

“No Protological Ontology”? Zizioulas and Bulgakov on Creation from the End

This paper explores the theologies of creation and eschatology in John Zizioulas and Sergii Bulgakov. While Zizioulas correctly identifies the need for an eschatological ontology of creation, he wrongly construes Sergii Bulgakov’s sophiology as its natural opposite. For Bulgakov, creaturely Sophia does not name an ontologically completed creation whose being is secured at its origin, but names creation in its *becoming* toward divine-human communion. Bulgakov’s protology is therefore already eschatological: the beginning of creation contains not its completion but its vocation. The real difference between Bulgakov and Zizioulas concerns not whether creation receives its being from the end, but *how* that end is already present in and constitutive of creation’s beginning. This paper elucidates this difference with particular attention given to their distinct understandings of creatio ex nihilo and the role of Christology in the space between beginning and end.

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