

Life of Christ

AN ABRIDGMENT
OF THE
NEW TESTAMENT;
OR, THE
LIFE,
MIRACLES, AND DEATH,
OF
OUR LORD & SAVIOUR
JESUS CHRIST.

Embellished with Beautiful Engravings.

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Angel and Mary



Angel and Shepherds

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LIFE

OF OUR

LORD AND SAVIOUR

Jesus Christ.

Now when the time appointed was come, God sent an angel to a city of Nazareth, to a young woman named Mary, who was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, who was a descendant from David.

The angel said to her, "Hail! thou favourite of Heaven; the Lord be with thee thou happiest of women."

She was astonished at his appearance, and wondered what his words meant.—Then he said, “Fear not, Mary, thou hast found favour with God. Thou shalt have a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. His birth will be a miracle, therefore he shall be called the Son of God, and he shall reign for ever.” Mary replied, “I am the handmaid of the Lord, let him do with me as it seemeth good unto him.”

Some time after this, Joseph, with Mary, who was to be his wife, went up to Bethlehem to be registered; for they were descended from David; and Bethlehem was David's city.

While they were there, her

child was born; and she wrapped him up in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

An angel appeared to some shepherds, who were attending their flocks in the field, and told them what had happened. So they went and found him in the manger, as the angel had said.

Now Herod was at that time king of Judah, and was much troubled concerning Jesus, and endeavoured to destroy him, for he was afraid that he would dethrone him, as it was prophesied that he should be King of the Jews. Therefore he commanded that all the male infants

in Bethlehem, and its neighbourhood, that were under two years of age, should be killed, thinking that he should be sure to destroy him by that means; but the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph by night, and said, "Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into Egypt, and remain there till I tell thee; for Herod seeketh the child to kill him."

Accordingly Joseph took the child, and Mary his mother, and went into Egypt, and abode there, as the Lord had commanded him.

When Herod was dead, the angel appeared again to Joseph,



Institution of the Lord's Supper



Jesus Crucified

and told him to return to the land of Israel.

Joseph therefore returned with the child and his mother, and went and abode in Nazareth.

When Jesus was twelve years old, he was taken by Joseph and Mary to Jerusalem, to the feast of the passover, and when they were returning home, they missed him; then they searched for three days, and at last found him in the temple, sitting among the doctors or learned men, both hearing them and asking them questions; and all who heard him were astonished at his understanding and wisdom.

Jesus came from Nazareth to

be baptized by John. When he came out of the water, the heavens opened, and the Spirit of God descended like a dove and settled on him, and a voice came from heavensaying, "Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I delight."

Jesus taught the people in the synagogues on the sabbath days, to repent of their sins; and they were astonished at his doctrine, and his power in working so many miracles.

As Jesus was walking by the sea of Galilee, he saw Simon Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting their nets into the sea; and he said, "Follow me," and they followed him. A little fur-

ther, he saw two other brothers, James and John, the sons of Zebedee; and when he called them, they left their ships and followed him.

The confined limits of this little book will not admit a complete history of the life, sufferings, miracles, crucifixion, resurrection, ascension, and all the other circumstances attending the great work our blessed Saviour came down to perform: but the following are some of the many acts, which no other than divine love and power could accomplish.

Simon's wife's mother was ill of a fever, and they entreated Jesus to go to her; he according-

ly went, and stood by her, and took her by the hand, and rebuked the fever; which immediately left her.

One day as Jesus was coming down from a mountain, a man full of leprosy, when he saw Jesus, fell on his face before him, saying, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean." Jesus had compassion on him, and said, "I will, be thou clean." And the leprosy was immediately cleansed.

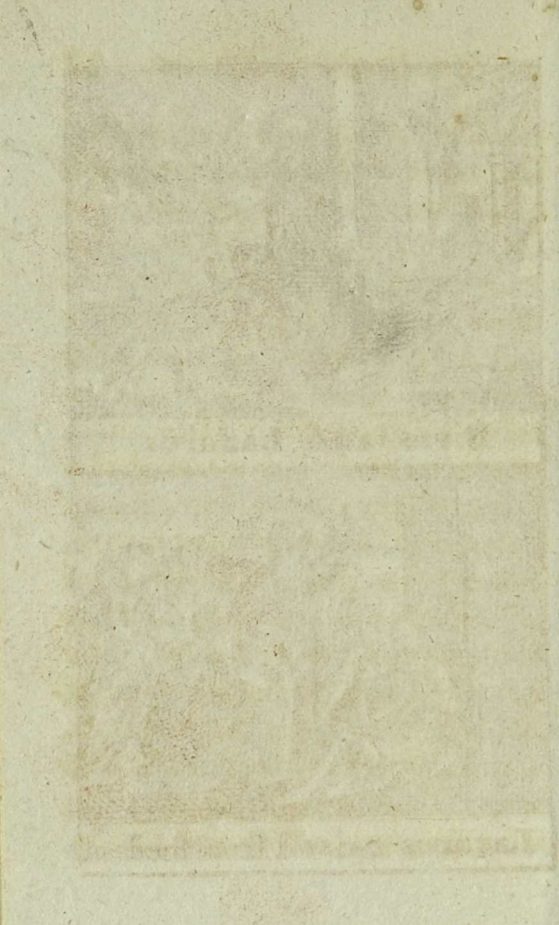
Jesus went into a synagogue on a Sabbath, and taught the people; and a man was there with a withered hand. Then he said to him, "Stand forth," so he stood forth; then Jesus



Dives and Lazarus



Lazarus raised from the dead



said, "Stretch out thy hand," and he stretched forth his hand, and it was restored perfect, like the other.

Jesus went up into a mountain to pray; in the morning he called his disciples to him, and chose out twelve, whom he called apostles, and he gave them power to heal all manner of diseases. Their names were, Simon Peter, and Andrew his brother, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, and Philip, and Bartholemew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alpheus, and Thaddeus or Judas, and Simon the Canaanite, called also Zelotes, and Judas Iscariot, who afterwards betrayed him.

Jesus was at a city called Nain, and saw a widow, whose only son was going to be buried, and he had compassion on her, and he touched the bier, and said, "Young man, I say unto thee, arise;" and he immediately arose, and stood upon his feet.

A woman, who had an issue of blood twelve years, and had spent her money upon physicians without any relief, came behind him and touched the hem of his garment; "For," thought she, "if I can but touch his clothes, I shall be healed!" Immediately the disease was cured, and she felt that she was well.

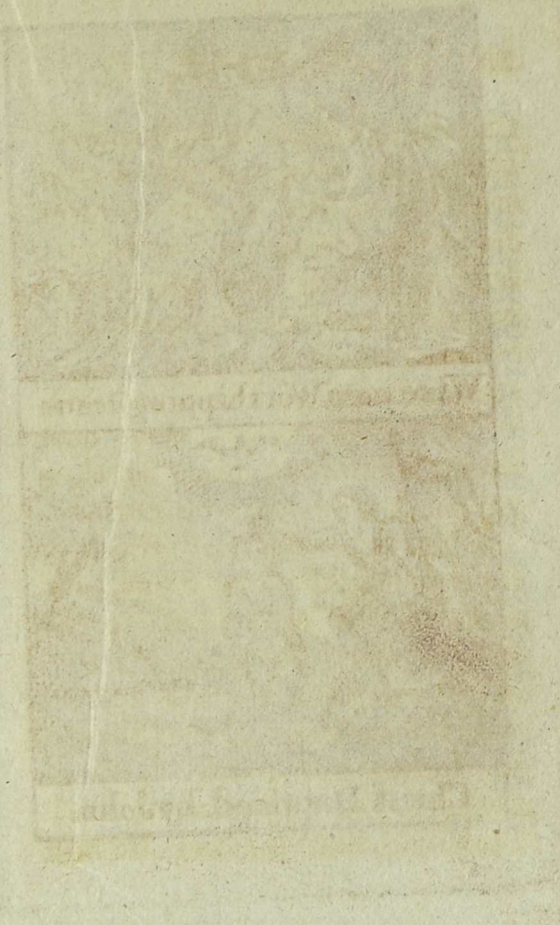
Jairus, the ruler of the synagogue, came to Jesus, and be-

sought him to come and heal his only daughter, who was dying. — Jesus went with him and when they came to the ruler's house, they found her dead; but Jesus took her hand, and said, "Damsel, I say unto thee, arise," then she arose; and those that were with her glorified God.

Jesus withdrew into a mountain to pray, but sent his disciples over the lakes; and the vessel was tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. In the morning he went to them, walking on the sea; but they, thinking it was a spirit, were terrified. Jesus said, "Be not afraid; it is I." Peter said, "If it be thou, master, bid me come to thee on

the water." Jesus said, "come." Peter got out of the vessel, and walked on the water towards Jesus; but seeing the waves very boisterous, he was afraid, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Save me, Master." Jesus stretched out his hand, and said, "Distrustful man! why dost thou fear?" As soon as they got on board, the wind ceased.

Lazarus of Bethany, the brother of Martha and Mary, was sick, and the sisters sent to tell Jesus—Now Jesus loved Martha, Mary and Lazarus; and he said to his disciples, "Let us return to Judea, our friend Lazarus sleepeth, but I go to wake him." They said, "If he sleep he will





Wise men Worshipping Jesus



Christ Baptized by John

recover." Then Jesus told them that Lazarus was dead. When they came to Bethany, Lazarus had been in the tomb four days; Mary threw herself at his feet, and said, "If thou hadst been here, Master, my brother had not died." Then Jesus said, "Where have ye laid him?" They answered, "come and see." When he came to the tomb, he prayed to God, and then, with a loud voice, he said, "Lazarus, come forth!"—And he who had been dead came forth, bound head and foot. Jesus said, "Unbind him, and let him go." Many of the Jews who were present and saw the miracle, believed on Jesus; but some of

them went to the Pharisees, and told them what he had done; then they and the chief priests assembled and said, "What shall we do, this man worketh many miracles, if we let him alone, every body will believe on him." From that day, therefore, they consulted how they might destroy him.

Meantime the passover approached, and they wondered whether or not Jesus would come to keep the festival; for the chief priests and Pharisees had ordered, that whoever knew where he was, should inform them, that they might seize him.

When Jesus was on the road to Jerusalem, he said to his 2-

postles, "We are now going to Jerusalem, where the Son of man shall be delivered to the chief priests and scribes, who will condemn him to die, and deliver him up to the Gentiles to be mocked, scourged, and crucified; but the third day he shall rise again."

When they were nigh Jerusalem, Jesus sent two of his disciples to the village opposite to fetch an ass and her colt. The disciples went, and having done what the Lord commanded, they covered the ass with their mantles, and made him ride. Many spread their mantles in the way, others cut branches from the palm trees, and strewed them in

the way, while the crowd that went before and followed after, shouted, crying, "Hosanna to the son of David, blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord."

Judas Iscariot went to the chief priests, and said, "What will ye give me, and I will deliver him to you?" They gave him thirty shekels, and he said, "The man whom I kiss is he, secure him." From that time he watched an opportunity to deliver him up.

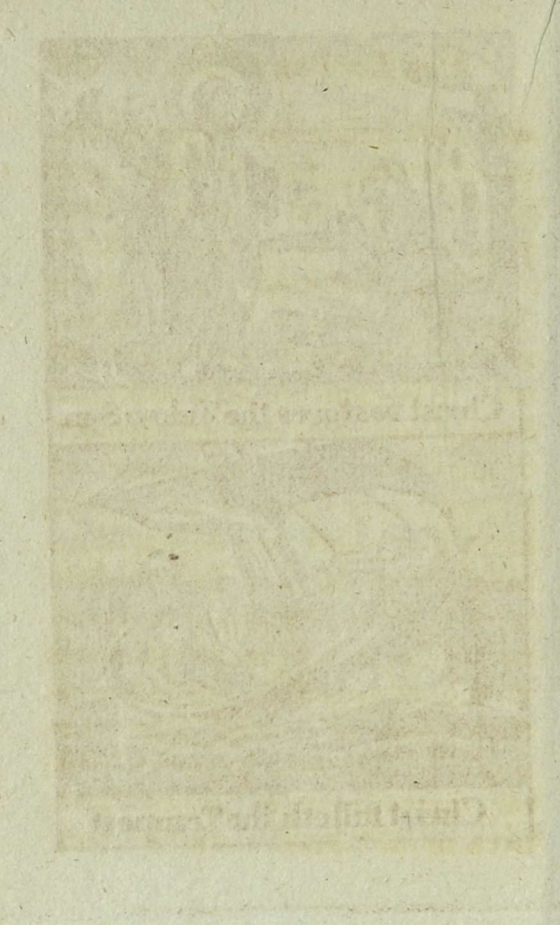
On the first day of the festival, the disciples asked Jesus where they should prepare the paschal supper; and he said, "Go into the city, where ye



Christ restores the Widow's Son.



Christ stilleth the Tempest



will meet a man carrying a pitcher of water, follow him, and wherever ye enter, prepare the passover.

In the evening, Jesus placed himself at table with the twelve; and whilst they were eating, he said, "Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall deliver me up." They were all exceeding sorrowful, and every one began to say, "Is it I?"—He answered, The man whose hand is in the dish with me, is he who betrayeth me.—The son of man departeth in the manner foretold in scripture; but woe to that man who betrayeth him—it had been better for that man not to have been born." Jesus took the loaf,

and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my body."—He then took the cup, and having given thanks, gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of it; for this is my blood, which is shed for many, for the forgiveness of sins.—Do this in remembrance of me." And after the hymn, they went to the Mount of Olives.

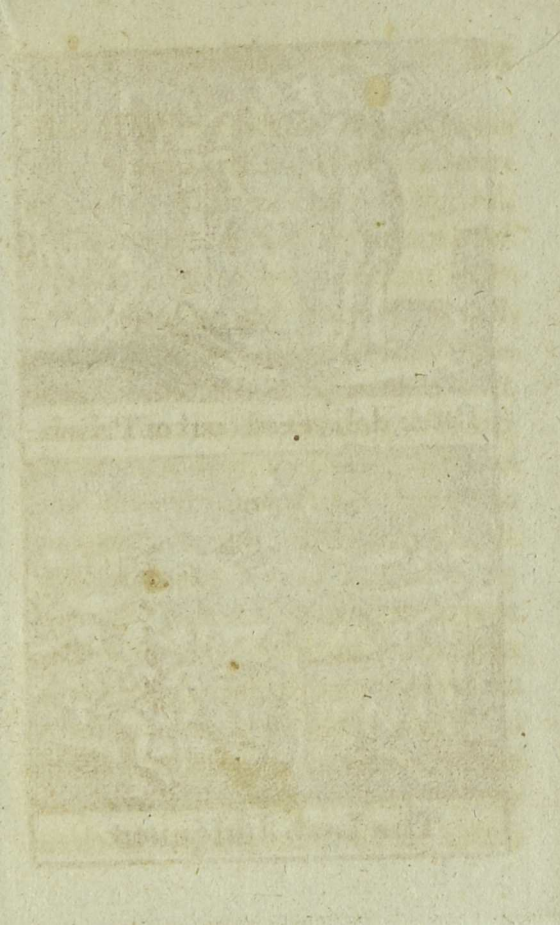
Then Jesus said to them, "This night I shall prove a stumbling stone to all of you; but after I am risen, I will go before you into Galilee." He then went with the disciples to Gethsemane; and said to them, "The hour is come, when the son of man is betrayed into the

hands of sinners.” As he said these words, Judas, with a large multitude, came up to him, and said, “Hail, Rabbi !” and kissed him. They then seized and bound him, and took him before Caiphas the High Priest; and after he had examined him, they took him to Pontius Pilate, where the false witnesses accused him; but he answered them not a word, which surprized Pilate exceedingly.

It was usual for the governor, at their great festival, to release a prisoner—Now there was a prisoner named Barabbas, who was famous for the crimes he had committed. When Pilate asked which he should release, they

cried out, "Barabbas !" He answered, "What shall I do with Jesus?" They said, "Let him be crucified !" Pilate answered, "Why, what evil hath he done?" But they cried the louder, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" When Pilate perceived he could not prevail, he took water and washed his hands before them all, saying, "I am guiltless of the blood of this innocent man, see ye to it." Then the people said, "HIS BLOOD BE ON US, AND ON OUR CHILDREN." Then Pilate delivered him to be crucified.

Then the soldiers cruelly scourged him, and crowned him with a crown of thorns, and put a rod in his hand, and mocked





Peter delivered out of Prison



The Last Judgment

him, and spit in his face, and after offering him other indignities, they nailed him to the cross, and crucified him between two thieves.

When three days had elapsed, Jesus arose from the dead, as he had foretold, and appeared unto Mary Magdalene, and the other Mary, saying, Rejoice ! be not afraid, but go tell the news to my disciples."

In the evening, when the disciples were assembled, Jesus came and stood before them, saying, "Peace be unto you. As the Father sent me, so I send you." He then asked if they had any thing to eat, and they gave him some broiled fish and

honey-comb, which he ate before them.

The eleven apostles went to Galilee, whither he commanded them, and there he appeared to them again; and when some doubted, he said, "handle me, and be convinced, for a spirit hath not flesh and blood as I have."

The last time he appeared to them, he said, "All authority is given to me in heaven and earth, and now reformation and forgiveness of sins must be proclaimed in my name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem, where ye must continue, until ye receive power from above." Then he led them as far as

Bethany, and as he was blessing them, he was parted from them, and carried up to heaven. A cloud received him out of their sight, and he sat on the right hand of God.

And all the disciples worshipped Jesus, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were constantly in the temple praising and blessing God. They continued in Jerusalem, in obedience to the commands of Jesus, until he had endowed them with the power he had promised, and then they went forth, and preached in his name to all nations and countries.

FINIS.

REFLECTIONS.

On God.

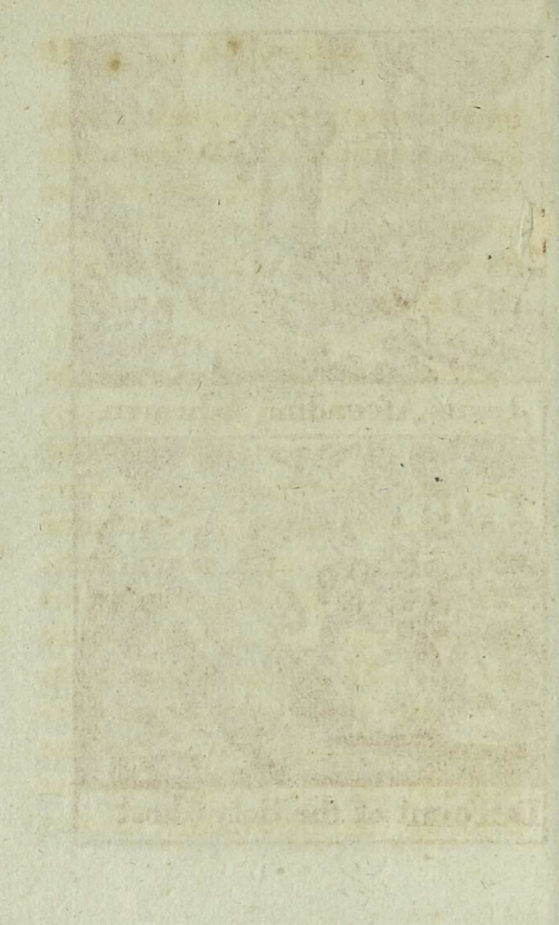
GOD is in himself, from eternity to eternity, the most perfect and blessed Being: In his substance, spiritual and eternal: in his person three united in one: In his name, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost: In his will, holy, just, merciful and true: In power, omnipotent: In wisdom, incomprehensible: a light unto which none can approach, yet all in all



Jesus Ascending to heaven



Descent of the Holy Ghost



omnipresent; the highest good, and the only inexhaustible fountain of all goodness; the creator of all things and the director, protector, preserver, and sustainer of them all.

*On the Creation of the visible
World, &c.*

The great Almighty Lord God hath revealed himself by his glorious works in the creation of the heavens and the earth, Genesis i. which he made by his eternal Word, i. e. by his only begotten Son: John iii. 2 Heb. i. 2. and the creation he performed in six days, viz. On the first day he created light; on the second, the firmament of the

heaven: on the third, the sea and the earth, with the grass, herbs, and trees; on the fourth, the sun, moon, and stars; on the fifth, fish and fowls, and on the sixth, cattle and also beasts, with the insects of various kinds. Moreover, he then created man. And though Moses makes no mention of the angelic host, expositors are of opinion, the other places in holy writ intimate that those myriads of the heavenly hierarchy which stand before the throne, were on the first day created with the light. These God formed spiritual, amicable beings, whose natures we cannot comprehend.

And on the seventh day God

rested from all his works, Gen. ii. 2, and 3. That is,—“The
“creation of all things were fi-
“nished, and the world perfect-
“ly made. This resting of God
“being spoken after the manner
“of men, implieth not any wea-
“riness in him: for the Creator
“of the ends of the earth faint-
“eth not, neither is weary, Isa.
“xl. 28. It was by the ancients
“made a symbol of the rest of
“the just from all their labours;
“when all grief, sorrow, and
“sighing shall fly away, and
“God shall be all in all.”—And
God blessed the seventh day,
and hallowed it. Gen. ii. 3.

The state of our first parents
in Paradise, and the miserable

change by their expulsion thence, for breaking the divine command, Moses relates in the 3d of Genesis, which account we are to understand literally; and should make it a matter of humiliation, that besides the temporal evils of labour, sorrow, sickness, and death, consequent on their fall, they, and all their posterity, without a Redeemer, must for ever have perished.

Notwithstanding God promised a Redeemer, yet so great was the depravity of man after the fall, that the greatest part of mankind fell into abominable idolatry; which provoked the Almighty to destroy the beauti-

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Peter Walking on the Water



The good Samaritan

ful frame of the earth, together with its wicked inhabitants, except Noah and his family, whom he found just. But the knowledge of the true God, and how he would be worshipped, was transmitted down by Adam, through the Patriarchs, before the flood: and by Noah, of the line of Seth, afterwards unto his descendants.

FINIS.

