

Abstract

This thesis focuses on early christian legitimacy of merovingian kingship before accession of Charlemagne's coronation ritual and unction. The aim is to characterise christian sacrality and legitimacy of the merovingian royal lineage from perspective of Gregory of Tours' chronicler narrative and to characterise Gregory's position towards kingship in general. The thesis does not exclude the elements of Merovingian pagan charisma before the conversion of king Chlodovech, nevertheless the christian legitimacy is crucial. The thesis is divided into three main categories. First focuses on development of the concepts of early christian kingship, the second on state of research on Gregory of Tours and the third part performs detailed analysis of Gregory's chronicle. The research is based on comparative methods that are used for examining Gregory's general theses in relationship to theses of other christian early medieval thinkers, characteristics of individual Merovingians and juxtaposition between them. The basis primarily stems from Anglo-American and partly from French approach of the concepts.