

Deacons and Diakonia in Early Christianity

The First Two Centuries

Ed. by Bart J. Koet, Edwina Murphy, and Esko Ryökäs

[Diakone und Diakonia im frühen Christentum. Die ersten beiden Jahrhunderte.]

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In German-speaking countries, the role of the diaconate has been strongly influenced by nineteenth-century ideas of diakonia as service towards the poor. As important as the social initiatives stemming from this perspective have been, in order to correctly understand deacons and diakonia in the early church, we must go back to the sources. For this volume, focused on the first two centuries of Christianity, scholars from a range of backgrounds consider the use of diakonos and related words in the New Testament and extra-biblical sources, both Christian and otherwise. These texts reveal what deacons actually did, helping us to understand the past and giving guidance for the present, particularly in ecumenical discussions concerning the ministry.

Survey of contents

Munib Younan: Foreword

A) Introduction

Bart J. Koet/Edwina Murphy/Esko Ryökäs: Assessing the Role and Function of an Assistant: The Deacon in the First Two Centuries of Christianity

B) Biblical Sources

Peter-Ben Smit: Exegetical Notes on Mark 10:42–45: Who Serves Whom? – *John N. Collins*: The Rhetorical Value of Διάκον- in Matthew 25:44 – *Bart J. Koet*: Luke 10:38–42 and Acts 6:1–7: a Lukan Diptych on Διακονία – *Bart J. Koet*: Like a Royal Wedding. On the Significance of *Diakonos* in John 2:1–11 – *Joke H. A. Brinkhof*: Philip, One of the Seven in Acts (6:1–6; 8:4–40; 21:8) – *Margaret Mowczko*: What did Phoebe's Position and Ministry as Διάκονος of the Church at Cenchrea Involve? – *Anni Hentschel*: Paul's Apostleship and the Concept of Διακονία in 2 Corinthians – *Lauri Thurén*: Divine Headhunting? The Function of the Qualifications of Deacons in 1 Tim 3:8–13

C) The Earliest Christian (Extra-Biblical) Sources

John Granger Cook: Pliny's Tortured *Ministreae*: Female Deacons in the Ancient Church? – *Bart J. Koet*: The Bishop and his Deacons. Ignatius of Antioch's View on Ministry: Two-fold or Three-fold? – *John N. Collins*: Διακον- and Deacons in Clement of Alexandria – *Bart J. Koet*: Isaiah 60:17 as a Key for Understanding the Two-fold Ministry of Ἐπισκόποι and Διάκονοι according to First Clement (1 Clem. 42:5) – *Mark Grundeken*: What Do »Deacons« Do in the *Shepherd of Hermas*? – *Clayton N. Jefford*: Understanding the Concept of Deacon in the *Didache* – *Paul Foster*: Deacons (Διάκονοι) and Διακονία in the Writings of Justin and Irenaeus – *Serafim Seppälä*: Deacons in *Acts of Thomas* and Related Early Syriac Literature – *Anni Maria Laato*: Tertullian and the Deacons – *Bart J. Koet*: Dreaming about Deacons in the *Passio Perpetuae* – *Anssi Voitiola*: Deacons in the Texts Contemporary with the New Testament (Philo of Alexandria and Josephus)

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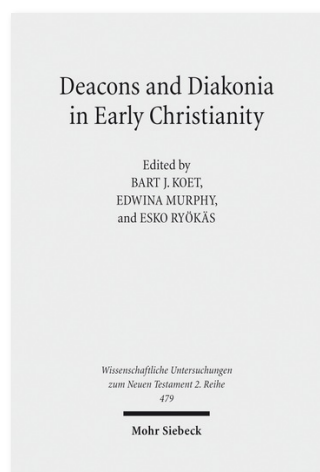
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