

**THE MESSAGES OF THE APOSTLES; THE
APOSTOLIC DISCOURSES IN THE BOOK OF
ACTS AND THE GENERAL AND PASTORAL
EPISTLES OF THE NEW TESTAMENT ARRANGED
IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER, ANALYZED,
AND FREELY RENDERED IN PARAPHRASE**

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The messages of the apostles; the apostolic discourses in the book of Acts and the General and Pastoral epistles of the New Testament arranged in chronological order, analyzed, and freely rendered in paraphrase by George Barker Stevens

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GEORGE BARKER STEVENS

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The Messages of the Bible

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OF ACTS AND THE GENERAL AND PASTO-
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BY

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PREFACE

The present volume includes the apostolic discourses contained in the earlier chapters of Acts and the Epistles of James, First Peter, Jude, Second Peter, First Timothy, Titus, Second Timothy, Hebrews, First, Second, and Third John, in the order named. The dates of many of these books are uncertain, and no order can claim to be more than approximately chronological. In general, however, the sermons from Acts, the Epistle of James, and the First Epistle of Peter may be said to represent the earlier forms and stages of Christian teaching, while Epistles like Hebrews and First John belong to its later period. The Epistles to Timothy and Titus are included in this volume, partly because so many scholars doubt their Pauline authorship in their present form and, especially, because in any case they reflect the work of Timothy and Titus in ecclesiastical administration more than the theology of the apostle. The first ten Epistles of Paul, reproduced in "The Messages of Paul," present to us the apostle's doctrinal system. The Pastorals, whatever view be taken of their authorship, have little bearing upon that system, but deal with relations and conditions which more appropriately place them in the later group of New Testament writings.

The same method of treatment has been adopted as in "The Messages of Paul." The general facts which one

Preface

should know in order to appreciate the writings comprised in the volume are stated in the Introduction. This is followed by an account of the conditions and problems of the early church which, it is hoped, will throw light upon the messages of the apostles, especially upon the apostolic discourses. Then, to each of the Epistles is prefixed a brief special introduction explaining the nature and aim of the book, with comments on the critical questions which it suggests. Those who wish to read more extensively on these questions are referred to the list of books of reference given in the Appendix.

GEORGE BARKER STEVENS.

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