

## Alexander Maclaren (1826—1910)

Alexander Maclaren grew up in Glasgow, Scotland, where he was born in 1826. His Christian father encouraged him to become a minister, and at age sixteen he entered Stepney College, a Baptist school. Three years later he graduated from London University. He began pastoring a church in Southampton when he was twenty (in 1846) and remained there twelve years. In 1858 he was called to pastor Union Chapel in Manchester, England, where he served until his death in 1910.

Thousands came to hear his deep, thorough Bible expositions. He was honored during those years with Doctor of Divinity degrees from the Universities of Glasgow and Edinburgh. He twice served as president of the Baptist World Congregation.

Maclaren's life was consumed with the preparation and delivery of sermons. He was a profound Bible scholar and a prolific writer. His Bible commentaries are read and studied throughout the English-speaking world. Maclaren possessed an excellent English style and has probably been read more than any other preacher except Charles Spurgeon. He spent long hours in study, often devoting two hours daily to studying the Bible in the original languages. Although he spent many hours in preparation, he always spoke without notes and became one of the most outstanding orators of his day.

