

Gerson, Jean

Jean Gerson (1363–1429), professor of theology and chancellor of the university of Paris, compiled a gospel harmony, the so-called *Monotessaron* (written ca. 1400–1402; Gerson 1960–73: 9:245–373). Herein he structured the entire text of the four canonical Gospels into 150 headings, beginning with John 1. Whenever he was unable to harmonize differences relating to the succession of the events, he tried to construct a sequence in terms of chronology or topography. With his *Monotessaron* he aimed to point out the main content of the gospel to theologians. A list of very short summaries of the content of the four Gospels starts with Luke 1 (Gerson 1960–73: 9:373–85). In his academic lectures (1399–1414) Gerson commented mainly on the Gospel of Mark using biblical verses to answer current questions. He considered Mark 1:15: “Repent ye, and believe in the gospel” as the essence of Christian life. Even in his vernacular sermons, Gerson cites the Bible in Latin, often thereafter translating the citations into French.

Bibliography. Primary: ■ Gerson, J., *Oeuvres complètes*, 11 vols. (ed. P. Glorieux; Paris 1960–73). ■ Gerson, J., *Joannis Gersonii Opera Omnia*, 3 vols. (ed. L. E. Du Pin; Antwerp 1706).

Secondary: ■ Burger, C., *Aedificatio, Fructus, Utilitas: Johannes Gerson als Professor der Theologie und Kanzler der Universität Paris* (Tübingen 1986). ■ McGuire, B. P. (ed.), *A Companion to Jean Gerson* (Brill’s Companion to the Christian Tradition 3; Leiden 2006). ■ Vial, M., “Zur Funktion des *Monotessaron* des Johannes Gerson,” in *Evangelienharmonien des Mittelalters* (ed. C. Burger et al.; Assen 2004) 40–72.

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