

**A BRIEF ANALYSIS OF THE
SECTS, HERESIES,
AND WRITERS OF THE
FIRST THREE ENTURIES**

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A Brief Analysis of the Sects, Heresies, and Writers of the First Three centuries by Anonymous

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ANONYMOUS

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A BRIEF ANALYSIS
OF THE
SECTS, HERESIES, AND WRITERS
OF THE
First Three Centuries.

TO WHICH IS ADDED A SHORT HISTORY OF THE
HISTORY OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
DURING THE SAME PERIOD,
WITH EXAMINATION QUESTIONS.

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PREFACE.

A STRICT chronological arrangement of the heresies has not been attempted, for the authorities are so contradictory that it is almost impossible to reconcile them. Indeed the very nature of the case would shew the difficulty that must attend any attempt of this sort, for opinions upon important matters are seldom hastily formed, but are the growth of years, and have often been silently working their way for half a century, or more, before they can be properly said to have acquired sufficient importance to call for the notice of the historian. Some public act gives them a position in the page of history, but they may have been held by a large number of obscure individuals long before.

So again with respect to the doctrines of the various heretics, there must necessarily be much uncertainty, for we cannot rely confidently upon the truth of a picture which has been painted only by an adversary, however apparently anxious that adversary might be to state the case fairly.

It remains only to add, that as this little work lays no claim to originality, and does not profess to be anything more than a condensed arrangement of the labours of others, it has not been thought necessary to acknowledge, in each case, the source from which information has been derived. It will be sufficient if we here acknowledge ourselves generally indebted to the works of MOSHEIM, BURTON, JEREMIE, RIDDLE, HINDS, PALMER, &c., without making any parade of further research.

Matters of which *they* have treated are not likely to receive any additional illustration at the hands of a less experienced writer, but there may be some readers who have neither the leisure nor the inclination to read many works, but who would be glad to have the information that is to be obtained from them condensed into a small compass. This we have attempted to do, and we wish it to be understood that we quote the actual words of a passage whenever it happens to be so concisely expressed, that we could gain nothing by further abridgment.

INDEX.

	Page
Preface	iii
SECTS AND HERESIES :	
Pharisees	2
Sadducees	ib.
Essenes	ib.
Therapeutae	3
Samaritans	ib.
Nazarænes	5
Ebionites	ib.
Nicolaitans	6
Elcesaitæ	ib.
<hr style="width: 10%; margin: auto;"/>	
GNOSTICS :	
Simon Magus	10
Menander	12
Dositheus	ib.
Cerinthus	13
Carpocrates	15
<hr style="width: 10%; margin: auto;"/>	
HERESIES OF THE SECOND CENTURY	
<i>Syrian Gnostics</i>	17
Saturninus	ib.
Bardesanes	ib.
Tatian	19
Severus	20

	Page
<i>Gnostics of Asia Minor</i>	21
Cerdo	21.
Marcion	22
Lucian	24
Apelles	25.
<hr/>	
<i>Gnostics of Egypt</i>	25
Basilides	26
Carpocrates	27
Antitacti	28
Adamites	25.
Gnostics	25.
Valentinus	21
Secundus	21
Ptolemy	25.
Marcus	25.
Colobarsus	25.
Heracleon	25.
<hr/>	
<i>Lesser Gnostic Sects</i>	32
Sethites	25.
Cinities	25.
Ophites	25.
Theodotus	33
Artemon	34
Malchisedochians	25.
Praxeas	25.
Hermogenes	25
Montanus	25.
Millenarii	27
<hr/>	
HERESIES OF THE THIRD CENTURY	38
Manicheus	25.
Hierax	40
Noetus	25.
Sabellius	25.
Beryllus	41
Paul of Samosata	25.
Novatian	43
Arius	25.

INDEX.

vii

SCHISMS :

	Page
Montanus	43
Novatus	44
Novatian	ib.
Donatus	45
Meletius	46

GREEK WRITERS :

Apostolic Fathers	47
Clemens	ib.
Ignatius	48
Polycarp	49
Barnabas	50
Hermas	ib.
Justin Martyr	ib.
Tatian	51
Hegesippus	ib.
Hermias	ib.
Dionysius of Corinth	ib.
" Alexandria	52
Athonagoras	53
Theophilus of Antioch	ib.
Irenæus	ib.
Clement of Alexandria	ib.
Hippolytus	54
Origen	ib.
Pamphilus	55
Methodius	ib.
Gregory Thaumaturgus	ib.

LATIN WRITERS :

Tertullian	56
Minucius Felix	ib.
Cyprian	ib.

Eusebius	57
----------	----