

## In this number

**PÄIVI PÖYHÖNEN**

### The Elderly — Whose Responsibility? The Role of the Church in the Context of Transforming Care

In Finland, church social work already covers certain public sector tasks, and its importance has increased in recent years. The state-centred welfare model is struggling to provide enough care for the elderly, and the central government is redirecting resources and emphasizing the importance of the family. This article discusses how church social work concerning the elderly has developed in relation to changes in society and the generation contract.

**MATTI MYLLYKOSKI**

### The Book of Elchasai in Eastern Christianity

The Book of Elchasai and the baptist sect that used it was much better known in eastern Christianity than in the West. Origen describes the influence of the Elchasaites in mid-3rd century Palestine. Epiphanius, by contrast, discusses Jewish and Christian movements in Palestine

and Transjordan in his extensive heresiology, including the adherents of Elchasai. The Elchasaites had a curious kind of Christology, and their adherence to law, astrological practices and ritual baptisms in particular were an interesting and unusual trend among eastern Christian sects.

**JUSSI KOIVISTO**

### Is it Possible to Choose Evil? The Interpretation of the Fall in Early Lutheranism

The Fall of mankind, depicted in chapter 3 of Genesis, is one of the best known Biblical stories in the Christian tradition. Early Lutherans emphasized that the Devil was the actual cause for the fall and that the first humans were his victims. This article discusses in detail how this notion developed between 1535 and 1580. The article also presents new and radical approaches to chapter 3 of Genesis and early Lutheranism.

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