

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910964402903321
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Titolo	The doctrine of deification in the Greek patristic tradition // Norman Russell
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Oxford ; ; New York, : Oxford University Press, 2004
ISBN	9786610965175 0-19-153271-1 1-280-96517-7 0-19-920597-3
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (433 p.)
Collana	The Oxford early Christian studies
Disciplina	230 233
Soggetti	Deification (Christianity) - History of doctrines - Early church, ca. 30-600 Christianity
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [345]-380) and indexes.
Nota di contenuto	Contents; Abbreviations; 1 Introduction; 1. The Metaphor of Deification; 2. The Need for the Study; 3. Scope and Method; 4. Overview; 2 Deification in the Graeco-Roman World; 1. The Origins of Deification; 2. The Ruler-Cult; 3. Jewish and Christian Attitudes to the Ruler-Cult; 4. The Democratization of the Ruler's Apotheosis; 5. The Mystery Cults; 6. Philosophical Religion; 7. The Egyptian Hermetists; 8. Interaction with Christianity; 3 The Jewish Paradigm: From Ezekiel to the yored merkavah; 1. Ancient Israel; 2. The Impact of Hellenism; 3. Palestinian Judaism; 4. The Rabbinic Tradition 5. Influence on Christianity4 The Earliest Christian Model: Participatory Union with Christ; 1. Pauline Christianity; 2. Jewish Christianity; 3. Johannine Christianity; 4. Ignatius of Antioch; 5. Valentinian Christianity; 6. Justin Martyr; 7. Two Anonymous Contemporaries; 8. Tatian; 9. Theophilus of Antioch; 10. Irenaeus of Lyons; 11. Hippolytus of Rome; 12. The Early Christian Approach to Deification; 5 The Alexandrian Tradition I: Christian Schools and Study Circles; 1. Alexandrian Christianity; 2. The School of Basilides; 3. The School of

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 BC; D; E; F; G; H; I; J; K; L; M; N; O; P; Q; R; S; T; U; V; W; Y; Z

Sommario/riassunto

Deification was not only a pagan concept but a metaphor for a deeply Christian view of the purpose of human life. Norman Russell brings together much recent research on the Church Fathers from the second to the seventh centuries, offering an analysis of their spiritual teaching and setting it within the context of the times. - ;Deification in the Greek patristic tradition was the fulfilment of the destiny for which humanity was created - not merely salvation from sin but entry into the fullness of the divine life of the Trinity. This book, the first on the subject for over sixty years, traces