

more intelligent of the Gentiles, that Jesus was possessed of one nature, *i. e.* the human, and was the natural offspring of Joseph and Mary, that this gospel, or record of the Life and Teaching of Jesus, written by Matthew in the Hebrew language, did not contain those portions of the modern gospel of St. Matthew, which constitutes the two first chapters, excepting the genealogy which traces the Messiah from Abraham, through David, to Joseph, his natural father, and it is attested by Epiphanius that this portion was not in the version of the Hebrew Gospel preserved and used by the Nazarenes and Ebionites in the latter part of the fourth century, and up to that period these portions and their subject matter had always been rejected by these people who claimed that they had the genuine transcripts of the original documents, and that in faith and practice they were the true successors of the Apostles. And that this gospel of the Nazarenes (after the genealogy) began with the words: "It came to pass in the days of Herod" and the learned Beausobre, referring to the gospel of the Nazarenes, also states that it began with these words, and adds: "it appears from the fragments that have come down to us that it contained no heresy, and that with the exception of some circumstances the history of our Lord was therein faithfully related." There is every reason to believe that the original Gospel of Matthew, was a faithful and inspired account of the life and discourses of his Master, and the "circumstances" referred to by Beausobre,

are interpolation falsely ascribed to the Hebrew Gospel by some of the Catholic fathers, but which was certainly not in the genuine document.

We have now seen that the dogma of the miraculous conception of Jesus was rejected by the early Nazarene that their Gospel did not contain those parts which support that doctrine, that it contained the genealogy and it is now worthy of note that those Catholic fathers who admit that those whom they call Ebionites preserved the Hebrew gospel in its original language and completeness, never directly charge them with having changed, corrupted or omitted any part thereof, while such charges are often made against others whom they call heretics. It has also been noted that the primitive Nazarenes held that while Jesus was the son of Joseph, and a lenial descendant of David in the male line, yet that he was by his mother a descendant of Levi and of the family of Aaron, and on these points Irenaeus admits that "from Levi and Judah he (Jesus) was descended according to the flesh—" and again in another part of the same work he says: "the gospel according to Matthew was written to the Jews, for they laid particular stress upon the fact that Christ should be of the seed of David, and Matthew who had a still greater desire to establish this point, took particular pains to offer them convincing proof that Christ is of the seed of David and therefore he (Matthew) commences an account of his genealogy." From this testimony as well as other statements of early writers, and a consideration of