

## 6 THE NEW TESTAMENT SITUATION

conditions of a certain age of the world ; He had to incorporate His own life with Jewish history and take up His career in a shape determined by the preceding course of the Kingdom of God ; the race to which He belonged was expecting a Messiah, who had been promised to the patriarchs and predicted by the prophets, and this predetermined the *rôle* in which He had to appear. On the other hand, He was uncircumscribed by space and time ; He had come from God and He dwelt in eternity ; He was destined to be not only the Messiah of the Jews but the Saviour of the world, having relations equally intimate with all sections of the human race.

Under the name of the Self-consciousness of Jesus it has been common abroad to discuss the relationship of Jesus to this twofold *rôle*—that is to say, to ascertain