

Letter 514: [September 1533, Strasbourg], Capito to Wendelin Rihel

This is the preface to Oecolampadius' posthumous *In Hieremiam prophetam commentariorum libri tres*, edited by Capito (Strasbourg: M. Apiarius, September 1533), f. Iv-IVv. The letter is printed in BrOek 2:740–2, Ep. 970.

[*Summary*]: When people ask Capito for the best method to read the prophets, he recommends the commentaries of Oecolampadius, Luther, and Zwingli. Capito himself and Bucer have also lectured on the prophets. He has agreed to write this letter because Simon Grynaeus, who had originally been requested to provide a preface, was unable to do so at this time. Capito can offer no better rule to study the prophets than Christ, who is the key to all mysteries. He objects to those who may disdain the letter, for the spirit of scripture is not a human but a divine gift, for which one must pray. Errors and sectarianism can be avoided through such simple and humble reading of scripture. He hopes that Oecolampadius' thoughts, which Capito has gathered here, will aid him in his scriptural studies.