Preface

The work of Friedrich Schleiermacher has experienced a revival of interest over the last few decades. Research centers and scholarly associations in Germany and the United States have produced new critical editions and translations of his writings that offer considerably greater access to the manifold areas of his thought. Recent German and Anglophone studies have also opened new avenues for understanding the nuance and complexity of his philosophical and theological works. These combined efforts have allowed significant reconsiderations of Schleiermacher's theological contributions and a much fuller portrayal of his overall dogmatic vision. This book draws from this growing international collaboration to examine the novel coordination of grace and history in Schleiermacher's dogmatic writings. Charting an alternative to the reigning theological debates of his time, Schleiermacher fashioned an innovative understanding of Christ's relationship to human history. He depicts Christ's surpassing influence in history as an immanent transformation, arresting and elevating human living from within, and inaugurating the Reign of God. This presentation traces this theme throughout Schleiermacher's dogmatic theology with special attention to his neglected work in Christian Ethics (Christliche Sittenlehre).

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