

reign, according as the individual was devout or worldly. The one class is represented by Simeon, Anna, and those of like spirit, while the other is to be seen most clearly in the Pharisaical hierarchy. To the latter his deeply spiritual teachings, in opposition to their coarsely literal and worldly interpretations, were exceedingly perplexing and disappointing, while to the former, including a vast multitude of the common people, his coming and work were most beneficent and full of hope.—*Professor James C. Murray.*

The word Messiah occurs in but one passage of the Old Testament, and there were varied views among the people concerning him. But in general he was expected to be a son of David, born in Bethlehem, to attest his claims by mighty works, to restore and amplify the kingdom, and to reign upon its throne forever. This hope was fully met in all that prophecy indicated. The Jews' disappointment was largely artificial. Christ's miracles, which enlightened as well as convinced, were fairly irresistible. Still, he did not redeem Israel from the Roman power, and this disappointment was nursed and exaggerated until the nation rejected him.—*Rev. E. S. Lewis, D.D.*

## Analytical and Biblical Outline.

### Jesus in Seven Aspects.

#### I. THE MIGHTY WORKER.

*Will he do more miracles?* v. 21.

"These miracles which thou doest," John 3. 2.

"Approved by miracles," Acts 2. 22.

#### II. THE HEAVENLY VISITOR.

*A little while....with you.* v. 23.

"Son of man....in heaven," John 3. 13.

"The second man....from heaven." 1 Cor. 15. 47.

#### III. THE WATER OF LIFE.

*Come unto me, and drink.* v. 27.

"Let him that is athirst come," Rev. 22. 17.

"Every one that thirsteth," Isa. 55. 1.

#### IV. THE GIVER OF THE SPIRIT.

*Shall flow rivers....the Spirit.* v. 28, 39.

"A well of water," John 4. 14.

"I will send him," John 16. 7.

#### V. THE PROPHET OF GOD.

*This is the Prophet.* v. 40.

"Will raise up....a Prophet," Deut. 18. 15.

"This is of a truth that Prophet," John 6. 14.

#### VI. THE ANOINTED LORD.

*This is the Christ.* v. 41.

"The Son of the living God," Matt. 16. 16.

"The Saviour of the world," John 4. 42.

#### VII. THE FULFILLER OF PROPHECY.

*Hath not the Scriptures said?* v. 42.

"Unto David a righteous branch," Jer. 23. 5.

"Thou, Bethlehem Ephrathah," Mic. 5. 2.

## Thoughts for Young People.

### Various Opinions of Jesus.

The name of Jesus is the touchstone which tests the true character of men.

**1. Some are open enemies to our Lord.** Caiaphas was such in Christ's day. Voltaire and Paine have openly antagonized him in later times. There are some such noisy infidels now. The day will not come soon when Christianity will lose its enemies, but they do not retard its progress. It steadily goes on its conquering way to triumph over the world (verses 44-49).

**2. Some do not accept Christ because of their ignorance concerning him.** Those who in this lesson rejected Jesus did not know that he belonged to the seed of David and was born in Bethlehem. Many opposers of the Gospel now are just as ignorant. No one but a wise man should venture to deny the claims of Jesus; and what truly wise man ever did so? (verses 41, 42.)

**3. Some recognize in him a great teacher, a wise man, the noblest of the human race, but not a redeemer.** Many compliments, half-patronizing in their tone, have been paid to Christ by skeptics like Rousseau or Theodore Parker; and multitudes who honor him nevertheless do not believe in him (verse 40).

**4. Some confess that they cannot understand Jesus.** They do not altogether forget him, but—"never man spake like this man;" he is incomprehensible during his life-time, and in all ages since such men have stood amazed at Christ's character and personality; he strikes them with awe, but they cannot classify him, so they refuse to believe (verses 45, 46).

**5. Some are half-hearted believers.** With his head Nicodemus, for instance, believed that Jesus was the Messiah, but he lacked the courage of his convictions. If a man's heart is in his belief, he will not act the paltriness. "Be thou very courageous!" Many such all about us decline to confess Christ openly, and as a consequence lose both the fleeting pleasures of the world and the enduring joys of the kingdom (verses 50-52).

**6. Some souls thirst after the water of life, and seek Jesus.** Such find in him all that they need, and become in turn a blessing to others. Every soul which drinks of the water of life becomes at once a fountain of life (verses 37-39).

## Lesson Word-Pictures.

Holy, happy feast at Jerusalem! Beautiful "tabernacles!" The nation goes back in thought to its memorable dwelling in tents along the line of the wilderness-march. Every-where it is an hour of rejoicing, and guests have come from every quarter of the land. One of those old men on the roof has made a pilgrimage from the south coun-