Docetism in the Early Church

The Quest for an Elusive Phenomenon
Ed. by Joseph Verheyden, Reimund Bieringer, Jens Schröter, and Ines Jäger

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This volume studies the ways modern research has tried to detect traces of Docetism in ancient sources, including the gospels and the Johannine epistles and several second-century authors. As a concept, Docetism is often used in scholarly literature for denoting loosely connected or even quite different phenomena or doctrines that all have to do with defining the nature of Christ and the reality of the incarnation and passion of Jesus. The essays presented here approach the topic from a new angle by focusing on the ancient documents themselves instead of staying on a purely theoretical or dogmatic level, while at the same time critically re-examining the historical contexts in which these were produced and first circulated. In some cases, this serves to once more reveal the hidden agendas that have guided modern scholars in their discussion of these topics.

Survey of contents


Joseph Verheyden is Professor of New Testament at the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies at the KU Leuven, and Research Associate at NWU, Potchefstroom (South Africa).

Reimund Bieringer is Professor of New Testament Studies in the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies at KU Leuven.

Jens Schröter Born 1961; Dr. theol.; Professor of Exegesis and Theology of the New Testament and the Ancient Christian Apocrypha at the Theological Faculty of the Humboldt University of Berlin.

Ines Jäger is a PhD student at KU Leuven and HU Berlin.

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