed by F. B. Meyer

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**F. B. MEYER**

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# The Creed of Creeds

A Series of Short Expositions  
of the Apostles' Creed

By

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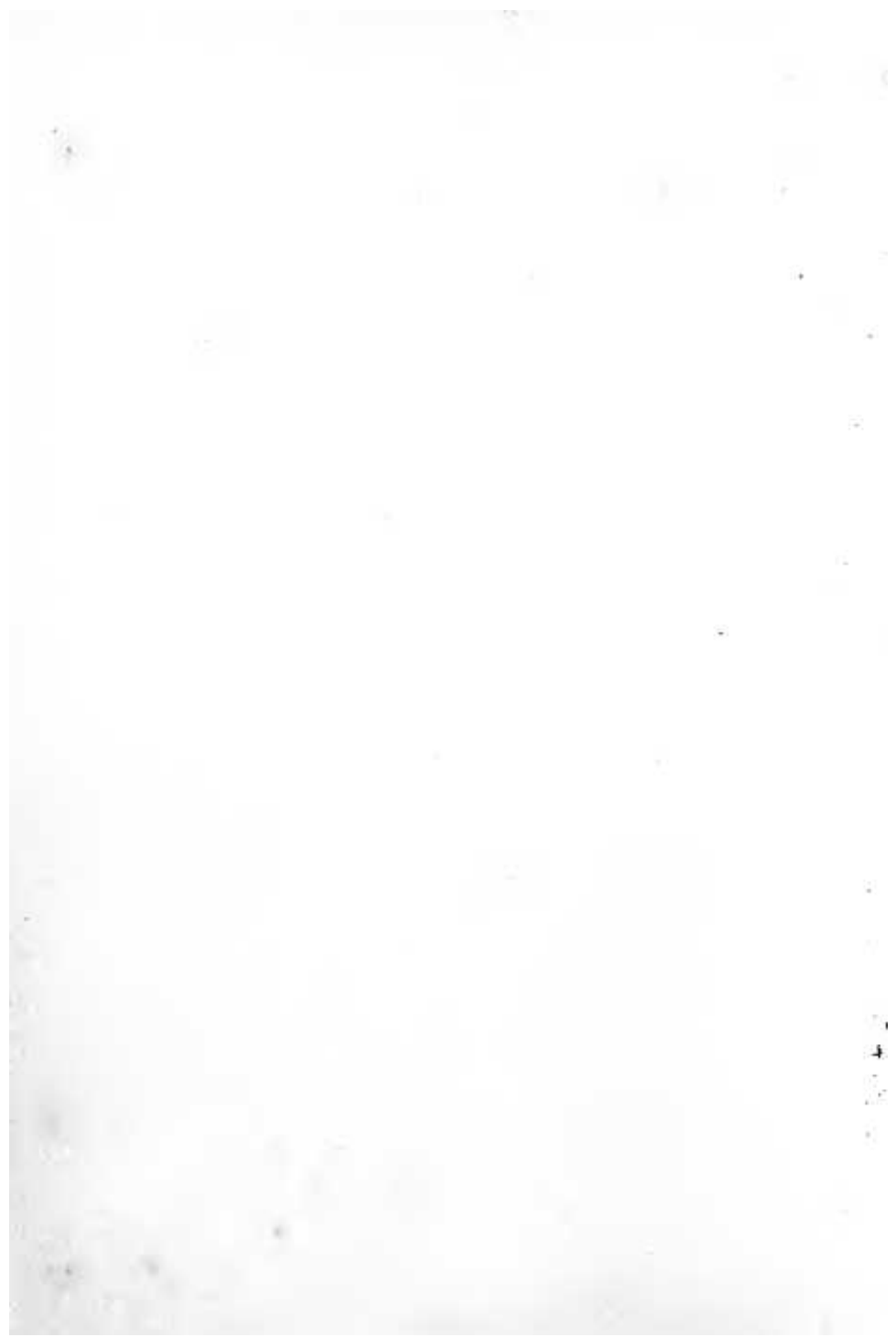
## The Apostles' Creed.

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I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth :

And in Jesus Christ His only Son  
our Lord, Who was conceived by the  
Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary,  
Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was  
crucified, dead, and buried, He de-  
scended into hell; The third day He  
rose again from the dead, He ascended  
into heaven, And sitteth on the right  
hand of God the Father Almighty;  
From thence He shall come to judge  
the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; The  
holy Catholic Church; The Communion  
of Saints; The Forgiveness of Sins;  
The Resurrection of the body, And the  
life everlasting. Amen.



## THE PROLOGUE

*THE noble and venerable formulary known as the Apostles' Creed, though presenting the essence of their Belief and Testimony, cannot be positively credited to the Apostolic Age. Indeed, whatever may have been the practice of individual churches, there is no trace in Christian Literature of any definite summaries of Christian Belief till a much later age—the age of Irenæus and Tertullian.*

*"It is sufficiently evident," writes Principal Tulloch, "that 'Confessions of Faith,' or 'Rules and Standards of Truth' existed in the Ante-Nicene Church from the last quarter of the second century . . . . but it is equally evident that there was no Rule of Faith universally accepted by the Church, or authoritatively imposed by any Catholic body up to the time of the Nicene Council."*

*The earliest form of this Creed is contained in the Confessions of Faith, presented to Julius, Bishop of Rome, by Marcellus, the Bishop of Ancyra, about the year A.D. 336. He describes it as the faith, which he "learnt and was taught from the Holy Scriptures."*



*Substantially then the Apostles' Creed was in existence probably from the end of the Fourth Century, though there is no evidence of its general reception, in its completed form, till about the middle of the Eighth Century.*

*It has always captivated the Christian Imagination and Heart, because of its simplicity, its brevity, its freedom from elaborate theological phraseology ; and probably a larger number of Christian people, of all churches and sects, could unite in reciting it, than any other statement of Christianity in existence. For this reason I venture to term it the CREED OF CREEDS.*

*Probably it is the one Creed in which all Christendom could unite. A striking evidence of this was given in the recent World-Baptist Congress, when at the request of the venerable Dr. Maclaren, the entire assembly of three thousand delegates, from all parts of the earth, stood and repeated, with impressive emphasis, these well-known clauses. The episode was the more remarkable, as the Baptist denomination has always shown itself very conservative in the adoption of forms or liturgies of any kind. It is recognised, however, among all branches of the Church of Christ, that no one communion can claim any exclusive proprietorship in this great Creed. All schools of*

*theology may meet in its ancient precincts, piled by builders who have long since passed from faith to sight.*

*In preparing these brief expositions of its several clauses, I have made use of notes gathered long since, in one or two of the earlier of which are traces of the BOSTON LECTURES. I cannot recall any others to whom I should make acknowledgment. This little treatise is placed at the service of the One Church, in the underlying Unity of which we all believe, and when the time arrives for the outward manifestation of that Unity, surely the Apostles' Creed will take a foremost place in the expression of the common and universal Faith.*

F. B. MEYER.

