

BNTS 2023

'What does this branch do when it is cut off? It cries...' (Jeanne Guyon): Some Female Readings of the Johannine Pericope of the Vine and its Branches

According to John 15:1-2 the vinedresser cuts the branch to enable it to bear more fruit. There is no reference to 'suffering' or related concepts in verse 2, and yet, unlike the male commentators of their time, some women interpreters have insisted that the verse in question refers to 'tribulation'. This paper will analyse how three women, in different time periods, have read this verse in light of interpretations offered by their male contemporaries: Catherine of Siena (14th c.), Jeanne Guyon (17th c.), and Adrienne von Speyr (20th c.). The interpretive and interdisciplinary approach adopted in this article allows us to pursue new lines of research in the light of a particular reading of John 15:2 and its reception and to consider what this reading contributes to the hermeneutics of the text as well as to certain theological and even sociological questions.

Florence Draguet

UCLouvain - RSCS

(Research Institute "Religion Spiritualities Cultures and Societies")