

in the law, and the prophets did write." We possess in the sacred writings an outline of the incarnate life of the second Adam, the Lord from Heaven. It is always interesting, instructive, and stimulating to trace the life of a person great and good. If so in relation to the fallible, how inspiring it must be to study the recorded life of the man Christ Jesus! The life of Christ, embracing the biographical and historical, is without analogy in the history of the universe. Still, in not a few respects may that wondrous life be the model of imitation. Let us see how the biographical Scriptures testify of Christ. I. They testify of the birth and childhood of Christ. They state the time and place and attendant circumstances of Christ's birth. That portion of Luke's Gospel shall never lose its interest. The angelic announcement of Christ's nativity, and the song of the heavenly choir, shall constitute good tidings of great joy in time and eternity. What the angel said to them is still said to us:—"Fear not, for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be unto you and all people." His was a wondrous childhood. Carried to the temple in the arms of his mother, Christ is cause of unusual joy to the venerable and pious Simeon, to whom it was revealed that he should not see death until he had seen the Lord's Christ. It was little wonder that in the fulness of his realized rapture the old Saint exclaimed, "And now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, for mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people. A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel." Although introduced to our notice to impress us with the supernatural, we have the record, "And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon Him." "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man." These Scriptures testify to Christ's public life; of its inauguration by baptism, when a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased;" of the sermons which Christ preached to the many and the few, in which the treasures of wisdom and knowledge were dispensed to those perishing for lack of knowledge. Then think of the testimony borne by the miracles as to the dignity and divinity of Jesus. They were miracles of power, of mercy, and compassion, which controlled the storm-lashed sea, eradicated chronic disease, and even evinced His absolute monarchy over death and the grave. III. They testify of Christ's spirit and example. It was the spirit of holiness and love. Of Himself Christ could say, "I am meek and lowly of heart." They testify of His example of devotion, of obedience, of consecration ceaseless and complete to the glory of the Father. IV. Of Christ's sufferings and death the Scriptures testify. This is generally considered the most affecting and interesting portion of a biography. As life nears its close everything is noted and described with tenderness and reverential considerateness. In a becoming spirit let us ponder the record concerning the closing scenes of the life of Jesus. They testify to those at and before the cross was endured. "He was a man of sorrow, and acquainted with grief." How could it be otherwise? Christ walked over the earth, contemplating the peril of man, the cup He was to drink, the burden He was to bear, the suffering He was to pass through, and the shameful death He was to die. Christ was acquainted with grief—with the grief of every suffering one and sorrowing one on earth. They testify of Christ's final agony in the garden and on the cross, when Christ's soul was exceeding sorrowful even unto death, and when He suffered in His own body on the tree. They testify of Christ's death—not simply of the historical fact of His death, not only of the manner of that death, but especially of the nature and purpose of it. "He died for us." "Jesus Christ, by the grace of God, tasted death for every man." "He suffered, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God." "He died according to the Scriptures." Doctrinally His death was vicarious and propitiatory. It was an atoning death. We have exalted that life which was spent in doing good, but not in the sense those do who ignore the sacrifice of Christ. That life, faultless and glorious as it was, would have been wholly insufficient to