Contents

Acknowledgments ix

Introduction 1

PART 1
What did Baur Learn from Böhme?

1 The Idea of Creation 13
   The Creation of Creation 13
   The Hierarchy of Being 22
   From Absoluteness to Finitude 28
   The Will and God between Creation and Fragility 34
   The Materiality of the World between the Devil and Man 42
   From God to God's Word, Lucifer, and Man 51

2 The Image of Lucifer 60
   Lucifer as God's Creation 60
   Lucifer and the Idea of Light 67
   Lucifer and Opposition against God 73
   Lucifer and Rebellion 81
   Lucifer and Sin 91
   Lucifer and Death 100
   Lucifer and Evil 105
   Lucifer and the World 110
   Lucifer and the Foundation of Dualism 116

3 The Structure of Dualism 125
   Gnosis as Fundamental Dualism 125
   The Dualism of Light and Darkness 129
   The Dualism of Matter and Spirit 134
   Dualism Explained: The Idea of Fragility 140
   Dualism Explained: The Idea of Birth 146
   Dualism Explained: The Idea of Agony 151
   Light and Darkness in Creation 156
   Christ and Lucifer in Creation 164
   The Word and the Son in Creation 170
PART 2
What did Baur Learn from Hegel?

4 The Overlapping of Spirit and Matter 179
   Baur’s Hegelian Understanding of God as Spirit in the Human Being 179
   Baur’s Hegelian Understanding of God as Corporeal in Christ’s Being 194

5 The Connection between Philosophy and Religion 213
   The Correlation of Philosophy and Religion as Interpenetration of Humanity and Divinity 213
   Religion as Christianity, Paganism, and Judaism 231

Concluding Remarks. Baur’s Synthesis of Böhme and Hegel:
Gnosis as a Christian Philosophy of Religion in History 262
   Gnosis and the Old Philosophy of Religion 263
   Gnosis and Manichaeism 265
   Gnosis and Augustinianism 272
   Gnosis and the Middle Ages 276
   Gnosis and the Reformation 279
   Gnosis between Absolute Truth, Salvation, and Faith 285
   Personal Conclusions 290

Bibliography 295
Index 356