

## The Cappadocians (and John Chrysostom) A Short Bibliography for Ordinary Readers

Thank you for your interest in learning more about the early Christian writers known as the “Cappadocians” – Basil of Caesarea (329-378/9 CE), his brother Gregory of Nyssa (335-394 CE), and their friend, Gregory of Nazianzus (329-390 CE). This short bibliography summarizes just a few key references you might want to explore, to help you find out more about whatever particular aspect of their work interests you. I’ve also included some easy-to-find resources on a later writer, John Chrysostom (340s-407 CE), who was bishop of Antioch and Constantinople, and not a Cappadocian, since he is often mentioned with Basil and Gregory of Nazianzus, in the literature as well as in popular icons. Since this material may (I hope) lead you to read even more about Christian practices and beliefs in late antiquity, I also include a few other suggestions. Choose what interests you, read only as much as interests you, and enjoy your reading!

### PRIMARY SOURCES IN AFFORDABLE POCKET-SIZE ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS:

Basil of Caesarea:

- [On Social Justice](#) (sermons on poverty, wealth, and justice) (SVS Press)
- [On Christian Doctrine and Practice](#) (on the Trinity and spiritual life) (SVS Press)
- [On Christian Ethics](#) (SVS Press)
- [On Fasting and Feasts](#) (baptism, Easter, fasting, local martyrs) (SVS Press)
- [On the Human Condition](#) (incl. sermon “God is not the cause of evil”) (SVS Press)
- [Letters](#) (4 vols, with Greek on facing pages; Loeb Classical Library)
- [Letters & Select Works](#) in 19<sup>th</sup> century Nicene & Post-Nicene Fathers series (free online)

Gregory of Nazianzus:

- [Five Theological Orations](#) (SVS Press); a core essential on trinitarian theology
- [Theological Poetry](#) (SVS Press): a tiny sampling of his many poems
- [Festal Sermons](#) (SVS Press): preached about saints and martyrs
- [Epigrams](#) (short prose poems on his many friends who have died) (Loeb)
- [Select sermons](#) – 19<sup>th</sup>C Nicene & Post-Nicene Fathers series (free online)
- Selections, *Gregory of Nazianzus*, trans. Brian Daley (Routledge 2004)

Gregory of Nyssa:

- [On the Soul and Resurrection](#) (dialogue with his sister, Macrina) (SVS Press)
- Two sermons “On the Love of the Poor” – Appendix in [The Hungry are Dying](#)
- [Select treatises & Letters](#) – 19<sup>th</sup>C Nicene & Post-Nicene Fathers series (free online)
- Selections: *Gregory of Nyssa*, trans. Anthony Meredith (Routledge 2012)

John Chrysostom:

- [Six volumes of sermons](#) – 19<sup>th</sup>C Nicene & Post-Nicene Fathers series (free online)
- [On Wealth and Poverty](#) (SVS Press) – classic sermons on the rich man and Lazarus
- [Letters to Saint Olympia](#) (SVS Press) – to his deaconess patron, written from exile
- [The Cult of the Saints](#) (SVS Press) – sermons on saints and martyrs
- Robert Charles Hill has published excellent modern translations on Chrysostom’s sermons on the Psalms and the Old Testament, most with Holy Cross Orthodox Press

## SELECT BIOGRAPHIES & RELATED STUDIES

*St Gregory of Nazianzus: An Intellectual Biography*, by John Anthony McGuckin, Crestwood NY: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2001. Award-winning detailed biography by a scholar, poet, and priest.

*Basil of Caesarea*, by Philip Rousseau, Berkeley: University of California Press, 1998.

Trilogy by historian Raymond Van Dam, all published by the University of Pennsylvania Press:

*Kingdom of Snow: Roman Rule and Greek Culture in Cappadocia* (2002)

*Becoming Christian: The Conversion of Roman Cappadocia* (2003)

*Families and Friends in Late Roman Cappadocia* (2003)

*Macrina the Younger: Philosopher of God*, by Anna Silvas; Medieval Women: Texts & Contexts 22; Turnhout, Belgium: Brepols, 2008. (This is the best book I know on Macrina, by a New Zealand scholar, includes new translations of relevant texts; unfortunately this is a costly volume you will need to seek out from a good research library)

*Sons of Hellenism, Fathers of the Church: Emperor Julian, Gregory of Nazianzus, and the Vision of Rome*, by Susanna Elm, Berkeley: University of California Press, 2015.

## MORE FREE ONLINE RESOURCES

- Ante-Nicene Fathers and Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers Series: [Christian Classics Ethereal Library](#)
- Roger Pearse's website on "[Early Church Fathers – Additional Texts](#)"
- [Online resources of the North American Patristics Society](#): includes early Christian texts, encyclopedias, early Christian authors, Oriental Christianity, digital projects, and related resources and guides
- William Harmless, SJ(†): [Online Bibliographies for Theology](#)
- [Bibliographic Helps on Fourth-Century Christianity](#) (Wisconsin Lutheran College)

## RECOMMENDED OTHER FAVORITES, A MISCELLANY

*all by scholars; all amazingly readable!*

Catherine M. Chin and Caroline Schroeder, eds., *Melania: Early Christianity Through the life of One Family*, University of California Press 2017.

J. G. Davies, *Daily Life of Early Christians*, Lutterworth Press 1952.

J. G. Davies, *Social Life of Early Christians*, Lutterworth Press 1954.

Susanna Elm, *Virgins of God: The Making of Asceticism in Late Antiquity*, Oxford 1996.

Eldon Jay Epp, *Junia: The First Woman Apostle*, Fortress Press 2005.

William Harmless, SJ, *Desert Christians: An Introduction to the Literature of Early Monasticism*, Oxford 2004.

William Tabbernee, *Prophets and Gravestones: An Imaginative History of Montanism and Other Early Christians*, Baker Academic 2009.

Rowan Williams, *Why Study the Past; The Quest for the Historical Church*, Eerdmans 2005.