

*Social Justice and the Legitimacy of Slavery* shows that there were definitive condemnations of slavery and social injustice as iniquitous and even impious in antiquity and late antiquity. Ilaria L. E. Ramelli highlights that these came especially from ascetics, both in Judaism and in Christianity, and occasionally also from Graeco-Roman ('pagan') philosophy. Ramelli argues that this depends on a link not only between asceticism and renunciation, but also between asceticism and justice, at least in ancient and late antique philosophical asceticism.

This volume provides a careful investigation of all of ancient philosophy, ancient to rabbinic Judaism, Hellenistic Jewish ascetic groups, all of the New Testament, and Greek, Latin, and Syriac patristic thinkers. Particular attention is given to Gregory Nyssen and the interrelation between theory and practice in all ancient and patristic philosophers, as well as to the parallels that emerge between their arguments against slavery and those against social injustice.

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