

Interpretation of the Life of Moses according to Gregory of Nyssa and Its Inspiration by the Thought of Philo of Alexandria

Philo of Alexandria (c. 20 BC – c. 40 CE) and his allegorical interpretation of the Bible (especially the *Pentateuch*) had a strong influence on early Christian writers including Gregory of Nyssa (c. 335 – c. 395 CE). It is obvious that Gregory was inspired by Philo judging from the fact that Gregory's treatise *The Life of Moses* (*De vita Moysis*) has the same name and a partly similar topic as one of Philo's writings. For Gregory, Moses is an ideal example of perfect virtue which consists in a continual progression toward the Good.

The main topic of the thesis is Philo's influence on Gregory's interpretation of Moses. The work discusses the following issues in the thought of both authors: the treatise *De vita Moysis*, the person of Moses, exegetical principles, perfection that could be demonstrated on the life of a good person, the question of knowledge and unknowability of God and the mediation between God and men. Since Gregory's reception of Philo was influenced by Origen of Alexandria, Origen's biblical exegesis and exegetical theory are also briefly presented.

In the centre of the thesis, there are those questions: In what way was Gregory's concept of perfect virtue inspired by the thought of Philo? How is Philonic idea of God's unknowability changed by Gregory and re-used in his thought? Is it possible to compare the concept of mediation between God and men as presented by respective authors?

Key words

Philo of Alexandria, Gregory of Nyssa, *De vita Moysis*, biblical interpretation, perfection, virtue, knowledge of God, the mediator between God and men