

Meghan Henning

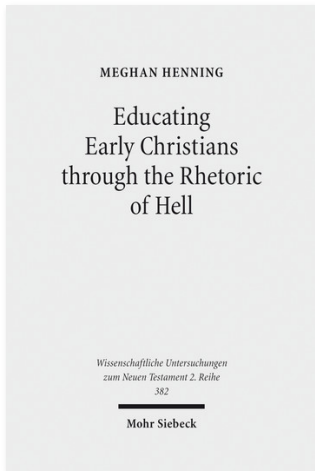
## Educating Early Christians through the Rhetoric of Hell »Weeping and Gnashing of Teeth« as *Paideia* in Matthew and the Early Church

[Die Erziehung früher Christen durch Höllenrhetorik. »Heulen und Zähneklappen« als *Paideia* bei Matthäus und in der frühen Kirche.]

Published in English.

In this book, Meghan Henning explores the rhetorical function of the early Christian concept of hell. Building upon classical rhetorical techniques and the descriptions of Hades in Greek and Roman literature, she contends that the ancient Christian concept of hell was developed as a part of a distinctively Christian *paideia*. She traces the history of this interpretive process, illustrating the ways in which early Christians drew upon the Greek and Roman system of ethical and cultural education, to create and maintain their own culture. By doing this the author demonstrates that Matthew's gospel is the nexus in which early Christian ideas about eternal punishment begin to crystallize, and becomes the focal point for later apocalyptic and patristic authors who interpret and reshape Matthew's »weeping and gnashing of teeth« in a variety of pedagogical contexts.

**Meghan Henning** Born 1982; 2004 BA from Denison University; 2007 MA from Yale Divinity School; 2013 PhD in New Testament from Emory University; currently teacher at several colleges and universities in the Boston area, and Faculty Religion Fellow at the Boston University School of Theology and the Institute on Religion, Culture and World Affairs.



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