

36. Zacharias the Scholastic,  
*Life of Severus of Antioch*

**editor's  
remarks**



Perhaps the most famous of the non-Chalcedonian theologians (known in older scholarship as "monophysites," a term now generally avoided) was Severus of Antioch (ca. 465-538). Severus studied rhetoric in Alexandria, then law in Beirut, where he was involved in an avid group of Christian students who met together to study the Church Fathers and to pray. He became a monk in Palestine, was ordained bishop of Antioch in 512, but was deposed upon the accession of the Chalcedonian emperor, Justin I, in 518. The following excerpts from his *Life* (itself a Syriac translation of a Greek original, now lost) include an episode from his student days and a description of on-going dissension among Eastern Christians in the wake of Chalcedon.

**primary source**



Let no one suppose that this history has gone outside its purpose.<sup>1</sup> My intention is to show that the great Severus, so far from the accusation made against him, was always among these who showed

such zeal against the pagans, and was praising what had been done by them. Far from ever being subject to the blame and fault of pagan error, he was a Christian in his faith, although then only a cate-



SOURCE: Tr. James F. Coakley. Syriac text: *Patrologia Orientalis* 2:44-46, 58-63, 100-115.

1. The previous section related how Christian zealots destroyed ancient "idols" from a village outside Alexandria.

**translator's information**

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**Citing the Primary Source:**

In text:

... (Zacharias the Scholastic 176).

In Works Cited:

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