

Contents

Preface	ix
Abbreviations	xiii
Prologue: Nicomedia: Winter 302–303	1
Conceptions of Monotheism	6
Lactantius's Response	7
Chapter 1: Defying the Dominate	19
The Crumbling Principate: The Transformation of the Emperor	20
Diocletian's Dominate: A New Style of Rule	25
Lactantius's Criticisms of the Dominate	32
Lactantius's Solution: A Return to the Principate	40

Chapter 2:	Prosecuting the Jurists	46
	Bringing the Provinces under Roman Law	47
	The Tetrarchy's Drive for Legal Uniformity	53
	Harmonizing Roman and Christian Law: Lactantius's Ideal State	56
Chapter 3:	Persuading the Philosophers	64
	Hermes Trismegistus: Plato's Ancient Source	65
	Bridging the Gap between Philosophical Monotheism and Christianity	67
	An Inclusive Christianity	84
Chapter 4:	Forging Forbearance	91
	Porphyry as Lactantius's Anonymous Philosopher	93
	Lactantius's Familiarity with the <i>Philosophy from Oracles</i>	102
	The Issue of Tolerance	107
	Tolerance versus Concord	111
Chapter 5:	Constantine and the New Rome	115
	Constantine and the Question of Tolerance	117
	Constantine's Religious Policy	121
	Sole Rule	125
	Lactantius and Constantine: A Policy of Concord	133
	Transforming the Constitution	138
	Notes	145
	Bibliography	177
	Index	197