

Herzliche Einladung zum Gastvortrag

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Dienstag, 21. März 2017, 16:00–17:30 Uhr
HS 106 (Theologische Fakultät, 1. Obergeschoss)

The Lord's Prayer and Debt Recovery

Insights from Graeco-Egyptian Papyri

While recent work on the second petition of the Sayings Gospel Q's version of the Lord's Prayer clearly concerns debt and debt forgiveness, the third and final petition is often read as a request to be spared from an apocalyptic disaster. But read in the context of subsistence economics and with the help of Graeco-Egyptian papyri that concern debt recovery, *πειρασμός* can more reasonably be seen as a reference to the invidious mechanisms of debt recovery in agrarian societies.

At least until the early second century CE, *πειρασμοί* denoted serious and adverse circumstances rather than more trivial "daily" temptations. The mechanisms for debt recovery often involved seizure of the possessions and even the person of the debtor, imprisonment and possible financial ruin. A petition not to be lead into such a *πειρασμός* makes perfect sense in the context of a prayer that petitions the deity for subsistence and freedom from debt.



Wir freuen uns sehr auf Ihr Kommen!

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Marlis Gielen
Fachbereichsleiterin

Ao.Univ.-Prof. Dr. Peter Arzt-Grabner
Leiter der Forschungsabteilung Papyrologie