

**THE FOUR GOSPELS: ARRANGED
AS A PRACTICAL FAMILY
COMMENTARY, FOR EVERY
DAY IN THE YEAR, PP.1-192**

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The Four Gospels: Arranged as a Practical Family Commentary, for Every Day in the Year,
pp.1-192 by Favell Lee Mortimer & Stephen H. Tyng

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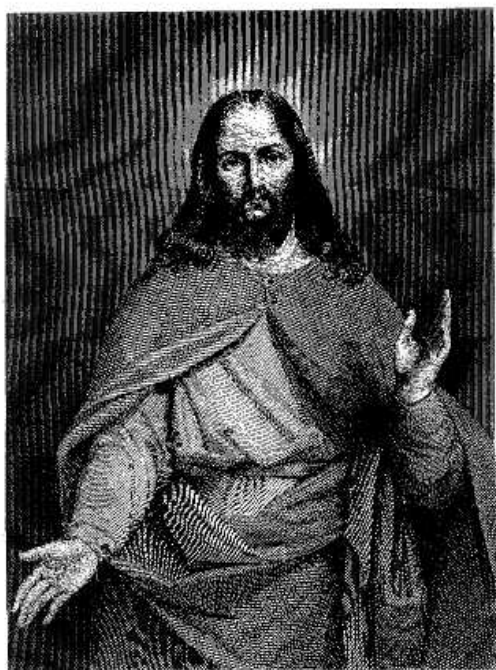
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THE
FOUR GOSPELS;
ARRANGED AS
A PRACTICAL FAMILY COMMENTARY,
FOR
EVERY DAY IN THE YEAR.

BY THE AUTHOR OF "THE PEEP OF DAY," ETC.

EDITED, WITH AN INTRODUCTORY PREFACE,

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INTRODUCTORY ESSAY.

Among all the varied departments of religious usefulness, no effort can be of greater importance than to make the sacred word of God interesting and attractive to youthful minds. This divine book contains within itself instruction which is of infinite value to the soul. It conveys this heavenly instruction by means and methods exceedingly adapted to awaken and gratify the curiosity and delight of the youthful mind, when they are properly illustrated, and brought out to view. It is susceptible of such explanation and comment, by a wise and affectionate teacher, who has himself been taught by the Holy Spirit in the things of God, as shall clothe its expositions with the deepest and most absorbing interest, and enchain the attention of those to whom they are addressed. The amazing variety of forms in which God has been pleased here to reveal his holy will and purpose, and to proclaim his mercy and his truth to men, furnish a subject for study and meditation, compensating the utmost devotion of time and thought, and able to engage and reward the attention and interest of the most youthful student or hearer. The one great purpose of the Holy Scriptures is, to reveal a Saviour for man, in all the fulness, and power, and glory of his work; and to make men wise unto salvation,

through faith in him. There is probably no single portion of the Bible which is not intended to be particularly connected, in some way, with this great subject, and, in its proper application, to illustrate, explain, or enforce it. To understand this, to find everywhere a Saviour revealed,—or, as Bernard has said, “Christus in omnibus,”—is the desire and effort of every real believer in Jesus, in his study, and in his expositions of the word of God. When this great light is once truly discovered in the Scriptures, it is seen to shine everywhere. The garden of Eden and the flood of Noah,—the journeys of the patriarchs and the sorrows and deliverance of Israel,—the wilderness and the land of promise,—the tabernacle and the temple, with all their rites and festivals, and divine appointments for the worship of the children of Jacob,—each appears intended to give witness to the grace and glory of a Saviour; and shines most attractively, glowing with the excellence and beauty of his merits and grace. The effort to understand this sacred purpose, to ascertain “the mind of the Spirit” in every passage, imparts a very peculiar interest to the private study of the sacred word, and to its familiar expositions to others. The Bible thus becomes, in every passage, important to every reader, and presents in each, some new and peculiar view of gospel truth to the attentive and spiritual mind. Redemption,—glorious and complete redemption for man, in the incarnation, death, resurrection, and dominion of the Son of God, and in all the wonderful results of this amazing undertaking, in the history and experience of man redeemed by his sacrifice and power,—becomes the special theme of instruction in every history and event recorded in the Scriptures, however local and individual they may at first appear. Now, to interest the

minds of the young in this great subject,—to show to them, simply, but clearly and effectually, what God really means to teach in his holy word,—to take off the dull, technical, and barren aspect under which this word habitually appears before them, and to make them feel that it is really attractive, striking, and full of instruction which they will truly love to receive, is an object worthy of the labor and devotion of any human mind; an employment large and important enough to command any exertions, or any study, on the part of those who feel a real desire to be spiritually useful to others.

This is a department of Christian usefulness which was scarcely touched in the Church until the present age, and which even now has been but very partially improved. In our time, some effort has been made to bring the precious truths of the Bible within the reach and comprehension of the young. Much benefit has been thus conferred upon them. Doubtless the eternal salvation of many will be found to have resulted from the various instruments of this most interesting and important class of Christian labor. The excellent author of this present familiar commentary,—a Christian lady, if we are rightly informed,—has accomplished an important measure of this desired work. Her other publications named in the title-page of the present, are most successful efforts to make scriptural truths acceptable and engaging to the young. The present work, published under the rather indefinite title of “Light in the Dwelling,” is an undertaking in the same line, equally valuable, and likely to be equally successful. It is a familiar practical commentary upon the Gospels, in language extremely simple, and in the character and matter of its instruction, most valuable and correct. This is a very fair

specimen of a work which yet remains to be accomplished, and which, if well done, would be an invaluable gift to the Christian church. We mean an interesting and familiar commentary on the Scriptures, suited in language and sentiment to the minds of the young. Who shall have the blessed and exalted privilege of being thus "a teacher of babes," in the great and gracious truths of the word of God? Where is the faithful spiritual guide whom God will raise up, prepare, and instruct, for this important design, of giving a clear, evangelical, and attractive exposition of his sacred word, illustrated in language and style adapted to families, and especially to the youthful members of families, in the church of Christ? We believe no work could be more important, or would be more likely to be useful, popular, and successful, than such a commentary, wisely designed, and intelligently and truthfully executed. The attention and interest of youthful minds can always be easily drawn to the Bible, when expositions of it are within the reach of their comprehension, and adapted to their habits of thought. There would scarcely be found an exception to this remark, whether children were individually or collectively addressed by such expositions. And while the far greater portion of those who are really taught of God in the revelations of his word, are early interested by the Holy Spirit in these great subjects, and become, while they are yet young, spiritually and truly the members of his kingdom, this precious and important class of minds constitute a field of labor, which all ministers and mature Christians ought to feel it a privilege to cultivate with eagerness and perseverance.

The deep interest which the author of the present work felt in this field of effort, to which she has devoted her