

The Image of God in the Theology of Gregory of Nazianzus

Gregory of Nazianzus, known best for his Christology and Trinitarian doctrine, presents an incomparable vision of the image of God. In this book, Gabrielle Thomas offers a close analysis of his writings and demonstrates how Nazianzen depicts both the nature and experience of the image of God throughout his corpus. She argues that Nazianzen's vision of the human person as an image of God is understood best in light of biblical and extra-biblical themes. To establish the breadth of his approach, Thomas analyses the image of God against the backdrop of Nazianzen's beliefs about Christology, Pneumatology, creation, sin, spiritual warfare, ethics and theosis. Interpreted accordingly, Nazianzen offers a dynamic and multifaceted account of the image of God, which has serious implications both for Cappadocian studies and contemporary theological anthropology.

Gabrielle Thomas is a postdoctoral research associate at Durham University and a priest in the Church of England, serving as a Minor Canon in Durham Cathedral. Her articles have appeared in *Scottish Journal of Theology*, *Studia Patristica*, *Exchange*, and *A Forum for Theology in the World*.

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I too am also an *eikon* of God . . . you should worship me
Εἰκὼν εἶμι καὶ αὐτὸς Θεοῦ . . . σύ με προσκύνησον
Gregory of Nazianzus, *On Baptism*, Oration 40.10

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Preface

‘Why choose Gregory of Nazianzus?’ I have lost count of the times I have been asked this question, often accompanied by a mystified expression on the face of the enquirer. On more than one occasion I have asked myself, ‘Why have I chosen to spend so many years exploring, translating, and grappling with the work of this particular theologian?’ Like many before me, who have delved into these texts, I resonate with Gregory’s writing. He theologises on Scripture, doctrine, pastoral care, prayer, and faith within the context of his own experience. Gregory’s love of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, radiates through the pages of his work and is contagious. The more time I spend in his company, the more I find myself aspiring to be a good theologian.

This book represents the culmination of nearly a decade of research; no reader would thank me for acknowledging the generosity of every person who has contributed to its formation and completion. I am thankful for the friends and near-strangers who have given invaluable feedback on my ideas, commented on translations, read through drafts, provided encouragement, and more.

The seeds of this book began during my training for ordained ministry in the Church of England. Desiring to continue to explore Gregory’s theological anthropology, I pursued doctoral work at the University of Nottingham. During this time, I was funded fully by the Church of England Research Degrees Panel, the Sylvanus Lysons Trust, and St Luke’s Trust. I am grateful for their support, which allowed me the luxury of being a full-time researcher.

My supervisor, Mary Cunningham, went far beyond the call of duty at every stage of my research and writing. The fellowship and friendship we

shared through reading ancient texts together contributed significantly both to my academic and spiritual formation. My other supervisors, Simon Oliver and Alison Milbank, provided essential, critical feedback whilst demonstrating what it means to be a scholar-priest.

Crispin Fletcher-Louis, Ben Fulford, Nick Wilshere, Suzanne Abrams Rebillard, Ian Paul and Mark Cartledge gave particularly helpful advice at various stages of the research. Fr. Andrew Louth, Scot Ray Douglass, Dragoş Giulea, Sophie Cartwright and Alistair McFadyen kindly shared unpublished work with me, which made the research run more smoothly. Thanks also to Terry J. Wright, Alex Williams, Carole Schultz, Lavinia Cerioni, and Judy Nesbit. Long conversations with Tarah Van de Wiele prevented me from becoming a curator of the texts. I am grateful to her and her husband Brady for the open door to their home in Nottingham during the two years I was based near London, making trips back and forth.

Fr. John Behr made the journey from Crestwood, New York to examine the thesis. I have long been influenced by his work and value his support. Along with Simeon Zahl, my other discerning examiner, he encouraged me to pursue publication; both shared valuable insights that contributed to the revision.

I moved from Nottingham to an equally rich and rewarding time at Durham University, working as a Postdoctoral Research Associate within the Centre for Catholic Studies. I am grateful for the funding from the National Board of Catholic Women and The Caulfield Foundation, which made this possible. During this period, I have continued to develop the book, receiving excellent advice from Karen Kilby and Lewis Ayres. Encouragement from them ensured that I saw the manuscript through to completion (although, is a book ever really finished!?). My thanks also to Beatrice Rehl and the editorial team at CUP.

Finally, my family. I am so very thankful for a mother and father who raised me to believe that almost anything is possible through prayer and perseverance. This belief has served me well through hitting the troughs of research, writing, and editing. My sister, whose belief in my abilities far exceeds reality, has refused to collaborate with me when I have doubted my ability to complete this book.

My husband, Matthew, has been a longsuffering companion from the day I first enthused about Gregory's theology. He has consistently cheered me on every step of the way; he has listened to ideas, read countless drafts, and allowed generously Gregory into almost every aspect of our life together. As an image of God, Matthew is indeed 'divine'. I dedicate this book to him.

Abbreviations

PRIMARY TEXTS

Carm.	Carmen (Poem)
Ep.	Epistula (Letter)
Or.	Oratio (Oration)

ANCIENT SOURCES

Athanasius	<i>De Incarn.</i>	<i>De Incarnatione</i>
	<i>Vit. Ant.</i>	<i>Vita Antonii</i>
	<i>Ep. Serap.</i>	<i>Epistulae ad Serapionem</i>
Basil	<i>Hex. Hom.</i>	<i>Homiliae in Hexaemeron</i>
Clement of Alexandria	<i>Paed.</i>	<i>Paedagogus</i>
	<i>Strom.</i>	<i>Stromata</i>
Didymus the Blind	<i>In Gen.</i>	<i>In Genesim</i>
Gregory Nyssen	<i>Op. Hom.</i>	<i>De opificio hominis</i>
Herodotus	<i>Hist.</i>	<i>Histories</i>
Homer	<i>Il.</i>	<i>Iliad</i>
Irenaeus	<i>Dem.</i>	<i>Demonstration of the Apostolic Preaching</i>
	<i>Haer.</i>	<i>Adversus haereses</i>
Josephus	<i>Ant.</i>	<i>Jewish Antiquities</i>
Justin Martyr	<i>1 Apol.</i>	<i>Apologia 1</i>
	<i>Dial. Tryph.</i>	<i>Dialogus cum Tryphone</i>
Origen	<i>Cels.</i>	<i>Contra Celsum</i>

	<i>Comm. Jn.</i>	<i>Commentariū in evangelium Joannis</i>
	<i>Dial.</i>	<i>Dialogus cum Heraclide</i>
	<i>Hom. Gen.</i>	<i>Homiliae in Genesim</i>
	<i>Princ.</i>	<i>De Principiis</i>
Pausanias	<i>Descr.</i>	<i>Descriptio Graeciae</i>
Philo	<i>Opif.</i>	<i>De opificio mundi</i>
	<i>Her.</i>	<i>Quis rerum divinarum heres sit</i>
	<i>Leg. I, 2, 3</i>	<i>Legum allegoriae I, II, III</i>
	<i>Spec. I, 2, 3, 4</i>	<i>De specialibus legibus I, II, III, IV</i>
Plato	<i>Crat.</i>	<i>Cratylus</i>
	<i>Gorg.</i>	<i>Gorgias</i>
	<i>Phaed.</i>	<i>Phaedo</i>
	<i>Resp.</i>	<i>Respublica</i>
	<i>Soph.</i>	<i>Sophista</i>
	<i>Symp.</i>	<i>Symposium</i>
	<i>Theaet.</i>	<i>Theaetetus</i>
	<i>Tim.</i>	<i>Timaeus</i>
Plutarch	<i>Princ. Iner.</i>	<i>Ad principem ineruditum</i>
Socrates	<i>HE</i>	<i>Historia Ecclesiastica</i>
Suetonius	<i>Aug.</i>	<i>Divus Augustus</i>
Tertullian	<i>Marc.</i>	<i>Adversus Marcionem</i>

SECONDARY LITERATURE

ABD	Anchor Bible Dictionary
ACO	<i>Acta Conciliorum Oecumenicorum</i>
ANRW	Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt: Geschichte und Kultur Roms im Spiegel der neueren Forschung
BLE	<i>Bulletin de littérature ecclésiastique</i>
BM	<i>Benediktinische Monatsschrift zur Pflege religiösen und geistigen Lebens</i>
BSK	Beiträge zum Studium der Kirchenväter
BZAW	Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft
BZNW	Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft
CBAA	Catholic Biblical Association of America
CBQMS	Catholic Biblical Quarterly Monograph Series
CBOTS	Coniectanea Biblica Old Testament Series
CCSA	Corpus Christianorum Series Apocryphorum

List of Abbreviations

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CMC	Cambridge Medieval Classics
CRAI	<i>Comptes rendus de l'Académie des inscriptions et belles-Lettres</i>
CSR	<i>Christian Scholars Review</i>
DOP	<i>Dumbarton Oaks Papers</i>
GELS	A Greek-English Lexicon of the Septuagint
GOTR	<i>Greek Orthodox Theological Review</i>
GRBS	<i>Greek, Roman, and Byzantine Studies</i>
HTR	<i>Harvard Theological Review</i>
ITQ	<i>Irish Theological Quarterly</i>
JANER	<i>Journal of Ancient Near Eastern Religion</i>
JBL	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>
JEA	<i>Journal of Egyptian Archaeology</i>
JECS	<i>Journal of Early Christian Studies</i>
JHP	<i>Journal of the History of Philosophy</i>
JJS	<i>Journal of Jewish Studies</i>
JSNT	<i>Journal for the Study of the New Testament</i>
JSOT	<i>Journal for the Study of the Old Testament</i>
JSP	<i>Journal for the Study of Pseudepigrapha</i>
JSPSS	<i>Journal for the Study of Pseudepigrapha Supplement Series</i>
JTS	<i>Journal of Theological Studies</i>
LCL	Loeb Classical Library
LSJ	Liddell, Scott and Jones' <i>A Greek-English Lexicon</i>
MIT	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
MSR	Mélanges de science religieuse
NETS	New English Translation of the Septuagint
NIGTC	The New International Greek Testament Commentary
NSBT	<i>New Studies in Biblical Theology</i>
NTS	<i>New Testament Studies</i>
NPNF	Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers
OTL	Old Testament Library
OUP	Oxford University Press
PBR	<i>Patristic and Byzantine Review</i>
PG	Patrologia graeca [= Patrologiae cursus completus: Series graeca]. Edited by J.-P. Migne. 162 vols. Paris, 1857–1886
PGL	<i>Patristic Greek Lexicon</i>
PIOL	<i>Publications de l'Institut Orientaliste de Louvain</i>
PPS	Popular Patristics Series
PUF	Presses Universitaires de France
RAC	<i>Reallexikon für Antike und Christentum</i>

SC	Sources Chrétiennes
SGKA	Studien zur Geschichte und Kultur des Altertums
<i>SJT</i>	<i>Scottish Journal of Theology</i>
SVTP	Studia in Veteris Testamenti Pseudepigrapha
<i>TB</i>	<i>Tyndale Bulletin</i>
TFC	The Fathers of the Church
TLG	Thesaurus Linguae Graecae
<i>TDNT</i>	<i>Theological Dictionary of the New Testament</i>
VC	<i>Vigiliae Christianae</i>
<i>SVTQ</i>	<i>St. Vladimir's Theological Quarterly</i>
WBC	Word Biblical Commentary
ZAC	<i>Zeitschrift für Antikes Christentum</i>
ZAW	<i>Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft</i>