

NAPOLEON, ON THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST¹

“I know men, and I tell you Jesus Christ was not a man. Superficial minds see a resemblance between Christ and the founders of empires and the gods of other religions. **That resemblance does not exist.** There is between Christianity and other religions the distance of infinity. Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne and myself founded empires. But on what did we rest the creations of our genius? Upon sheer force. **Jesus Christ alone founded His empire upon love; and at this hour millions of men will die for Him.** In every other existence but that of Christ how many imperfections! From the first day to the last He is the same; majestic and simple; infinitely firm and infinitely gentle. **He proposes to our faith a series of mysteries and commands with authority that we should believe them, giving no other reason than those tremendous words, ‘I am God.’**

“**The Bible contains a complete series of acts and of historical men to explain time and eternity, such as no other religion has to offer. If it is not the true religion, one is very excusable in being deceived; for everything in it is grand and worthy of God.** The more I consider the Gospel, the more I am assured that there is nothing there which is not beyond the march of events and above the human mind. Even the impious themselves have never dared to deny the sublimity of the Gospel, which inspires them with a sort of compulsory veneration. **What happiness that Book procures for those who believe it!**”²

“Napoleon, in his last days, turned to the Scriptures to find the meaning of life, which he had not found in all of his fame, and discovered who Jesus was. He said to [his] General Bertrand, who was an atheist,

‘I know men; and I tell you that Jesus Christ is not a man...Between Him and whoever else in the world, there is no possible term of comparison. He is truly a Being by Himself. Bertrand, if you do not perceive that Jesus Christ is God, very well: then I did wrong to make you a general.’”³

¹ Compiled by Mike Edwards

² R. A. Torrey, A. C. Dixon, et al, “*The Fundamentals*” chapter xxvi (Baker Book House: Grand Rapids, MI, 1970 reprint from the original 1917 edition), p. 364

³ D. James Kennedy, “*Truths that Transform*” (Fleming H. Revell Company: Old Tappan, NJ, 1974), p. 60