

Contents

List of Tables — XIV

Abbreviations — XV

I Introduction — 1

- 1 “Wicked Interpreters of Well-Said Words” — 1
- 2 Valentinian Exegesis of Apostolic Texts — 3
- 3 The Valentinian Corpus and Some Notes on Nomenclature — 11
- 4 Biblical Studies and Reception History — 20
- 5 Chapter Overview — 27

II Irenaeus, the Valentinians, and the Rhetoric of Interpretation — 31

- 1 Introduction — 31
- 2 Valentinus is the New Marcion — 35
- 3 Irenaeus’ “*Hypothesis*” and “Rule of Truth” — 39
- 4 Evidence of Irenaeus’ Rhetorical Training — 46
- 4.1 External Evidence from Recent Research on Greco-Roman *Paideia* — 47
- 4.2 Internal Evidence from *Adversus Haereses* — 49
- 5 Influence of Rhetorical Education on Irenaeus’ Exegesis — 53
- 5.1 The Process of *Inventio*, or, Treasure Hidden in a Field — 54
- 5.2 Irenaeus’ Description of the Valentinian “Method” — 57
- 5.3 The Utility of the *Parabolē* — 73
- 5.4 The Clarity and Obscurity of Scripture — 78
- 6 Conclusion — 84

III Soteriological and Paraenetic Interpretations of The Parable of the Lost Sheep — 85

- 1 Introduction — 85
- 2 The Parable of the Lost Sheep: Gospel Contexts — 93
- 2.1 The Parable in the Gospel of Matthew — 93
- 2.2 The Parable in the Gospel of Luke — 96
- 2.3 Gospel Contexts: Conclusions — 101
- 2.4 Excursus: The Lost Sheep in the *Gospel of Thomas* — 103
- 3 Crossbreeding Passages, Parables, and Pictures — 106
- 4 A Spectrum of Early Christian Interpretation — 111

- 5 Irenaeus' Interpretations of the Parable — 114
- 5.1 The Salvation of Adam in *Haer.* 3.18–23 — 114
- 5.2 Salvation in the Eternal Present in *Haer.* 5.9–12 — 120
- 6 The Black Sheep: The Fallen Sophia of the Ptolemaeans in *Haer.* 1.1–8 — 122
- 6.1 Some Questions of Framing — 123
- 6.2 The Lost Sheep as the Fallen Sophia — 129
- 7 Counting Sheep: Marcosian Gematrical Speculations in *Haer.* 1.13–21 — 136
- 8 We Are the Ninety-Nine: Participatory Soteriology in the *Gospel of Truth* — 144
- 8.1 Literary Dependence Upon the Gospel of Matthew — 144
- 8.2 Interpretation — 148
- 9 Conclusion — 153

IV Pure and Hybridized Strains of the Parable of the Sower — 156

- 1 Introduction — 156
- 2 The Parable of the Sower: Gospel Contexts — 157
- 3 The Hearer As “The Good Soil”: Interpretations On Spiritual Reflection — 162
- 3.1 Ptolemy's *Epistle to Flora* — 162
- 3.2 Clement's *Stromata* — 165
- 4 The Hearer as “The Good Seed”: Interpretations On Religious Diversity — 169
- 4.1 The Parable of the Tares: Gospel Contexts — 169
- 4.2 *The Interpretation of Knowledge* — 173
- 4.3 Tertullian's *De Praescriptione Haereticorum* — 179
- 5 Conclusion — 185

V The Divisions of the Law in the *Epistle to Flora* and *Haer.* 4.12–15 — 188

- 1 Introduction — 188
- 2 The Divine Law — 196
- 3 The Law Added By Moses — 204
- 3.1 Ptolemy's Use of Matthew 19.8 — 204
- 3.2 The Divorce Sayings in their Gospel and Historical Contexts — 206
- 3.3 Flora and the Woman of 2 *Apology* 2 — 215
- 3.4 The Divorce Controversy in Second-Century Cosmological Debate — 221
- 4 The Tradition of the Elders — 233
- 4.1 The Korban Pericope In Its Gospel and Historical Contexts — 234

- 4.2 Ptolemy's Citation of the Korban Pericope — 239
- 4.3 Ptolemy's Exegesis of the Korban Pericope — 244
- 4.4 Irenaeus' Citation and Exegesis of the Korban Pericope — 258
- 5 Conclusion — 260
- 6 Appendix — 264

VI Conclusion — 266

- 1 Heretical and Orthodox Exegesis, According to Irenaeus — 266
- 2 Valentinian and Patristic Exegesis, In Actuality — 270
- 2.1 Parallel Deviations from the Synoptic Meaning of the Text — 270
- 2.2 Multiple Traditions of Interpretation — 271
- 2.3 A Heretic May Be the More Conservative Exegete — 271
- 2.4 Tessera Rearrangement — 272
- 2.5 Allegorical Interpretation of the New Testament — 274
- 2.6 Valentinian Contributions to Christian Hermeneutics and Theology — 275
- 3 Notes on the Valentinian Movement — 277
- 3.1 Valentinian Ethics and Ecclesiology — 277
- 3.2 Valentinian Cosmogony — 279
- 3.3 The Decline of the Valentinian Movement — 281
- 4 The Canonization History of the Gospel of Matthew — 285
- 5 Closing Remarks — 289

Bibliography — 290

- 1 Primary Sources — 290
- 1.1 Editions and translations of Valentinian sources — 290
- 1.2 Editions and translations of Irenaeus — 290
- 1.3 Editions and translations of other early Christian and Jewish sources — 291
- 1.4 Loeb Classical Library — 291
- 2 Secondary Sources — 292

Index of Ancient Sources — 301

Index of Subjects — 312