



The Church of the First Three Centuries

Alvan Lamson

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This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can usually download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1865 edition. Excerpt: ...In his tenth Homily on Luke, he says expressly that the advent of Christ " profited celestials "; and, in support of the assertion, refers to Col. i. 20. In his first Homily on Leviticus, he speaks of a " double sacrifice " and " double victim"; of the blood of Christ sprinkled on the earthly, and also on the "supernal" altar; and he asserts explicitly, that he was "offered a victim, not only for terrestrial, but also for celestial beings "; and more to the same purpose. Again: in his Commentary on the Epistle to the Romans, he says, "So great was the efficacy of Christ's cross and death, that it was sufficient, not only for the human race, but for celestial powers and orders. For, according to the sentiment of the Apostle Paul, Christ pacificated, by the blood of his cross, not only " things in earth," but also "things in heaven "; that is, angels, sun, moon, and stars. Again: "He is the great High Priest, who offered himself, not only for men, but also for every being partaking of reason; he died not only for men, but likewise for other rational beings; he tasted death for every creature; for it is absurd to say that he tasted death for human sins, but not also for whatever other beings, besides man, have committed sin; for example, for the stars, the stars not being pure in his sight, as we read in Job xxv. 5, 'Yea, even the stars are not pure in his (God's) sight'; unless, perchance, this is said hyperbolically."f Such, according to Origen, was the extent of the redemption through Christ. To Origen's general principle, that the souls of men were shut up in bodies as a punishment for sins committed in a preexistent state, he admits a few exceptions....

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