

16 Οκτωβρίου 2017

The Allegorical Interpretation of Biodiversity in the Epistle of Barnabas (Moskhos Goutzioudis, Assistant Professor of the New Testament, A. U. Th.)

[Ξένες γλώσσες / In English](#)



Paper delivered by Prof. Goutzioudis at the 3rd Hagiological Conference on the subject: 'The Apostolic Fathers and their Era', which was held in Smyrna and Ephesus (4-8 May 2017)

aim was to distinguish the true Christian faith and to provide the members of the Church with a proper understanding of the Old Testament and its relationship with God. It therefore sought to discard any Messianic concept of Judaism.

After this introduction, we can now proceed with the allegorical interpretation of certain animals which were unclean according to the dietary ordinances of Judaism. These are mentioned in chapter 10 of the epistle. The writer of the Epistle of Barnabas refers to 11 kinds of biodiversity among the catalogue of those whose consumption is forbidden in Mosaic Law. Of these, 4 are mammals, 4 are birds, and 3 are sea creatures (one fish and two molluscs). Reptiles and insects are not mentioned.

(to be continued)

*** There is a suggestion that there was, indeed, an instructor called Barnabas in Alexandria at the time, and if this could be proved he would be a prime candidate for authorship of the epistle. However, there is not sufficient evidence to come to a definitive conclusion [WJL].**