

THE CHRISTIAN INVENTION OF TIME

Time is integral to human culture. Over the last two centuries people's relationship with time has been transformed through industrialization, trade and technology. But the first such life-changing transformation – under Christianity's influence – happened in late antiquity. It was then that time began to be conceptualized in new ways, with discussion of eternity, life after death and the end of days. Individuals also began to experience time differently: from the sevenday week to the order of daily prayer and the festal calendar of Christmas and Easter. With trademark flair and versatility, world-renowned classicist Simon Goldhill uncovers this change in thinking. He explores how it took shape in the literary writing of late antiquity and how it resonates even today. His bold new cultural history will appeal to scholars and students of classics, cultural history, literary studies and early Christianity alike.

SIMON GOLDHILL is Professor of Greek at the University of Cambridge and a Fellow of King's College, as well as Foreign Secretary of the British Academy. He is one of the best-known classicists of his generation who has lectured all over the world, and he has appeared on TV and radio from Canada to Australia. His books have been translated into ten languages and have won three international prizes.



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THE CHRISTIAN INVENTION OF TIME

Temporality and the Literature of Late Antiquity

SIMON GOLDHILL

University of Cambridge





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Abbreviations of Ancient Sources

Aeschylus

Aga. Agamemnon Eum. Eumenides

Ambrose of Milan (Ambr.)

De incar. domin. sacr. De incarnationis Dominicae sacramento

(On the Sacrament of the Incarnation of

the Lord)

De virg. De virginitate (On Virginity)

Expos. Psalm. Expositio Psalmi cxviii (Commentary on

Psalm 118)

Hex. Hexaemeron

In Psalmos (On the Psalms)

Luc. Expositio evangelii secundum Lucam

(Commentary on the Gospel according

to Luke)

APAnthologia Palatina (Palatine Anthology)Ap. Rhod.Apollonius Rhodius, Argonautica

Aristotle

De caelo (On the Heavens)

Phys. Physics

Athanasius

Apol. contra Arian. Apologia contra Arianos (Defence against

the Arians)

De Synod. De synodis (On the Synods)
De Virg De Virginitate (On Virginity)



List of Abbreviations of Ancient Sources

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Augustine of Hippo (Aug.)

Civ. Dei De civitate Dei (On the City of God)

Con. Confessions

De doctr. christ. De doctrina Christiana (On the

Christian Doctrine)

De Gen. contra Manichaeos De Genesi contra Manichaeos (Against

the Manichaeans on Genesis)

De ver. relig. De vera religione (On the True Religion)
Enarr. in Ps. Enarrationes in Psalmos (Explanations of

the Psalms)

In Evan. Joh. Tract. In Evangelium Joannis Tractatus

(Commentary on the Gospel of John)

Sermones (Sermons)

Basil of Caesarea

Ep. Epistles

Cassian

Serm.

Inst. Institutes

Cassiodorus

De an. De anima (On the Soul)

Clement of Alexandria (Clem.)

Misc. Miscellanea

Paed. Paedagogus (The Tutor)

Strom. Stromateis
Cor. Corinthians

Cyprian (Cypr.)

Ep. Epistles

Laps. De lapsis (On the Fallen)

Cyril of Alexandria

Comm. ad Ioh.

Contra Jul.

Contra Julianum (Against Julian)

De ador.

De adoratione (On the Adoration)

Expos. in Psal.

Expositio in Psalmos (Commentary on

the Psalms)

Glaphyr. in Pent. Glaphyra in Pentateuchum (Elegant

Comments on the Pentateuch)

In Joh.

In Johannum (Commentary on John)

In xii proph.

In xii prophetos (On the Twelve

Prophets) Daniel

Dan. Daniel
Deut. Deuteronomy



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Dio (of Prusa/Chrysostom)

Or. Orationes (Speeches)
Dio. Sic. Diodorus Siculus
DL Diogenes Laertius

Epict. Epictetus

Epiphanius

De mens. et pond. De mensuris et ponderibus (On Weights

and Measures)

Eun. Eunapius

Euripides (Eur.)

Heracleidae (Daughters of Heracles)

Or. Orestes

Eusebius (Eus.)

Historia Ecclesiastica (History of the

Church)

Praep. Evang. Praeparatio Evangelica (Preparation for

the Gospel)

Ex. Exodus

Galen

Libr. Ord. De ordine librorum suorum (On the

Order of His Books)

Gen. Genesis

Gregory of Nazianzus

Apor. Aporrhēta (Ineffable Matters)

Carm. Carmina (Poems)

Ep. Epistles

Or. Orationes (Speeches)

Poem. Arcan. Poemata Arcana (Poems on the

Mysteries)

Gregory of Nyssa (Greg. Nyss.)

Cant. Cantus (Hymns)

Contra Eun.

Contra Eunomium (Against Eunomios)

Trid. Spat.

De tridui inter mortem et resurrectionem

descripi nectri lecu spatia (On the Three

domini nostri Iesu spatio (On the Three-Day Space between the Death and

Resurrection of our Lord Jesus)

Vita Mosis (Life of Moses)

HAHistoria AugustaHer.Herodotus



List of Abbreviations of Ancient Sources

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Hesiod

Theog. Theogony

W&D Works and Days

Homer (Hom.)

Il. Iliad Od. Odyssey

Irenaeus

Adv. her. Adversus hereses (Heresies)

Isocrates

Phil. Philip

Jerome (Jer.)

Adv. Ruf. Adversus Rufinum (Against Rufinus)

Ep. Epistles

Praef. In Pent. Praefatio In Pentateuchum (Preface to

the Translation of the Pentateuch)

Josephus

AJ Antiquitates Judaicae (Jewish Antiquities)

Vit. Vita (Life)

Lactantius (Lact.)

Inst. Institutes

Longinus

De sublimitate (On the Sublime)

Lucian

Ver. Hist. Vera Historia (True History)

Macrobius

Sat. Saturnalia Man. Manilius

Marinus

Vit. Procl. Vita Procli (Life of Proclus)

Martin

Dial. Dialogus
Mat. Matthew

Nonnus

Dion.DionysiacaPar.ParaphraseNum.Numbers



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Origen (Orig.)

Cels. Contra Celsum (Against Celsus)

Jo. Homily on John

Orosius

Hist. Historiae (Histories)

Ovid

Met. Metamorphoses

Paulinus

Ep. Epistles

Vit. Ambr. Vita Ambrosii (Life of Ambrose)

Paus. Pausanias

PG Patrologia Graeca Phil. Philippians

Philo

De somnis (On Dreams)

De vit. contemp. De vita contemplativa (On the

Contemplative Life)

Opif. De opificio mundi (On the Creation of

the World)

Vit. Mos. Vita Mosis (On the Life of Moses)

Plato

Prot. Protagoras
Rep. Republic
Theaet. Theaetetus
Tim. Timaeus

Pliny the Elder

NH Naturalis Historia (Natural History)

Pliny the Younger

Ep. Epistles

Plutarch

De E On the E at Delphi
De facie in orbe lunae On the Face of the Moon

Praef. Chron. Eus. Praefatio, Chronicon Eusebii (Preface to

the Chronicon of Eusebius)

Prudentius (Prud.)

Apoth. Apotheosis

Cath. Cathemerinon (Hymns for the Day)



List of Abbreviations of Ancient Sources

XV

Ditto.Dittochaeon (Double Shepherd's Staff)Ham.Hamartigenia (The Origin of Sin)In Sym.In Symmachum (Against Symmachus)Perist.Peristephanon (Crowns of the Martyrs)

Psych. Psychomachia
Ps. Psalms

Ps-Apoll. Met. Psalm. Ps-Apollinaris, Metaphrasis Psalmorum

Quintilian

Inst. Or. Institutio Oratoria (The Orator's

Education)

Rom. Romans

Rufinus

HE Historia Ecclesiastica (History of the

Church)

Sallust

Bellum Jug. Bellum Jugurthinum (Jugurthine War)

Cat. Catilina

Seneca the Younger

Ep. Epistles

Socrates

Hist. Eccl. Historia Ecclesiastica (History of the

Church)

Sophocles (Soph.)

OCOedipus Coloneus (Oedipus at Colonus)OTOedipus Tyrannus (Oedipus the King)

Phil. Philoctetes

Sozomen

HE Historia Ecclesiastica (History of the

Church)

Sulpicius Severus (Sulp. Sev.)

Chro. Chronicle Ep. Epistles

VM Vita Martini (Life of Martin)

Tacitus

Ann. Annals

Tertullian (Tert.)

Adv. Marc. Adversus Marcionem (Against Marcion)

Apol. Apologia



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De cor. De corona militis (On the Soldier's Crown)

De spect. De spectaculis (On the Shows)

Thess. Thessalonians

Varro

Ling. De lingua latina (On the Latin Language)