

Simeon—were brothers of Jesus. Speaking of these bishops, Eusebius says, "I learned from writers, that down to the invasion of the Jews, under Adrian, there were fifteen bishops in that church, all which were Hebrews, and received the knowledge of Christ, pure and unadulterated; so that in the estimation of those who were able to judge, they were well approved and worthy of the leadership." It is the unanimous testimony of the early christian writers that both the Nazarenes and Ebionites rejected the miraculous conception and divinity of Christ, and that the Gospel wrote by Matthew in the Hebrew language did not support those doctrines. The Nazarenes existed as a church—distinct from others which assumed the christian name—until the fifth century, when their writings, ecclesias, and name, were almost extinguished by the Catholic Apostacy. Yet it must be admitted, that as the Nazarene church was founded by Christ and his Apostles, it must have had the truth, and no church that does not hold the same doctrines, and observe the same practices, can logically claim to be the Church of Christ:

The following appears to have been the leading articles of the faith of the Nazarenes (and to this the writer is committed):

1st. There is one God, who created the heavens, and the earth, the sea, and all that in them is, whose bodily presence dwells in heaven, where no man can approach unto, but whose spirit, manifested in the works of creation, and providence, is everywhere.

2nd. That the holy spirit is an emanation from God, as light from the sun, which spirit is experienced in the heart, and manifested by the life of every true believer.

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