

Abstract

**THE ROLE OF JUSTIN MARTYR'S *DIALOGUE WITH TRYPHO* IN THE EARLY
CHRISTIAN UNDERSTANDING OF GOD'S PLAN (OIKONOMIA)**

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The affirmation of the Pauline/deutero-Pauline epistle's that God's plan (οἰκονομία) is fulfilled in Jesus Christ is significantly developed by Irenaeus of Lyons (ca. 125-200 C.E.). For Irenaeus, God's overall plan is not simply fulfilled in Jesus Christ, it is proven in Scripture, includes plans in Israel's history, and culminates in Christ's incarnation. Irenaeus certainly deserves credit for developing God's οἰκονομία in the early Christian tradition, but much of this development already occurs in his predecessor, Justin Martyr (ca. 100-160 C.E.). In order to reveal the pivotal role Justin has in the early Christian understanding of God's οἰκονομία, I rely on his *Dialogue with Trypho* to show Justin extensively proves from Scripture that there are six plans of God fulfilled in six Christ events—specifically, his service to Jews and Gentiles, his completion of the Mosaic Law, the second advent, his passion, his birth, and his resurrection. In this way, Justin not only develops his Christian predecessors' simple affirmation that God has a plan in Jesus Christ, he also anticipates Irenaeus' understanding of God's οἰκονομία.