**Foreword to the 1922 Edition**

During his lifetime, Friedrich Zündel’s books were known only to a small circle of readers. His Jesus book did go into a second edition shortly after publication, but no more followed, and the first edition of “Aus der Apostelzeit” is still not sold out. Moreover, official theology has taken no notice of his works dealing with the New Testament. The important book by Albert Schweitzer on “The Quest of the Historical Jesus” does not mention his name at all and neither does Weinel’s work “Jesus in the 19th Century”. This in spite of the fact that in Zündel’s works one would have found that which theology, after many detours, was only beginning to have a presentiment of: the confident sense of the reality of the message from the kingdom of God and an interpretation of the gospels much more commensurate with this than that which could be given by the modern images of Jesus. In addition to this, Zündel quietly and unnoticed exerted a beneficial and momentous effect. He gave the groups gathering around ***Bad Boll*** a summarized picture of biblical insight such as was manifested by the two Blumhardts. In their own ways, ***Lhotzky***, and presumably also Johannes ***Müller***, drew rich stimulation from him; and the liberated and liberating movement, originating with Hermann ***Kutter***, had mainly Zündel to thank for its perception of the Apostolic Age. It is therefore not surprising that today, where a longing for new and more profound knowledge of the Bible is making itself felt, that Zündel’s books are also once again in demand. Over the past few years, thousands of readers in Germany have read his ***Blumhardt*** biography. He himself states that in the ***factual*** area the biography finds its completion in the “Jesus book”. Herein, without more ado, lies the justification for this new edition.

Today, weary with the “historical” images of Jesus, one strives for the knowledge of the “recondite world” of the gospels. Those searching for this will not be able to ignore Zündel’s work. He truly has an understanding of “that which is hidden”, but his call is away from any gnosis and towards the Bible. The multitudes who look expectantly and with longing towards Boll and Möttlingen will be cured of all “Blumhardt Renaissance” and equally from all premature Pentecostalism by this sober, factual book – its spirituality proved precisely by this sobriety. That Zündel came through all things personal and public to struggle for insight into God’s kingdom which had shone forth to him from Blumhardt’s mission shows the value of his books and their renewed, not outdated, significance for our times. We are publishing his book in its entirety without changing any part with which we are not in agreement. When all his writings find understanding then the readers themselves will make an effort to engross themselves in the Bible, which is why we are issuing the unchanged text of the second edition of this book from 1885. The orthography has been adapted to what is customary today except in the cases where an idiosyncrasy has a distinctive meaning, then it has been retained. However, those comments that pertain purely to exegetical details have been left out. The interested reader will find them in the comments of ***von*** ***Hofmann***, whom Zündel adhered to as a “great scholar” due to his “microscopically faithful examination of the original texts” and his “reserve with regard to all merely fantastic mysticism”. On the other hand we have added a comprehensive passages index to the book. It contains not only the passages mentioned explicitly in the text but also gives an overview of any passages mentioned from the Old and the New Testaments. My friends Julius Stockmeier and Theodor Ellwein assisted with the creating of the index and with the revision. May this book now go out to undertake the task it was once written for. If we have interpreted the signs of the times correctly that many are waiting for it, then, in spite of superficial difficulties, “Aus der Apostelzeit” should follow soon.

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*Georg Merz*