

***factor, creator, conditor* — OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPACT OF THE SEPTUAGINT ON THE VOCABULARY OF CREATION IN THE LATIN BIBLE**

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Abstract. The aim of this article is to study the Latin terminology of creation used in the Vulgate and in Jerome’s commentary on the biblical writings. The following questions will be addressed: 1° Which words or word groups are Jerome’s favourite terms when it comes to speaking of God as the creator and the creation? 2° To what extent can we explain these terminological choices against the background of the Greek Bible or an already-existing Latin theological terminology attested in the *Vetus Latina* or in other Latin speaking authors? To what degree is Jerome influenced by the Hebrew biblical text? 3° Is Jerome aware of the specific connotations of the various terms referring to the creator and the creation and, if yes, does he make any observations in this regard?

Keywords: Septuagint, *Vetus Latina*, Vulgate, Jerome, Creation, Latin biblical terminology.

1. Introduction: How to Speak of “Creation” in Latin?

In English and the Romance languages, the nouns meaning “creation”, in its theological meaning, are derived from the Latin term *creatio*: “creation” in English, “création” in French, “creación” in Spanish, “creazione” in Italian, and “criação” in Portuguese. Classical Latin, however, was not familiar with this specific use of the term. In Cicero, e.g., *creatio* refers to the appointment of public officials (*De legibus* 3.10) while *procreatio liberorum* means the procreation of children (*Tusc.* 1.14). It is true that the *Vetus latina*, at least in some manuscripts, translates the Greek noun κτίσις in Heb 9:11 with *creatio*.¹ However, this is apparently an exception. In Jdt 9:17[12]; 16:14, e.g., the same Greek word, κτίσις is rendered with *creatura*.² Perhaps the use of *creatio* for “creation” as a whole, or at least for the process of creation, was not at all self-evident in Latin-speaking

¹ See FREDE (1990) 1393.

² Thus the so-called text C of the *Vetus Latina*, see BOGAERT/HAELEWYCK (2001-2020) 345, 518.