

John K. Hale

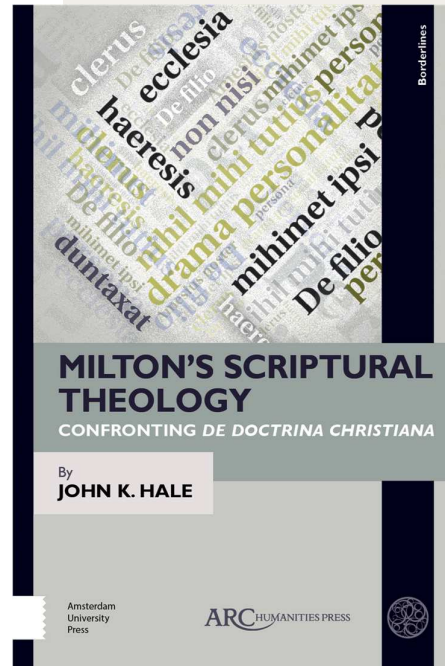
Milton's Scriptural Theology

Confronting *De Doctrina Christiana*

Milton spoke of *De Doctrina* as "my best and most precious possession" (*haec, quibus nihil melius aut pretiosius habeo*). In this book, John K. Hale confronts *De Doctrina* as Milton's "best", and in many senses personal, contribution to theology.

Its theology is distinctive in several unorthodoxies, and their zestful advocacy; and in some orthodoxies too, like his measured account of Predestination. At the very least, *De Doctrina* is Milton's one and only worked-out Credo. And it figures, albeit belatedly, in histories of the great mid-century Trinitarian debate: it is on the wider map of theology; it counts.

Through close reading of the Latin itself, the author assesses the work and its aim, its degrees of success and its by-products, as these reveal Milton at his "personal best." While to a candid appraisal—or to historians or methodologists of theology—his best might not seem the very best ever, this work remains unutterably precious to Milton, and close reading reveals the passion and energy of his mind in its acts of thought. To understand the personal dimension of Milton's theology is to understand, and evaluate, his mind in action.



John K. Hale is an Honorary Fellow of the Department of English at the University of Otago.

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