

**JESUS CHRIST
BEFORE
HIS MINISTRY**

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Jesus Christ Before His Ministry by Edmond Stapfer & Louise Seymour Houghton

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EDMOND STAPPER & LOUISE SEYMOUR HOUGHTON

**JESUS CHRIST
BEFORE
HIS MINISTRY**

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JESUS CHRIST:

HIS PERSON—HIS AUTHORITY—HIS WORK.



I. JESUS CHRIST BEFORE HIS MINISTRY.

\$1.25.

II. JESUS CHRIST DURING HIS MINISTRY. (*In press.*)

III. THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST. (*In preparation.*)

Trinity School.

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PREFACE

“**JESUS CHRIST**: his Person, his Authority, his Ministry,” — such is the title of a work which I purpose to write. In the first volume, which I now publish, I shall endeavor to relate the life of Jesus before his ministry.

Of the time which passed over him until his thirtieth year we know only so much as the evangelists Matthew and Luke have preserved for us. But it is not from the facts which they bring to light that I shall draw the pages which follow. To their touching narratives of the childhood of Jesus it seems to me that there is nothing to add, and from them nothing to subtract; and the deep poetry which breathes in these marvellous stories defies all criticism.

To touch them is to spoil them. More than that, my aim is not to repeat the little that we know about the youth of Jesus; it is to seek for that which has not been told us.

The early Christians, surprised at the sobriety of the gospel narratives, tried to make up for the silence of history, and composed the apocryphal Gospels of the Infancy. I am attempting a study of this sort, but I have no intention of writing a work of pure imagination, like that of the authors of the antique legends. I would fain say what must have been the life of Jesus until his thirtieth year, by deducing from known facts some facts unknown, and permitting myself only to observe and to relate.

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