

10 CHRIST IN THE MANGER

to men, and they were the most impressive and appealing that the world has ever seen ; but he was able to make these signs because He was in Himself the Sign of Signs.

If we accept the New Testament account of the origin of Bethlehem's Babe we can no longer doubt God's perfect sympathy with men. Christ in the manger means that deity has cradled itself in the midst of human poverty and sorrow and suffering and sin. When this child weeps we behold our God in tears. When He dies upon His cross we behold the blood drip from the heart of the Eternal. The Babe in the manger is the sign of God's desire to come near to us, to share our sorrows, to bear our sins, to deliver us from every evil thing, and to save us unto His eternal kingdom.

3.

The Babe in the Manger is the Conclusive Sign of Man's Capacity for Receiving God.

The creation story tells us of a man made in the image of God. The incarnation story tells us of a God made in the image of man. The child-man in the garden and the man-child in the manger are both impressive