



Jesus Reading in the Synagogue: Luke 4, Isaiah, and the Reader at Dura Europos.

VORTRAG

Dr. Barbara Crostini

(University of Uppsala)

Dienstag, den 24. März 2020 um 18 Uhr c.t

The famous paintings of the synagogue at Dura Europos are still riddled with unknowns. One of the biggest puzzles is the identity of the four standing figures surrounding the Torah niche. One of these depicts a young man reading a scroll. Several hypotheses have been advanced, the most favoured being that this man is the prophet Elijah or Ezra. After reviewing these proposals, I consider the new hypothesis that this reader could be identified with Jesus reading the scroll of Isaiah in the synagogue. I argue for this interpretation both on the basis of iconographical parallels and in view of a Messianic interpretation of the mural paintings already proposed by others. More precisely, the scene of Jesus reading in the synagogue reported in the Gospel of Luke at chapter 4 appears particularly appropriate in view of the other scenes included in the Western wall.

