

Patristics and Allegory



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Patristics

Latin Church Fathers (selective) and Doctors of the Church

c. 160–c. 225	Tertullian
c. 340–397	Ambrose
c. 347–420	Jerome
354–430	Augustine of Hippo
c. 540–604	Gregory the Great
c. 560–636	Isidore of Seville
672/673–735	Bede

Ambrose's Old Testament Writings

- ▶ *Hexameron*
- ▶ *De Helia et ieiunio*
- ▶ *De Iacob et vita beata*
- ▶ *De Abraham*
- ▶ *De Cain et Abel*
- ▶ *De Ioseph*
- ▶ *De Isaac vel anima*
- ▶ *De Noe*
- ▶ *De interpellatione Iob et David*
- ▶ *De patriarchis*
- ▶ *De Tobia*
- ▶ *Explanatio psalmorum*
- ▶ *Explanatio symboli*

Jerome's Old Testament Writings

- ▶ **Vulgate Bible** and prologues
- ▶ *Commentarius in Ecclesiasten*
- ▶ *Commentarii in Isaiam*
- ▶ *Commentarii in Ieremiam* (unfinished)
- ▶ *Commentarii in Ezechielem*
- ▶ *Commentarii in Danielem*
- ▶ Commentaries on each of the minor prophets
- ▶ *Quaestiones hebraicae in Genesim*
- ▶ *De tribus quaestionibus veteris legis*
- ▶ *De seraphim*
- ▶ *De voce Osanna*
- ▶ *Liber interpretationis Hebraicorum nominum*
- ▶ *Liber locorum*
- ▶ *Tractatus septem in Psalmos 10-16*

Augustine of Hippo's Old Testament Writings

- ▶ *De civitate Dei*
- ▶ *De Genesi ad litteram libri duodecim*
- ▶ *De Genesi ad litteram imperfectus liber*
- ▶ *De Genesi contra Manichaeos*
- ▶ *Enarrationes in Psalmos*

Gregory the Great's Old Testament Writings

- ▶ *Moralia, sive Expositio in Iob*
- ▶ *Homiliae in Ezechielem*
- ▶ *Expositiones in Canticum canticorum*
- ▶ *Expositiones in Librum primum regum*
- ▶ *Expositio in septem Psalmos paenitentiales*

- ▶ (*Cura pastoralis*)
- ▶ (*Dialogii*)

Bede's Old Testament Writings

- ▶ *Commentarii in principium Genesis*
- ▶ *De tabernaculo*
- ▶ *In Samuelem*
- ▶ *In libros Regum quaestiones XXX*
- ▶ *De templo Salomonis*
- ▶ *In Ezram et Nehemiam*
- ▶ *In proverbia Salomonis*
- ▶ *In Cantica canticorum*
- ▶ *In Canticum Habacuc*
- ▶ *Interpretatio Psalterii*
- ▶ *In librum Tobiae*
- ▶ *?In Pentateuchum*

- ▶ (*Historia ecclesiastica gentis Anglorum*)

Patristic Agendas

Often directed against certain doctrines deemed heretical:

Manichaeism (ss. III-V) A religion in its own right, involving dualism between a good and an evil principle. Augustine was a Manichaean before he converted to Catholicism, then engaged in polemics against Manichaean doctrines.

Arianism (s. IV) The Son had a beginning and is not equipotent to the Father. Popular among the Vandals, Goths, and Langobards.

Pelagianism (s. V) Humans can freely choose between good and evil without the intervention of grace. Augustine was among those taking position against this doctrine.

As such, patristic literature in tandem with the synods came to determine official Church positions.

Allegory

Ohly, “Vom geistigen Sinn des Wortes im Mittelalter” (1959)

The *Dialogues* of Gregory the Great

- ▶ A work on saintly miracles in sixth-century Italy
- ▶ Dialectical in form
- ▶ Book IV concerns “death, the afterlife, and the nature of the human soul” (Thomas 2017, 206).

The Dialectical Method

Classical dialectic



Plato's Socrates



Boethius



early medieval dialectic (Gregory)



scholasticism (Thomas Aquinas) and the academic disputation

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