

BS2420
.6.H67

1889

Summary of the Theological Summary

PRINCETON, N. J.

Presented by Rev Theodore S. Wymkorp

DISP. BS2420

Section. G.H67

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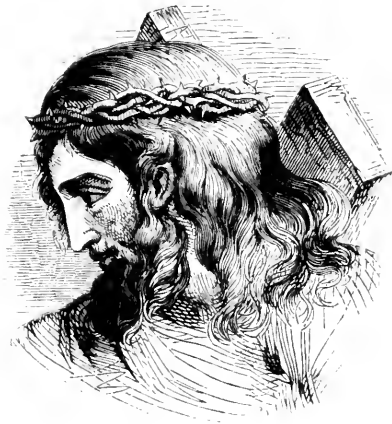
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O R LORD BEARING THE CROSS.

Enrico Lör

THE HISTORY OF



OUR BLESSED LORD.

THE HISTORY

OF

OUR BLESSED LORD,

IN EASY VERSE,

FOR YOUNG CHILDREN.

With Illustrations.

FROM THE LONDON EDITION.

NEW-YORK:

GENERAL PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL
SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION.

DEPOSITORY 20 JOHN STREET.

1845.

PREFACE TO THE AMERICAN EDITION.

THE little readers of this History should be informed, when looking at its illustrations, that we have no true likeness of our Blessed LORD, but only such representations of His person as have been conceived in the imagination of some great men, who never saw Him, but have given their whole minds to the contemplation of His divine perfections as described in the Sacred Scriptures.

But it must not be supposed, that it was ever in the power of any man to imagine the thousandth part of the beauty, and loveliness, and majesty which shone in the features of the DIVINE SAVIOUR: and it has not pleased Him that we should have them as they actually were, before our eyes. We do not know the reason; but we do know, that He who is infinite in Wisdom had a reason for it. Sufficient would it be for us, if every man and woman, and every child should strive to be like Him in character, and then, we are sure that their very countenances would grow more and more like His.

Yet, those great men just spoken of, have striven to fix in their mind such a lively sense of the SAVIOUR'S manifold perfections, as to enable them to portray upon the canvass something which should serve to excite and elevate our feebler conceptions; and for this we may well thank them, while we guard against a misunderstanding of their works, or a use of them which they did not intend.

Directions for the Plates.



OUR LORD BEARING HIS CROSS,	<i>Frontispiece.</i>
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THE
HISTORY OF OUR BLESSED LORD.
IN EASY VERSE.

I.

THE CREATION, FALL, AND FLOOD.

BEFORE the sun and moon were made,
Or earth, or sea, or sky,
Our Blessed SAVIOUR dwelt in heaven,
And reigned with God on high:

Then God the Father, God the Son,
And God the HOLY GHOST,—
One God in Three,—made all the world,
And all the heavenly host.

This earth Jehovah did create,
And all that is therein:
And what a lovely earth it was
Till cursed by Adam's sin!

But Adam fell, and brought the world
Beneath that heavy curse;
And then his sons were wicked too,
And men grew worse and worse;

Till God—preserving only Noah
In ark of gopher wood,—
Broke up the fountains of the deep
And drowned them in a flood.



II.

GOD'S MERCY.

Now though the world had thus received
A judgment from the LORD,
They still rebelled against His Name,
Nor kept His Holy Word:

For Adam's sin was in their hearts—
His curse was on them still—
And not one man that GOD had made
Obeyed His Blessed Will.

All—all were lost—and all must die!
O what would men have done
If GOD had not, to save their souls,
Sent down His only Son?

But **JESUS** from **His Father's Throne**,
Beheld, with pitying eye,
That all the world was doomed to hell,
Unless **He** came to die.

And so **He** left the joys of heaven
And all **His** angel host,
And came on this poor, wretched earth,
To save **His** creatures lost.

The Son of God, whose awful **Face**
E'en **Seraphs** dare not scan,
Came down from **His Almighty Throne**,
And made **Himself** a man.



III.

OUR LORD BORN, AND MADE KNOWN TO THE
GENTILES.

HE was a little Babe at first:—
His Virgin Mother's hands
Within a manger laid him down,
Enwrapped in swaddling bands.

There shepherds came to worship Him,
And wise men from afar,
Who travelled from a long way off,
Where they had seen His star.

And as they journeyed from the East
The star went on before,
Until its light had guided them
To Bethlehem's stable door.

And there the wise men entered in,
And did their God behold,
To whom they offered on their knees
Myrrh, frankincense, and gold.

Now Herod, Judah's wicked king,
Who wished to slay the Lord,
Had said, "When ye have found the Babe,
Be sure to bring me word."

But God forewarned them in a dream
That they should not obey;
And so, when they had worshipped Him,
They turned and went their way.



IV.

THE MURDER OF THE INNOCENTS.

WHEN Herod saw that he was mocked,
He was exceeding wroth;
And, in the fury of his heart,
He sent his soldiers forth.

And by that barbarous, wicked king
Those cruel men were told
To murder every sucking child,
And babes of two years old.

Then was the voice of Rachel heard
To mourn her hapless lot,
“Refusing to be comforted,
Because her babes were not.”

But, Rachel, do not weep for them

Upon the purple sod—

Rise up and bless those happy babes—

First martyrs for their God!



V.

OUR LORD'S FLIGHT INTO EGYPT.

Now while these little innocents
For Blessed JESUS die,
The Virgin, and her Holy Child,
In haste to Egypt fly.

God bade them go—by Him forewarned,
From Herod's sword they fled;
Nor came they back till Joseph knew
That wicked king was dead.

And then, by God's command, he came
And dwelt in Galilee,
In his own city, Nazareth,
Where he was wont to be;

That so the holy prophet's word
Accomplished might be seen,
Which said the Blessed JESUS should
Be called a Nazarene.



VI.

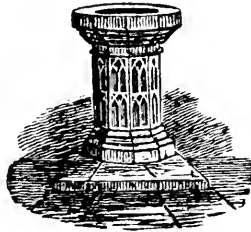
THE CHILDHOOD OF OUR LORD.

WITH Joseph and with Mary dwelt
The holy SON of GOD;
The KING of kings, the LORD of lords,
A cottage pavement trod.

St. Joseph was a humble man—
A carpenter by trade,
And yet whatever Joseph said
Our Blessed LORD obeyed.

And Mary was St. Joseph's wife,
And poor and humble too;
Yet whatso'er His mother bade
Would JESUS always do.

And thus he taught each little child,
If he would please the LORD,
That he must do his father's will,
And mind his mother's word.



VII.

OUR LORD IN THE TEMPLE.

AT twelve years old our SAVIOUR was
In wisdom much increased ;
And with His parents He went up
To worship at the Feast.

And, as they journeyed back again,
The Child they could not find,
For in His Father's house of prayer
He had remained behind.

And there, when they had sought for Him,
At last they found the LORD
Among the Doctors of the Law,
Attending to their word.

And all those aged men expressed
Amazement and surprise,
That such a lowly child should be
So learned and so wise.

Then Mary said to JESUS CHRIST,
“ Son, wherefore didst thou stay?
For we have sought Thee sorrowing
For many a weary day.”

Then JESUS answered her and said,
“ O wherefore sought ye me?
For wist ye not that I must in
My Father’s Temple be ?”

And then He rose and went with them ;
For Blessed JESUS still
Remained a meek, submissive Child,
Obedient to their will.



OUR LORD IN THE TEMPLE.

VIII.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN THE WILDERNESS.

WHEN JESUS CHRIST began to be
Near thirty years of age,
The thought of what He came to do
Would all His soul engage.

He knew He was the SON of GOD,
And that the time was come
When He must quit the Virgin's roof,
And leave His humble home.

Then, with a girdle on his loins,
And clothed in camel's hair,
St. John went forth, our SAVIOUR'S way
Before Him to prepare.

And in the wilderness he cried,
“ O wicked men, repent!
Forsake your sins, and be baptized,
For therefore am I sent.

“ And, lo, there cometh after me
One mightier than I,
The latchet of whose shoes I am
Not worthy to untie.

“ Then haste, and yield abundant fruit,
Lest ye consumed be;
The axe is laid unto the root
Of every barren tree.

“ The Master’s fan is in His hand,
And He will purge his floor;
But gather all the fruitful wheat
Within His garner door.”

IX.

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD.

BEHOLD the Day-spring from on high
That once o'er Eden shone!
CHRIST JESUS comes from Galilee
To be baptized of John.

But John replies, "Sure I have need
To be baptized of Thee!
And comest Thou, O Lamb of God,
To be baptized of me?"

Then JESUS said, "Nay let it be,
That GOD His SON may bless,
And that I may for man fulfil
The law of righteousness."

Then, where the river Jordan flows,
Our SAVIOUR entered in,
And gave the blessed water power
To wash away our sin.

And, as from out the hallowed wave
Our Gracious LORD arose,
A lovely and a wondrous sight
The heavens did disclose ;

For, lo ! they seemed to open wide
And, full of grace and love,
The Holy Spirit on His Head
Descended like a dove ;

And spake a Voice—while all around
With holy awe were seized,—
“ This is mine own beloved Son,
In whom I am well pleased.”

X.

OUR LORD'S FASTING AND TEMPTATION.

THEN went our Blessed SAVIOUR forth
Into the desert rude,
Where, with the beasts, for forty days
He dwelt in solitude.

He drank no water from the brook,
He ate no pleasant bread;
And when the forty days were past
Our SAVIOUR hungered.

And then, behold, drew nigh to Him,
There in the wilderness,
That wicked one who tempted Eve
And Adam to transgress.

The Devil came to JESUS CHRIST,
And to our SAVIOUR said,
“Now, if thou be the SON of GOD,
O turn these stones to bread!”

But JESUS answered, in reply,
“Behold, thus saith the LORD,
Man shall not live by bread alone,
But by GOD’s blessed Word.”

Yet Satan still, with wicked wiles,
Would JESUS CHRIST assail;
But all in vain he tempted Him,
For he could not prevail.

At last he took our Blessed LORD
Into a mountain high,
Whence all the kingdoms of the earth
They could at once descry.

And then the evil spirit said,
“Those glories dost thou see?
Behold, thou shalt be king of all,
If thou wilt worship me!”

These daring words of Satan gave
Our SAVIOUR such offence,
That He would suffer him no more,
But said, “Go—get thee hence!”

And so he fled, while to the LORD
Came down the Seraphim,
Who worshipped God’s own Blessed SON,
And ministered to Him.



XI.

OUR LORD IN GALILEE.—THE APOSTLES CHOSEN.

THE Tetrarch Herod, after this,
Did John the Baptist take,
And cast him into prison, for
His wife Herodias' sake.

For John had said, "It is not good
To have thy brother's wife;"
And so Herodias hated him,
And sought to take his life.

Now, while St. John in prison lay,
In sad captivity,
CHRIST JESUS from the desert came,
To preach in Galilee:

And, full of wisdom, truth, and grace,
He taught throughout the land,
And cried, "Repent—Messiah comes,
His kingdom is at hand."

Then twelve Apostles JESUS chose,
That they might with Him be :
St. Peter first, then James and John,
The sons of Zebedee ;

Philip and Andrew, faithful friends,
St. James, Alpheus' son ;
With blessed Saint Bartholomew,
That holy, guileless one ;

And Matthew, named the publican,
Who JESUS' call obeyed ;
And Simon, Thomas, and St. Jude,
And him who CHRIST betrayed :

And these twelve chosen men went forth
To journey with their LORD,
And witness all he said and did,
And preach His holy Word.





OUR LORD HEALING THE SICK

Enawol 1711

XII.

OUR LORD'S MIRACLES.

Now to Gennesaret's peopled shore
Our Blessed SAVIOUR came;
And cast out many devils there,
And healed the sick and lame:

And blinded hearts as well as eyes
From CHRIST received their sight.
"The people who in darkness sat
Beheld a glorious light."

He raised the dead to life again
By His almighty Voice;
He bade the mourner sing for joy,
The widow's heart rejoice:

Yet,—though the foxes have their holes,
And birds their downy bed,—
Our Blessed SAVIOUR had not where
To lay His gracious Head!



XIII.

OUR LORD'S PREACHING.

AND JESUS taught the multitudes,
And preached through all the land:—
Although their ears were dull to hear—
Their hearts, to understand.

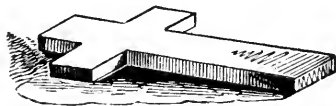
He called to Him the burdened soul—
The wearied and opprest—
“O bear My easy yoke,” He cried,
“And I will give you rest!”

He blest the poor, the sad, the meek,
The merciful, the pure,
And those who for His kingdom's sake
Revilings should endure.

But when the rich man came to Him,
He was by JESUS told
To sell his goods, and give away
His silver and his gold:

For they who follow JESUS CHRIST
Must gladly suffer loss,
They must forsake this present world
And learn to bear the Cross.

“No double heart,” our SAVIOUR said,
“Can my disciple be;
Ye must give up your life—your all,
If ye would follow Me.”



XIV.

OUR LORD TRANSFIGURED IN THE MOUNT.

ON rocky Tabor's mountain height,
As eve was stealing on,

CHRIST JESUS knelt in secret prayer
With Peter, James, and John ;

And, as He prayed, His countenance
Was changed before their sight :
His visage shone with light divine ;
His raiment glittered bright.

Then Moses and Elias came,
And with our SAVIOUR spake
Of all that He should do for men,
And suffer for their sake :

And soon a voice from heaven fell
Upon the Apostles' ear,
Which said, "This is mine only Son—
My First-begotten hear."

"O let us make three holy tents!"
The trembling Peter said;
But he knew not of what he spake,
For he was sore afraid:

And then our SAVIOUR charged them all,
When they were left alone,
To keep those wonders in their hearts,
Nor let them yet be known.



XV.

OUR LORD'S ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM.

SOON after this, our SAVIOUR left
Gennesaret's honoured shore,
To preach the Word in Jordan's plains,
Where He had been before.

And there, to meek and humble hearts,
His gospel truth He taught—
Spake many beauteous parables,
And many wonders wrought.

And now towards Jerusalem
CHRIST JESUS draweth nigh,
That feast to keep, at which the true
And real Lamb must die.

He rides upon an ass's colt,
While crowds before him run,
Who cry "Hosanna to the LORD!
Hosanna! David's Son!"

They cast their garments in the way—
With shouts they sing His praise;
But what a different cry will soon
Those fickle voices raise!

And He who hears them knows it well,
And gazes, with a sigh,
On that unhappy city, doomed
Her God to crucify!

"O Salem!" JESUS weeps, "if thou
Hadst known—yea even thou,
The things belonging to thy peace—
But they are hidden now!

“For days shall come in which thy foes
Shall compass thee around,
And keep thee in on every side,
And raze thee to the ground!”



XVI.

OUR LORD BETRAYED, AND HIS AGONY IN
THE GARDEN

IN Zion's holy Temple court
A wicked traitor stood,
Who grasped within his guilty hands
The price of guiltless blood.

'Mid Priests and Scribes assembled round,
Iscariot's voice was heard,
Which said, "For thirty pieces given,
I will betray my LORD."

Now, while their own Messiah's death
The Jewish rulers sought,
And, at the value of a slave,
The blood of JESUS bought;

OUR SAVIOUR in Gethsemane

His Spirit did prepare,
And knelt before His Father's throne
In fervency of prayer.

With bitter agony of heart,
Thrice prayed the Blessed SON;
"O Father, if it must be so,
Thy Holy will be done!"

And, as it were, great drops of blood
Fell down upon the sod,
Until an angel came from Heaven
To aid the SON of GOD.

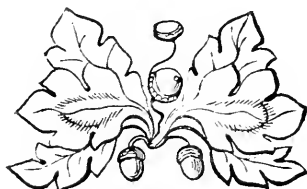
James, John, and Peter, charged by CHRIST
A careful watch to keep,
Thrice, when our SAVIOUR came to them,
Were found by Him asleep.

“What! could ye not one hour watch?”

Our meek Redeemer said;

“Rest, now, ye sleepers;—yet arise—

Behold we are betrayed!”



XVII.

OUR LORD BEFORE HEROD.

WHILE yet He spake, the traitor came
With lantern, staff, and sword,
Surrounded by a band of men,
To take our Blessed LORD;

“Hail, Master!” with a kiss, he cried;
But JESUS mildly said,
“O Judas! with a kiss of peace
Is JESUS CHRIST betrayed?”

As lions fasten on a lamb,
They seized upon their prey;
And to the house of Caiaphas
They led our LORD away.

And thence to Pilate's judgment-seat,
And thence to Herod's court,
Where hired men with perjured tongues
Proclaimed their false report.

Then Herod, with his men of war,
Set JESUS CHRIST at nought,
And clothed Him in a royal robe
With gorgeous colours wrought.

They scoffed Him—though in silence meek
Each cruel taunt was borne,—
And sent Him back to Pilate's hall,
With mockery and scorn.





OUR LORD MOCKED.

Indirect Job

“Thou art, if this man be set free,
No friend to Cæsar’s crown.”

Then Pilate was the more afraid;
Again he sat him down.

“Art thou a King?”—but JESUS made
No answer in reply.

The people grew more loud and fierce,
The tumult waxed high.

In purple robe, and crowned with thorns,
Our Blessed SAVIOUR stood,
A patient Lamb ’mid angry wolves
Who thirsted for His Blood.

Then Pilate washed his hands, and said,
“Look to it as ye can,
I will not take upon myself
The Blood of this Just Man.”

“ His Blood be on our children’s heads!”
The blinded sinners cry—
“ Release Barabbas unto us,
And JESUS crucify!”



XIX.

OUR LORD BEARS HIS CROSS.

CHRIST is condemned—blood thirsty-hands
Seize on the Lamb of God ;
They smite, they buffet Him with scorn,
They scourge Him with the rod.

The purple robe with deeper hue
His precious Blood doth stain :
They pluck it off—and put His own
Mean raiment on again.

And then, with hardened hearts of stone
That cannot feel remorse,
They lay on His enfeebled Form
The burden of the Cross :

But JESUS sinks beneath its weight,
And Simon standing by,
They bid him bear it after Him
To fatal Calvary.

Then wept the daughters of the land
That cruel sight to see :
But JESUS, turning to them, said,
“ O do not weep for Me !

“ Weep for yourselves and for your babes—
For awful days are nigh ;
If fire consumes the growing tree,
How shall it burn the dry ? ”



XX.

OUR LORD CRUCIFIED.

BESIDE His Cross, in Golgotha,
The world's Redeemer stands ;
Rough soldiers pierce with iron nails
His blessed Feet and Hands ;

They lay Him down upon the Cross ;
They nail Him to the wood ;
Then raise Him groaning from the earth
All crimson with His Blood.

“Father, forgive them !” JESUS cried,
“They know not what they do.”
Then on his mother, standing by,
A pitying glance He threw.

To His own best-beloved He spake,
“Behold thy mother, John!”
And to the weeping Mary said,
“Woman, behold thy SON!”

Two robbers near our SAVIOUR’S CROSS
On either side were hung;
One railed upon the SON of God,
With foul, blaspheming tongue;
But, full of faith, the other cried,
“My GOD, I trust in Thee!
When to Thy kingdom Thou shalt come,
O LORD, remember me.”

Upon that penitent in heart
The SAVIOUR turns His eyes,
“Yea, thou shalt be, this very day,
With me in Paradise!”

“I thirst!” then said our dying LORD—
They raised the bitter cup;—
He bowed His Head.—For sinful man
The CHRIST is offered up.

Then was the sun to sackcloth turned—
Thick darkness wrapped the plain;
The rocks were rent;—the Temple shook;
Her veil was reft in twain.

The trembling soldier at his post
Fell prostrate on the sod,
And, pale with terror, cried aloud,
“This was the SON of GOD!”



XXI.

OUR SAVIOUR BURIED.

Now, when the eventide was come
 Before the Sabbath day,—
Because upon the accursed tree
 The bodies might not stay ;
To Pontius Pilate Joseph came,
 And prayed he might receive
His leave to take our SAVIOUR down ;
 So Pilate gave him leave.
Then he and Nicodemus went,
 With aloes, myrrh, and spice,
And linen cloths in which to wrap
 The Holy Sacrifice ;

And from His Cross, with reverent hands,
Took down the Blessed Son,
And wound within the linen cloths
Jehovah's Holy One.

Now, there was nigh unto the Cross
A sepulchre, or cave—
The which they chose, as near at hand,
For our Redeemer's grave.

And there,—while warm and bitter tears
Adown their faces ran,—
With pious love and holy awe
They laid the Son of Man.

The wicked Jews, remembering then
How JESUS CHRIST had said,
That, though they slew Him, He should rise
The third day from the dead,



OUR LORD'S BURIAL.

Enlèvement 116

Prayed Pilate to seal up the cave,
And place a faithful guard
Of Roman soldiers at its mouth,
To keep strict watch and ward.

And so they did;—while near them stood,
And gazed upon the scene,
Mary, the wife of Cleophas,
And Mary Magdalene.

These women saw, with anguished hearts,
Where JESUS' Body lay—
Then spice and ointment they prepared,
And kept the Sabbath day.



XXII.

OUR LORD'S RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD.

Now, on the first day of the week,
While yet the moon was high,
And dawn had scarce begun to streak
Judea's Eastern sky;

The pious Marys left their home,
In darkness and in gloom,
With spice and ointment in their hands,
To seek their SAVIOUR'S tomb.

And now, behold, it came to pass,
On that eventful morn,
As drew the Sabbath near its end
And light began to dawn,

A fearful tremor shook the ground—
Earth trembled from below—
And came an angel down from heaven
In raiment white as snow.

With might he rolled away the stone
Upon the cavern laid:—
At sight of him the keepers fled—
For they were sore afraid:

And, as he sat beside the grave,
With countenance like flame,
Forth from the city to the tomb
The pious Marys came.

Then greatly feared they—till he spake,
And gently to them said—
“Ye seek the LORD; but He is risen—
Behold where He was laid!

“And now to His disciples haste,
And tell how ye have heard
That CHRIST is risen from the dead,
According to His Word.”



XXIII.

OUR LORD'S ASCENSION INTO HEAVEN.

UPON the morn that JESUS rose,
He first of all was seen
Beside His holy sepulchre,
By Mary Magdalene.

And then He showed Himself at last
To all the blest eleven,
As they were sitting at their meat
The self-same day at even.

For forty days with those he loved
Our Blessed LORD remained,
And taught them all the wondrous things
That to His Church pertained;

Then led them out to Bethany—
And, after He had given
His choicest blessing to them all,
Ascended up to Heaven.

And there, at the right hand of God,
With angel hosts around,
Our SAVIOUR CHRIST in glory sits
Until the trump shall sound—

That awful trumpet that will fill
The sinner's heart with dread,
When JESUS CHRIST shall come again
To judge the quick and dead.

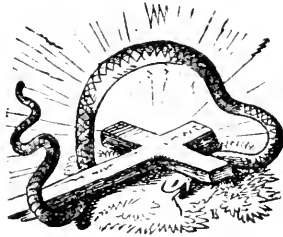
Now glory be unto the Lamb
For our salvation slain!
All glory to the SON of GOD
Who died and rose again!

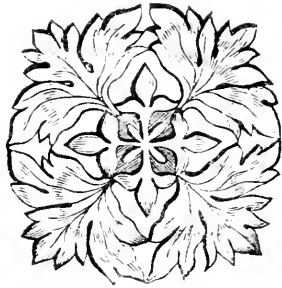


OUR LORD ASCENDING TO HEAVEN

Engraved by J. G. Kneller

To FATHER, SON, and HOLY GHOST,
Be highest glory given,
From all the Church throughout the world,
And all the Saints in Heaven!





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