

the work of men who, in the decline of life, sat down to record the events of their earlier years. That these records are accurate and reliable we may conclude for a three-fold reason:—1. The events of our early years are those most distinctly remembered; 2. The events recorded by the Evangelists were such as would impress themselves indelibly upon the mind; 3. Above all, the Evangelists were gifted with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, by which they were secured from the possibility of mistake.

Such, then, were the witnesses whom God chose to record the events connected with the Saviour's resurrection, and such were the circumstances under which they wrote. We are now prepared to look at the record itself, and to harmonize the testimonies of the different witnesses.

II.—THE TESTIMONIES.

“In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.”—PAUL.

IN the Gospels we have four distinct accounts of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. These accounts, while differing somewhat in detail, agree in all essential particulars, and constitute, when taken together, a brief but connected history of that wonderful event. As independent witnesses, the Evangelists perfectly agree in regard to the main facts, while they differ in the mode of relating them. That these agreements and differences may be clearly perceived, we will now present the events in the order in which they are recorded in the four Gospels,—including, also, the account of Christ's burial, and the sealing of the sepulchre by order of Pilate. The events are thus related by Matthew:—

CHAP. XXVII.—57. When the even was come, there came a rich man of Arimathea, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus' disciple: 58. He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered. 59. And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, 60. And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed. 61. And there was Mary Magdalene, and the other Mary, sitting over against the sepulchre. 62. Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate. 63. Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again. 64. Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first. 65. Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as ye can. 66. So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.

CHAP. XXVIII.—1. In the end of the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. 2. And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. 3. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: 4. And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men. 5. And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus which was crucified. 6. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come,