

The book investigates how the concept of time was understood in the period between the second and the seventh centuries. It also focuses on the manner in which this notion was reconsidered by some modern and contemporary scholars, in particular Paul Tillich.



Elena Ene D-Vasilescu is a Professor of Byzantine and Medieval Studies. She teaches and researches in the fields of Byzantine culture (Philosophy, iconography) for the University of Oxford and also independently. Her work focuses, inter alia, on the texts of Gregory Nazianzen, Gregory of Nyssa, and Pseudo-Dionysius the Areopagite. Among her latest books are *Michelangelo, the Byzantines, and Plato* (2021), *Glances into Byzantium. Its Philosophy and arts* (2021), *Heavenly sustenance in Patristic texts and Byzantine iconography*, Palgrave, 2018, *Visions of God and ideas on deification in Patristic Thought* (co-ed. Mark Edwards), Routledge/Taylor & Francis, 2017, and *Devotion to St. Anne from Byzantium to the Middle Ages* (ed.), Palgrave, 2018. Dr. Vasilescu has also published chapters in collective volumes; some of those are as follows: "The Last Wonderful thing. The icon of the Heavenly Ladder", in James and A. Eastmond (eds.), *Wonderful Things. Byzantium through its Art*, Farnham: Ashgate, 2013, "Gregory of Nyssa" entry in Ph. Eiler (ed.), *The Early Christian World*, Routledge, 2017.

Her articles feature in leading journals as, for instance, *Byzantinoslavica*, *The Journal of Theological Studies*, *Revue des Etudes Sud-Est Européennes*, *Studia Patristica*, *Journal of Early Christian History*, and *Akropolis*. Dr. Vasilescu is a frequent speaker at national and international conferences.

This volume marks an intriguing and fresh approach to the question of how Christian theologians across the centuries have understood the concepts of time and the creation of the world. Dr Vasilescu draws on her extensive knowledge of Patristic sources to explore how the Church Fathers grappled with issues such as the notion of the *logos spermatikos*. At the core of her investigation is the relationship between *chronos* and *kaïros*, which she explains retained their principal sense across almost two thousand years from the Romans to twentieth-century theologians such as Paul Tillich and John Marsh. This volume is likely to be of interest and relevance to many scholars and students of Patristics, the theology of creation, and Tillich.

Matthew Niblett

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CREATION AND TIME. BYZANTINE AND MODERN

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The image on the front cover represents the rolling out of the Firmament and of time by the angels. Fresco on the ceiling of Chora Church, Constantinople / Istanbul, 1420. Photo taken by the author in 2015.

