Holy Land Pilgrimage In The Later Roman Empire, AD 312-460

E. D Hunt

Christianity has a strong tradition of pilgrimages, both to sites relevant to the New Testament narrative (especially in the Holy Land) and to sites associated with later saints or miracles. Christian pilgrimage was first made to sites connected with the birth, life, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. Aside from the early example of Origen in the third century, surviving descriptions of Christian pilgrimages to the Holy Land date from the 4th century, when pilgrimage was encouraged by church Holy Land Pilgrimage. Everyone knows about pilgrimages but not everyone is aware how far back the tradition stretches in Christian history or what an important part it played in the newly Christianised Roman Empire. I had frankly expected this to be a rather an obscure topic, but thanks to the luminous way in which David Hunt writes, I found this book "unputdownable" and read it at a session and I know that many of its details, particularly some of the court scandals and the intricacies of life in the Holy Land in the Fifth Century will stay with me always.