

COSMOLOGY IN THE “HOMILIES ON HEXAMERON” OF SAINT BASIL THE GREAT AND INFLUENCE OF THIS WORK AT SERBS

One of the most important works of Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea and Saint of the Eastern and Western Christian Church (330-379 A.D.), consists of his nine “Speeches on Hexameron”, where, using the scientific knowledge of his time, accompanied by a brilliant theological justification, he tries to prove the truth of cosmological events, described in the biblical book of Genesis.

This work has been translated several times on Serbian and influenced on astronomical contents in medieval serbian manuscripts

Considering the “Speeches on Hexameron” of Saint Basil from the point of view of the history of science, this work is one of the most important sources of knowledge concerning the dominant astronomical, and general scientific, views of that epoch.

In the present work, cosmological ideas during the time of Saint Basil were analyzed on the basis of “Hexameron”. Particularly were considered the questions: (a) what existed before the Creation of the perceivable Universe? (b) Time before the Creation of the world. (c) Time as the measure of aging. (d) The achronal Creation. (e) The multiple Universes. (f) The Universe with a beginning.