

‘Apocalypse? No.’ The Power of Millenarianism and Its Transformation in Late Antique Christianity

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This paper deals with specific questions related to early Christian millenarian beliefs and the religious power structures in which they functioned. In particular it will look at the role of ‘textual power’ in several respects, including the role which biblical exegesis and hermeneutics played in perpetuating, limiting and transforming millenarian beliefs in early Christianity. It will also consider how translation from Greek into Latin might have influenced this process in particular ways in which ‘translators’ and ‘transmitters’ of texts involved in this process might have acted as ‘brokers of textual power’ and thereby contributed to a transformation of the power of millenarianism in Late Antiquity.