

Origen

Origen of Alexandria (184 – 253), also known as **Origen Adamantius**, was an early Christian scholar, ascetic, and theologian who was born and spent the first half of his career in Alexandria. He was a prolific writer who wrote roughly 2,000 treatises in multiple branches of theology, including textual criticism, biblical exegesis and biblical hermeneutics, homiletics, and spirituality. He was one of the most influential figures in early Christian theology, apologetics, and asceticism. He has been described as "the greatest genius the early church ever produced".

Origen was able to produce a massive quantity of writings due to the patronage of his close friend Ambrose, who provided him with a team of secretaries to copy his works, making him one of the most prolific writers in all of antiquity. His treatise *On the First Principles* systematically laid out the principles of Christian theology and became the foundation for later theological writings. He also authored *Contra Celsum*, the most influential work of early Christian apologetics, in which he defended Christianity against the pagan philosopher Celsus, one of its foremost early critics. Origen produced the *Hexapla*, the first critical edition of the Hebrew Bible, which contained the original Hebrew text as well as five different Greek translations of it, all written in columns, side-by-side. He wrote hundreds of homilies covering almost the entire Bible, interpreting many passages as allegorical. Origen taught that, before the creation of the material universe, God had created the souls of all the intelligent beings. These souls, at first fully devoted to God, fell away from him and were given physical bodies. Origen was the first to propose the ransom theory of atonement in its fully developed form and, though he was probably a Subordinationist, he also significantly contributed to the development of the concept of the Trinity. Origen hoped that all people might eventually attain salvation, but was always careful to maintain that this was only speculation. He defended free will and advocated Christian pacifism.

Origen is a Church Father and is widely regarded as one of the most important Christian theologians of all time. He believed that the Kingdom of Heaven was not yet come, but that it was the duty of every Christian to make the eschatological reality of the kingdom present in their lives. Origen was a Universalist, who suggested that all people might eventually attain salvation, but only after being purged of their sins through "divine fire". This, of course, in line of Origen's allegorical interpretation, was not *literal* fire, but rather the inner anguish of knowing one's own sins.

In 543, the emperor Justinian I condemned him as a heretic and ordered all his writings to be burned.

Eusebius

Eusebius of Caesarea ([/ju:'si:biəs/](#); Greek: Εὐσέβιος τῆς Καισαρείας, *Eusébios tés Kaisareías*; ad 260/265 – 339/340), also known as **Eusebius Pamphili** (from the Greek: Εὐσέβιος τοῦ Παμφίλου), was a historian of Christianity, exegete, and Christian polemicist. He became the bishop of Caesarea Maritima about 314 AD. Together with Pamphilus, he was a scholar of the Biblical canon and is regarded as an extremely learned Christian of his time. He wrote *Demonstrations of the Gospel*, *Preparations for the Gospel*, and *On Discrepancies between the Gospels*, studies of the Biblical text. As "Father of Church History" (not to be confused with the title of Church Father), he produced the *Ecclesiastical History*, *On the Life of Pamphilus*, the *Chronicle* and *On the Martyrs*. He became counselor of Constantine the Great.

Through the activities of the theologian Origen (185/6–254) and the school of his follower Pamphilus (later 3rd century – 309), Caesarea became a center of Christian learning. Origen was largely responsible for the collection of usage information, or which churches were using which gospels, regarding the texts which became the New Testament. No point of this doctrine is original with Eusebius, all is traceable to his teacher Origen.

He was ordered by Constantine to produce 50 bibles of which the Codex Vaticanus is believed to be one. The Codex Vaticanus is dated between 300-325 AD. In 543, the emperor Justinian I condemned Origen as a heretic and ordered all his writings to be burned which would be a likely explanation for the relative lack of supporting manuscripts for the Vaticanus.