

Son of God. Who saw the dove? Who heard the voice, except you and another who suffered as you suffered? The prophets have foretold that a Son of God is to come. Granted. But how are we to know that they referred to you? They spoke of a glorious king who was to reign over the world. You we know only as wandering about with publicans and boatmen of abandoned character.¹ You tell us that the wise men of the East came at your birth to adore you;² that they gave notice to Herod, and that Herod killed all the children in Bethlehem, to prevent you from becoming king. You yourself escaped by going to Egypt. Is this story true? and if it be, could not the angels who had been busy about your birth have protected you at home? When you grew up, what did you accomplish remarkable? What did you say? We challenged you in the Temple to give us a sign as your credential. You had none to give. You cured diseases, it is said; you restored dead bodies to life;

¹ Origen thinks that Celsus must have gathered this from an Epistle of Barnabas, where the Apostles are spoken of as *ὕπὲρ πᾶσαν ἁμαρτίαν ἀνομώτεροι*.

² Origen says the wise men

were magicians. Their power depended on some spirit or spirits. It ceased suddenly when Christ was born, and they thus knew that something wonderful had happened.