

The *Central Franconian Rhyming Bible*
 (“*Mittelfränkische Reimbibel*”):
An Early-Twelfth-Century German Verse
Homiliary

A Thematic and Exegetical Commentary
With the Text and a Translation into English

David A. Wells
(Birkbeck College, University of London)



Amsterdam – New York, NY 2004

CONTENTS

	<i>page</i>
PREFACE	xi
ABBREVIATIONS	xiv
A INTRODUCTION	1
<i>Text, Fragments and Edition</i>	3
<i>Dating</i>	6
<i>Provenance</i>	8
<i>History of Research</i>	10
<i>'Reimpredigt'</i>	21
<i>The Commentary Form</i>	24
<i>Citation and Reference</i>	27
<i>The Translation</i>	29
B BIBLICAL FRAGMENTS	31
[1] – [2] The Creation	33
[3] – [4] Three Heavens	36
[5] The Fall of the Angels	39
[6] – [10] Noah and the Flood	44
[11] – [19] Jacob and Joseph	51
[Fragment] The Plagues of Egypt	55
[Fragment] Susanna and the Elders	56
[20] – [34] The Nativity and Infancy of Christ	62
[35] – [38] John the Baptist	92
[39] The Call of the Disciples	98
[40] John the Evangelist	100
[41] Keeping Christ's Commandments	102
[42] – [44] Peter and Judas	105
[45] – [48] The Canaanite Woman's Daughter	111
[49] – [50] The Healing of the Blind Man at Jericho	116

	<i>page</i>
[51] – [53] Sheep and Goats; the Great Commandment	121
C HAGIOGRAPHICAL FRAGMENTS	127
[54] Veronilla	129
EXCURSUS: THE RELATIVE CHRONOLOGY OF <i>DE VERONILLA</i> AND THE <i>CFRB</i>	132
[55] – [64] Peter, Paul and Simon Magus	138
EXCURSUS: THE LITERARY AND SOCIAL STATUS OF FISHERMEN IN MEDIEVAL GERMAN LITERATURE	145
[65] – [68] The Assumption of the Virgin Mary	153
[69] – [73] The Fates of the Apostles	166
EXCURSUS: INCOMPLETE LISTS OF APOSTLES AND THE TRANSMISSION OF VERNACULAR SERMON TEXTS	178
<i>Peter and Paul</i>	183
<i>Andrew</i>	187
<i>James Zebedaei</i>	189
<i>James Alphaei</i>	190
<i>Philip</i>	194
<i>John the Evangelist</i>	195
<i>John the Baptist</i>	197
<i>Bartholomew</i>	199
<i>Matthew</i>	201
<i>Matthias</i>	202
<i>Simon and Judas Thaddaeus</i>	204
<i>Thomas</i>	206
[74] – [75] All Saints; Martyrs and Confessors	210
[76] – [78] The Destruction of Jerusalem	220
[79] – [82] Inventio Crucis	230
[83] – [87] Exaltatio Crucis	239
[88] – [90] Two Hells; Dives and Lazarus	248

D CONCLUSIONS	259
<i>Affinity with the Sermon</i>	261
<i>Sources</i>	261
<i>Dating</i>	265
<i>Theological Emphasis</i>	267
<i>Style and Unity of Composition</i>	269
<i>Liturgical Context and Influence</i>	271
<i>The Role of the Breviary</i>	272
<i>Hagiography and Martyrology</i>	274
<i>The Poet and his Limitations</i>	275
<i>Audience and Function</i>	277
<i>Comparison with Ælfric of Eynsham</i>	282
E BIBLIOGRAPHY	287
1. Patristic and Medieval Exegetical and Historiographical Sources	289
2. Apocryphal, Hebrew, and Oriental Texts and Translations	297
3. Vernacular Texts	300
4. Critical Literature	304
F INDEXES	339
1. References to the Bible, Apocrypha, Jewish Authors, and Hebrew Works	341
2. Name Index	345
3. Liturgical Feasts and Topics	349
4. Subject Index	350
5. Vernacular Authors and Texts	357
6. Vocabulary and Semantic Problems	359