

# Content

Preface .....	5
General Introduction .....	11

## PART 1: SKETCHES OF LE CLERC'S INTELLECTUAL PROFILE

1. Epistemological Foundations and <i>Modica theologia</i> .....	25
1.1. Descartes, Locke and Le Clerc .....	26
1.2. Scriptural Evidence .....	35
1.3. <i>Modica theologia</i> .....	41
2. Authority and Tradition: the Pagan and the Christian Past .....	48
2.1. Authority and Tradition .....	49
2.2. Uses of the Past .....	55
2.3. The Christian Tradition: Church Fathers and Early Christian Writers .....	60

## PART 2: LE CLERC'S RECEPTION OF ORIGEN

3. Origen the Thinker .....	73
3.1. A Disciple of Plato .....	74
3.2. The Hellenisation of Christianity .....	80
3.3. Scriptural Platonism: Some Examples .....	84
3.4. Plato's Jewish Sources .....	86
3.5. Debates on the Fathers' Platonism .....	89
3.6. Saving Origen .....	94
4. Origen's Biblical and Non-Biblical Scholarship .....	98
4.1. Origen's <i>Hexapla</i> and the "New Origen" .....	98
4.2. Biblical Hermeneutics .....	104
4.3. Scriptural Inspiration .....	108

4.4. The Dark Side of the Scholarly Origen: Philology, Allegory and Biblical Languages .....	113
4.5. Resolving the Ambivalence .....	121
5. Origen as Historical Testimony .....	124
5.1. Testimony, Facts and Credibility .....	124
5.2. Criteria of Credibility .....	127
5.3. Origen as Testimony .....	136
5.4. Issues in Origen's Testimony .....	139
5.5. Origen as Testimony in Early Modern Ecclesiastical Histories .....	143
5.6. Final Remarks .....	147

### PART 3: ORIGEN, FREEDOM AND THEOLOGY

6. Doctrinal Debates: Original Sin .....	149
6.1. Le Clerc's Rejection of Original Sin as Corruption .....	150
6.2. Original Sin as Imitation .....	153
6.3. Debates, Orthodoxy and Strategic Use of Sources .....	159
7. Doctrinal Debates: Predestination and Grace .....	169
7.1. Early Appearances .....	169
7.2. The Authority of the Origenist Tradition .....	178
7.3. Roman Catholic and Protestant Debates on Predestination .....	187
7.4. Origen as Rational Theologian .....	190
8. Doctrinal Debates: Theodicy .....	203
8.1. The Early Stage of the Debate .....	203
8.2. The Argument of Freedom .....	211
8.3. Apocatastasis, Tolerable and Eternal Punishment .....	215
8.4. Reason, Evidence and Faith .....	220
8.5. Political or Tactical Origenism? .....	224
General Conclusion .....	227
List of Abbreviations .....	230
Bibliography .....	231

*Indexes*

Bible .....	245
Origen .....	246
Names .....	247
Subjects .....	249