

A Christological Perspective on St. Elijah. Symbolic-dogmatic Linearity in the Syriac Thinking (Narsai, Cirus of Edessa and Jacob of Sarug)

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Abstract

The Saint and Prophet Elijah is reflected in the Syriac theology as a participant in the divine economy and as a typos for Christ. As holy man he is part of the christological plan. Through his deeds and miracles he anticipates Christ and implies a typological reality.

Highlighting the gradual divine economy, Narsai and Cyrus of Edessa characterize Elijah as one who foreshadows immortality and as a witness – along with Enoch – of the divine economy and of the eternal life in Christ.

Jacob of Sarug explains the image of Elijah maintaining the same symbolical linearity but he is more involved in mystical nuances. Elijah was a typos of the mystery of Christ, and through this mystery was located above death.

The topic about Elijah represents more than an issue from the history of the righteous men. The subject takes a Christological dimension, so that the Holy Prophet is situated at the boundary between the ages of the divine economy.