

# **OUTLINES OF THE LIFE OF CHRIST**

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**W. SANDAY**

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BY

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## PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

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IN preparing to issue a second edition of this little book, the writer has been very conscious that it represents, not only the general position but the position in his own mind of the years 1898-1899 rather than of 1905. It was explained in the Preface to the First Edition that he deliberately abstained from attempting to bring the book really up to date. His reasons for this abstention were two: partly because such advances as he is able to make proceed as a rule by steps, and it seemed better that the steps should be allowed to stand out distinctly than that they should be confused and obliterated; and partly, it seemed, that the great amount of time that would have been taken up in re-casting and adapting the old work would be better employed upon the larger undertaking which is promised for the future. It seemed better to look forward than to look backward.

In the meantime, as some substitute for a more systematic treatment, the writer may be excused for referring to his own books and papers, written since 1899, which are really grouped round the central subject



and were intended to carry forward the study of it. The list is as follows:

*An Examination of Harnack's 'What is Christianity?'*  
London: Longmans, 1901. A pamphlet, out of print.

Paper read at the Church Congress at Northampton on 'The Miracles and Supernatural Character of the Gospels.' October 1902.

This subject is taken up again in *The Criticism of the Fourth Gospel*, pp. 169-184.

Sermon on 'The Virgin Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ,' published in a volume entitled *Critical Questions*. London: S. C. Brown, Langham & Co., 1903.

*Sacred Sites of the Gospels*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1903.

'The Site of Capernaum,' in *The Journal of Theological Studies*, v. 42 ff. October 1903.

The object of this article was to retract a view previously expressed and to give a definite preference to the common identification of Capernaum with *Tell Hüm*.

Paper read at the Church Congress at Bristol on 'The Interpretation of the Gospels as affected by the Newer Historical Methods.' October 1903.

'The Injunctions of Silence in the Gospels,' an article in *The Journal of Theological Studies*, v. 321 ff. April 1904.

This article contains a criticism of Wrede, *Das Messiasgeheimnis in den Evangelien*. Göttingen, 1901.

*The Criticism of the Fourth Gospel.* Oxford: Clarendon Press; New York: Scribner's, 1905. Eight lectures on the Morse Foundation, delivered in the Union Seminary, New York. October and November 1904.

These lectures may be taken as justifying the use that is made of the Fourth Gospel; they also discuss the principles of criticism, and the way in which criticism has been applied to the Gospel in recent years.

Paper read at the Diocesan Conferences at Chichester and Taunton on 'The Gospels in the Light of Recent Historical Criticism.' October and November 1905.

In near proximity to some of the above papers will be found others by well-known writers, dealing with similar topics and in the same general spirit: e.g., in the Reports of the two Church Congresses at Northampton and Bristol, in the volume *Critical Questions* (sermons by Dr. Swete and Dr. A. Robertson), and in *The Journal of Theol. Studies* (especially an important article by Dr. Chase on 'The Lord's Command to Baptize,' St. Matt. xxviii. 19, which appeared in July 1905). Mention should be also made of papers on the Incarnation by the Dean of Westminster, and on the Virgin Birth by Dr. R. J. Knowling (both London, 1903), and of three valuable essays on subjects connected with the Gospels by Drs. J. O. F. Murray, F. H. Chase and A. J. Mason, in the recently published *Cambridge Theological Essays*.

Two of the papers in the list given above were devoted to a survey of the critical situation relating to the Gospels in the years 1903 and 1905; and it has been

thought that they might with advantage be reprinted as Appendices to the present volume. It is hoped that they may serve to give some account of the course of thought in the last six years. A few slight omissions and alterations have been made in the text, to avoid repetition. It may also be explained that the time allowed for the reading of the first paper was limited, while there was no limit in the case of the second.

A generous critic of the book on the Fourth Gospel, in *The Oxford Magazine*, reminded the writer of the obligation which he has assumed by the promise of a larger work on the Life of Christ, and seemed to think of these other publications as standing in the way of the fulfilment of that promise. The writer may, however, be allowed to say that he does not himself regard them in this light. He is most anxious to fulfil his promise; but he has permitted himself to engage in these apparent digressions, at once as a help towards digesting his materials, and also that he may by these means make his larger work more compact and concentrated when the time for it comes.