

**NATURAL LAWS
AND GOSPEL
TEACHINGS**

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Natural laws and gospel teachings by Herbert W. Morris

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HERBERT W. MORRIS

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BY

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INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

IN the New Testament we have four distinct narratives of the Life of the GREAT TEACHER, Jesus of Nazareth. These were written by four different authors, each of whom professes to give, to the extent of his plan and purpose in writing, a true account of his birth and parentage, habits and character, teachings and miracles, sufferings and death.

No records, no writings of any character, ancient or modern, have been so closely studied or been subjected to such varied and severe criticism as have these four brief biographies. The ordeal through which they have passed is without a parallel in the history of literature. Nothing that is embraced in them, nothing that is connected with them, has escaped the most searching scrutiny. The facts which they relate, the doctrines which they teach, the references they make to social habits and civil rulers, the principles of ethics and science and philosophy which they involve, the dates and localities they name, together with every item and incident they contain, have all been subjected to the severest examination by

all orders of intellect for eighteen centuries. No means or method that can well be conceived has been left unemployed by their enemies to disprove their claims, to overthrow their authority, and to oppose their influence.

The ground and method adopted to oppose and undermine the gospel have ever changed with the changes of time. Old fields having been found untenable and old weapons having proved powerless, others supposed to be more promising have been taken up in their stead. This has taken place again and again. In the last age the most powerful assaults made were on the ground of metaphysics. In our own day the battle is mainly waged on the field of the *physical sciences*; and here the most specious and threatening attacks that have ever assailed the gospel have been made. On this field it is attempted to set the record of matter against the record of the Spirit, to oppose the laws of nature to the laws and miracles of Christ, and to array the forces of nature against the very foundations of providence and prayer and hope of resurrection to a better life. And it is to a consideration of these last attacks made on the Christian faith that the following pages are devoted. In them we hope to offer abundant proof that the foundation of our faith still standeth strong and to present facts that will enable the