



Vortrag

Prof. Dr. Antonio Felle

Università degli studi di Bari

The Bible in the ancient Christian inscriptions (III-VIII cent. CE)



700, mensa 2



711, Thelepte, epigrafe
musiva

The study of the Biblical text in the epigraphic sources appears to be a limited phenomenon in respect to all different epigraphic practices in the various geographical and chronological contexts. Nonetheless, it is a privileged point of view to consider how, when, and if we can speak of a real diffusion of a Biblical culture in Late Antiquity. First of all we have to consider the irregular distribution of the Biblical quotations in the inscriptions, both in time – during the period considered here (from the III until the VIII cent. CE) – and space, because there is a substantial difference in the epigraphic use of the Holy Scripture in the two parts of the *Orbis christianus antiquus*.

In the East, biblical quotations are for the most part displayed in "public" monumental inscriptions: so we have to assume the existence of readers who were able to recognize the quoted passages as Scriptural passages. In the West, on the contrary, the epigraphic use of Biblical texts generally prevails in the funerary sphere and so it seems to be a result of personal choices, and in addition restricted, almost entirely, to the clergymen only. In the West, even among the more elevated classes, the transmission, reception, acquisition and use of the Biblical repertoire are not committed to a *personal* culture based on an *unmediated* reading of the Holy Scripture. Rather, the sacred text in the inscriptions appears in some way pre-packaged, as sort of "icons", both written and illustrated, private and public, easy to learn, to recognize and to remember.

Termin:

Montag 28.4.2014
18.00 s.t.

Ort:

Theatersaal
Sonnenfelsgasse 19
1010 Wien

Andreas Pülz, Direktor