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The History of Forms in Judeo-Christian Sources and Tradition

Continuation of Research

Abstract: The Research group of the Faculty of Theology covering the fields of Biblical studies, Systematic Theology, Church History and Literature as a whole will use the achieved results by the research work to date for more focused efforts in the project of the new commented translation of the Bible – a project which is extremely important to every nation, and which is also extremely demanding. The research will be carried out in the framework of the Research Agency of the Republic of Slovenia (ARRS). The programme group worked to a lesser extent under the guidance of Jože Krašovec already from 1998-2003 in the framework of the programme entitled Guilt and Reconciliation; the research was focused on the area of Bible studies. From 2004-2008 it was greatly broadened out to include researchers of Church history, systematic theology and literature in general. This meant that the research became more inter-disciplinary and more distinguished both in home and abroad.

Key words: Biblical studies, Systematic Theology, Church History, Literature, translation of the Bible, Research Agency

Povzetek: **Zgodovina oblik v judovsko-krščanskih virih in tradiciji: nadaljevanje raziskovanja.**

Raziskovalna skupina Teološke fakultete, ki pokriva področja bibličnih študij, sistematične teologije, cerkvene zgodovine in literature, bo uporabila dosedanje dosežene rezultate raziskovanja za večji poudarek na projektu novega komentiranega prevoda Svetega pisma – projektu, ki je izredno pomemben za vsak narod, a je tudi zelo zahteven. Raziskovanje bo potekalo v okviru Javne agencije za raziskovalno dejavnost Republike Slovenije (ARRS). Programska skupina je v manjšem obsegu delovala pod vodstvom Jožeta Krašovca že v letih 1998-2003 v okviru programa z naslovom Krivda in sprava; raziskovanje je bilo osredotočeno na področje bibličnih študij. Za obdobje 2004-2008 je bila precej povečana, da so bili vključeni raziskovalci cerkvene zgodovine, sistematične teologije in literature. Tako je raziskovanje postalo bolj interdisciplinarno in bolj razpoznavno doma in v tujini.

Ključne besede: biblične študije, sistematična teologija, cerkvena zgodovina, literatura, prevod Svetega pisma, raziskovalna agencija

During the next six years the emphasis will be on researching the forms of the fundamental biblical and theological concepts in the framework of preparing a new commented translation of the Bible, as well as on researching Slovenian cultural history in the broader sense. Research will be carried out with a mind to constant reciprocity between research of the foundations and practical applications. Research

conducted to date shows that the majority of members of the programme group have cooperated greatly in the framework of international scientific associations, published abroad and presented at international scientific conferences. In the next years the institutional framework will not be formalized international research and development programmes and projects, but concrete research and presentations in the framework of international academic meetings, academic institutions and libraries. Research in the framework of the programme group is of utmost importance for the promotion of Slovenian theological science abroad and for augmenting the quality of pedagogical work at the Faculty of Theology, as well as, indirectly, other areas of the humanities in Slovenia. All research is either directly or indirectly included in the study programme of the Faculty of Theology, especially under the new Bologna accord, which will come into effect next year.

The research environment is comparable to that of recognized European universities. The technical support and quality of the library of the Faculty of Theology is improving from year to year, with guest lectures at foreign universities and interlibrary loans helping to fill gaps. The research group is well-linked, and the leader ensures that coordination is uninterrupted, while encouraging and helping in the organization of guest lectures and publications. Cooperation in study programmes in the framework of the Faculty of Theology, other faculty and various academic societies allows cooperation with other research groups at home and abroad.¹

Translation of the Bible and Standardization of Biblical Terminology

Twelve years after the publication of the new translation of the Bible there has been felt, in expert circles, the encouragement for a fundamental revision of the translation, introduction, notes, references and other additions with the aim, in the context of the rich tradition of our linguistic and literary culture and quickly-developing Biblical sciences, of establishing uniformity in the process of standardizing Biblical terminology in the broader contexts of the fundamental Biblical and theological concepts – while respecting the original sources and tradition. However, each attempt, in harmony with ge-

¹ The programme leader Jože Krašovec was, from 2000 to 2006, the Slovenian representative in the European science foundation and greatly accelerated the inclusion of Slovenian humanities in ERIH. Since 2006 he has been the president of the Academic council ARRS for the humanities, which means that he has a special mission in affiliating research work in the area of the humanities in Slovenia and internationally.

neral practice in the world, to confirm systematically the accuracy of the translation in relation to the original, to critical variations which exist for the oldest translations of the Bible, and to the religious and cultural tradition as a whole, actually leads to a new translation. Especially important is the awareness of the harmony between the original and the translation in terms of style, the structure of literary forms and the textual tradition. Attention is particularly demanded in the comparison of literary forms of previous Slovenian Bible translations and the search for an adequate translation solution with consideration to the development of literary studies, history, and theology. The entirely new plan for a new commented translation of the Bible was the decision for the first time in Slovenian history to translate and comment a series of books which are contained in the Orthodox, but not in the Catholic and Protestant canons of the Bible:

a) Books in the Greek and the Old Slavonic translations of the Bible:

- the First Book of Ezra, referred to in the Old Slavonic translation as the Second Book of Ezra, in the Appendix to the Vulgate as the Third Book of Ezra,
- The Prayer of Manasseh, the first text in the Appendix in the Vulgate,
- Psalm 151, referred to in LXX as Psalm 150,
- The Third Book of Maccabees;

b) books which are included in the Old Slavonic Bible and in the Latin Vulgate Appendix:

- The Second Book of Ezra, translated in Old Slavonic as the Third Book of Ezra, and in the Appendix to the Vulgate as the Fourth Book of Ezra;

c) the book included in the Appendix to the Greek Bible:

- The Fourth Book of Maccabees

The fundamental guide of faithfulness to Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek original of the Bible includes the most important aspect of faithfulness to the original: respecting the style of the original text. The method is literary-critical and comparatively linguistic. In the confronting of antique and modern languages in the framework of a holistic semantic field the basic biblical-theological concepts give rise to both minor and greater dilemmas. Translating is primarily a matter of three tasks: the process of uncovering the original meaning

according to the principle of primary research; the invention of appropriate forms of expression in the target language; codification of vocabulary and other forms of expression in the given culture. The most crucial aspect in presenting the creation of European standard translations of the Bible is increasing the awareness that a translation must be most in harmony with the original in a linguistic and literary/stylistic regard. The fundamental task of our revision of the translation of the biblical text can be summed up in six points:

- greater accuracy of the translation in general;
- increased respecting of the biblical literary types, style and rhetoric;
- complete uniformity of set phrases and quotations from the Old Testament in the New Testament;
- complete uniformity of vocabulary of a technical nature;
- relative uniformity of vocabulary of a theological nature;
- consistent standardization of proper names.²²

Translation of the Bible and Standardization of Proper Names

In 2007 Jože Krašovec published a seminal work about the phonetic issues related to the development of Biblical proper names. The monograph examines the phonetic relations among the main Bible languages in the original and in ancient translations: Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek, Latin, etc. During the next few years the author will prepare a philological dictionary of all biblical proper names in the relation between the original languages in terms of the accepted basic form and the many variations. No such dictionary of biblical pro-

²² For diversing views of translation challenge see Kenneth L. Barker, ed., *The Making of a Contemporary Translation: New International Version* (London / Sydney / Auckland / Toronto: Hodder & Stroughton, 1987); artin Buber and Franz Rosenzweig, transl. Lawrence Rosenwald and Everett Fox, *Scripture and Translation* (Bloomington / Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1994); Jean Delsle and Judith Woodsworth, ed., *Translators through History* (Amsterdam/ Philadelphia, Pen.: J. Benjamins, 1995); Hans-Christoph Askani, *Das Problem der Übersetzung – dargestellt an Franz Rosenzweig: Die Methoden und Prinzipien der Rosenzweigschen und Beuber-Rosenzweigschen Übersetzungen* (Tübingen: J. C. B. Mohr (P. Siebeck), 1997); Michael A. Knibb, *Translating the Bible: The Ethiopic Version of the Old Testament* (Schweich Lectures of the British Academy 1995; Oxford: British Academy / Oxford University Press, 1999); Stanley E. Porter and Richard S. Hess, *Translating the Bible: Problems and Prospects* (JSNT.S 173; Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1999); R. M. Liuzza, *The Old English Version of the Gospels, II: Notes and Glossary* (for Early English Text Society; Oxford / New York: Oxford University Press, 2000).

per names has been published in any language. For this reason Jože Krašovec, while preparing the new translation and revision of the Bible, set himself the task of examining the Hebrew, Greek and Latin variations in order to arrive at a definitive and truly substantiated standardization of Slovenian forms of biblical names and create a reference work that would facilitate the standardization of names elsewhere in the world. For ecumenical reasons, the preparation of a comparative dictionary of the forms of biblical names respects not only all the Protocanonical and Deuterocanonical/Apocryphal books, but also the books in the broader Orthodox canon, which are based on the broader canon of the Septuagint and the Vulgate.

The consistent standardization of proper names is in progress with consideration of comparative principles in the preparation of a comparative dictionary of forms of names in the four source languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek and Latin. The complex phonetic relations among Hebrew/Aramaic, Greek and Latin have, to date, not been systematically and comparatively dealt with on the basis of the main sources of all these languages in connection with biblical proper names. Experience to date shows that for a reliable standardization of names there is a veritable need for the compiling of a comparative dictionary of the forms of biblical proper names for all the Hebrew/Aramaic, Greek and Latin forms that are found in the Hebrew Bible, LXX and the Latin Vulgate. This means not only an accepted form in the majority of European standard translations of the Bible, but also all the variant forms that we find throughout these three Bibles. The greatest importance is the complete list of all forms of the same name found in all the existing places in the Bible in the newest critical editions of the Bible in these languages. This means that each biblical proper name must be physically checked and dissected in all the existing sections of the Bible in all three/four languages. An overview from the perspective of the entire form will very clearly show which form of an individual proper name we can call a family reading, which a folk reading, and which the majority reading. The variant spellings of a proper name from the modern translations will be raised as a fairly complete reflection of phonetic legitimacy.³

³ Many important findings about the phonetic relationship between the Hebrew/Aramaic, Greek and at least partly Latin languages are comprised in the monographs or articles by: Henry Thackeray, *A Grammar of the Old Testament in Greek*; Franz Wutz, "Die Bedeutung der Transkriptionen in der LXX," *Biblische Zeitschrift* 16 (1924), 194-203; idem, *Die Transkriptionen von der LXX bis zum Hieronymus* (Stuttgart: Hohlhammer, 1933); Borée, *Die alten Ortsnamen Palästinas*; Sperber, *Hebrew Based upon Greek and Latin Transliterations*; Gerhard Lisowsky, *Die Transcription der hebräischen Eigennamen des Pentateuch in der Sptuaginta*; Joseph Ziegler, "Transkriptionen in der Ier.-LXXX: Transkription der Eigennamen (EN)," 59-86; A. Murtonen, *Hebrew in Its West Semitic Setting*; Ran Zadok, *The Pre-hellent-*

Investigating Relationships at the Anthropological and Theological Levels

The Bible devotes great attention to the description of the origins and development of interpersonal relationships. Relations within the family are important: fatherly relations, maternal relations, fraternal relations; this extends to relations with friends; towards strangers. Awareness of the revelation of God enriches human relationships, adding new aspects to them, and shedding light on their depth. Researching these relations in the Bible and in the Jewish tradition will, by using appropriate methods, allow for a deepening of the original anthropology and offer new sources of understanding and dialogue for present day man and modern society. In the framework of the Chair of Bible Studies and Judaism, these issues will be researched primarily by Mirjana Filipič, Maria Carmela Palmisano and Terezija Večko. The intertwining of the anthropological and theological perspectives on relations is especially evident in the theology of the Holy Trinity. This viewpoint will be researched by the representative of systematic theology in line with the motto: "The Trinitization of Interpersonal and Societal Relations"; some important viewpoints have already been examined in the framework of the programme to date; four monographs have been published, and another is ready for print. All of these works are initial (and thus original) systematic overviews of important areas pertaining to social and personal existence in a Trinitarian light and thus open new perspectives on existence and behaviour. In the next programme research of this variety will continue, and the researchers will extend their work to include other perspectives. Recently, Avguštin Lah completed a monograph entitled *V znamenju osebe (A Sign of the Individual)*. The monographs about the Holy Trinity will also in the future be published in the academic collection TRINITAS, which is original in the broadest international context.⁴⁴

stic Israelite Anthroponymy and Prosopography; Emanuel Tov, "Loan-words, Homophony, and Transliterations in the Septuagint," *The Greek and Hebrew Bible: Collected Essays on the Septuagint* (V.T.S 72; Leiden / Boston / Köln: Brill, 1999), 165-182; idem, "Transliterations of Hebrew Words in the Greek Versions: A Further Characteristic of the Kaige-th Revision?," *The Greek and Hebrew Bible*, 501-12; Tal Ilan, *Lexicon of Jewish Names in Late Antiquity*; Pietro A. Kaswaller OFM, *Onomastica Biblica: Fonti scritte e ricerca archeologica* (Jerusalem: Franciscan Printing Press, 2002); Yoel Elitzur, *Ancient Place Names in the Holy Land*.

⁴⁴ Members of the Chair of Dogmatic Theology of the Faculty of Theology of the University of Ljubljana became known both at home and abroad for the results of the research on the Trinitization of interpersonal and societal relations. Ciril Sorč's study on Trinitarian Perichoresis has been taken into account and cited by numerous foreign authors in their essays and books.

From all the freedom of individuals in their scientific work, the key topics of research will be: relationships in general; the semantic field of the concept of agape; the semantic ranges of the concepts of kenosis and perichoresis; hope and eschatology. Here Bible scholars and adherents of systematic theology investigate something that is of great importance for humankind and society. All will emerge from biblical sources and classical Christian tradition, and all researchers will cooperate in the preparation of a new commented translation of the Bible. The thematic approaches in researching the primary and secondary sources of spiritual literature often call for extensive comparative research covering human history from the beginning to the present. For this reason in all fundamental themes there are limitless possibilities for up-to-date research. Because theology was never isolated from general historical and societal events, the fundamental research means an organic encroachment into general existential, historical, sociological and educational streams.

Interpretation of Sources from the Field of Church History

To study Church history is to see the hand of God at work amidst the strife, transgression and glory of human ways. The group of Church historians in the programme would like to add their contribution to research and the correct interpreting of historical sources, events and protagonists that in particular periods marked the religious life of people on Slovenian soil as well as their integration into the European context. Christianity is deeply rooted in history. Understanding the institution of the Christian Church helps us to separate fiction and fads from the facts and doctrine of the true Christian faith. The activities of the Church historians, who in their cooperation plan to attract also other interested historians, will focus in the next programme period on the following areas:

- scientific research activities and the re-publishing of newly discovered historical sources;
- the publication and application of new findings in history books and textbooks;
- publications (*Acta ecclesiastica Sloveniae*, essay collections...);
- organizing academic conferences and symposiums (at home and

Similarly, Anton Štrukelj's publications on Balthasar's kenotic theology have been recognized by international experts from the field. The recognition of results to date is encouraging for continued research into the sources, traditions and interpretations of the topic.

- abroad);
- cooperation (lecturing) at scientific conferences and symposiums (at home and abroad);
 - international cooperation and exchange of scientific findings;
 - interdisciplinary cooperation with the aid of historical science (archaeology, sphragistics, heraldry...) and with other sciences linked to history (anthropology, philosophy, theology, art history, ethnology, sociology, religious studies...);
 - the uncovering and researching of new sources for the history of the Church in Slovenia (in domestic and, especially, in foreign archives; of relevance are all historical periods);
 - mediating Christian contents of Slovenian missionaries in the countries of their missions or their role and the contribution to intercultural exchange between the homeland and countries of the third world;
 - ethnological, sociological, political and culture application of religious life (comparative approach); beliefs of yesteryear and today;
 - Slovenian encounters with Islam throughout history;
 - history and the importance of theological educational institutes in Slovenia
 - the engaging of Young Researchers

The goals of researching Church history are:

- more objective recognition of the causes and consequences of fundamental events in the history of the Church in Slovenia and abroad;
- the creation of interpretatively correct cause-and-effect links between individual events and protagonists;
- understanding historical events and processes generated by the Church
- evaluating the influence of the spiritual dimension of Christianity on Slovenian culture.⁵⁵

The basis of the actions of the Church in terms of content has been marked in all ages by God's word, which is written in the Bible. In essence this is the question of applying biblical contents to the concrete form of life of the Church as such; it is a matter of practising biblical principles, commandments, religious traditions, etc., in the everyday life of the individual and in various forms of societal life, which to a great extent is determined by Christian belief. The specific nature of the approach of Church historians lies in the expe-

⁵ This plan was communicated by Dr. Matjaž Ambrožič.

rience based upon memory, practical judgement, and cultural tradition. This implies, as Francis Schüssler Fiorenza states, that fundamental theology cannot appeal to a transcendental experience as primal experience prior to the encounter with the religious tradition. Such an experience stands within the effective history of that tradition. Therefore, fundamental theology is faced with the problem that, on the one hand, the tradition can only be known and interpreted insofar as one acknowledges its truth claims, to be accepted or to be rejected and that on the other, contemporary experience is not an independent source or criterion that is totally free from the tradition itself. The way through the impasse is to develop a reconstructive hermeneutic that implies a method of justification commonly called a wide reflective equilibrium.⁶⁶

The truth cannot be adequately explained by scientific method because the truth on human origin and goal transcends the limits of methodological interpretation. The truth of historical events may be revealed when we discover the conditions for understanding its meaning.

A Comparative Examination of the Theme of Longing and Temptation in Literature

In the framework of European and world cultural history in general and in literature in particular there are certain archetypes of this thematic that are found in folk and high literary traditions of the old Middle East, old Greece, old Far East and throughout all periods of European folk and high literature and other genres of arts. Some sources are of a religious nature and we find them in similar forms in the Bible, the Koran and in the broader Jewish, Christian as well as Islamic tradition, and others appear in world literature. For all of these types of literature there is a characteristic repetition of fundamental motifs in different variations, which itself shows the topicality and the importance of texts within various cultures. Because Slovenian folk and high literature grew organically into European religious and world literature, it is best examined comparatively in the broader European and, to a certain extent, world context.⁷⁷

Characteristic for a modern examination of the source, meaning and goal of religious and secular cultural history is the generally valid demand for a comparative approach for the diachronic and syn-

⁶⁶ See *Foundational Theology: Jesus and the Church* (New York: Crossroad, 1984), 300-3001.

⁷⁷ Dr. Irena Avsenik Nabergoj has been working already about two years in this topic and has prepared a fairly detailed plan for the next years.

chronic range of the available material. In the 20th century, the generally comparative principle greatly encouraged research into biblical texts and Israeli cultures with cultures of the old Middle East. Comparative studies were sometimes more, sometimes less, convincing. Researchers often followed individual elements of similarity or sameness of historical, literary and artistic sources, and then failed to see the essential differences, which become evident only from the whole of the points of departure, assumptions and goals generally followed by the authors. For this reason, many literary critics and researchers of the phenomena of religion and theology rightly emphasize similarities and differences, common characteristics and peculiarities can only be seen from a holistic consideration of the extant material as a whole. Research in the area of literature all the more calls for searching for the most essential common points that are uncovered by various literary works from different cultures and periods.⁸

Concluding Remarks

Every in-depth study of the human being as a person and of human history as a whole shows that human development depends not so much on ratio as on the state of feelings and morality. This same field of all our highest inclinations and values is where we meet our fellow man. Such meeting entails inspiring a sense for a fertile tradition, continuity in culture, and the right relation between continuity and change. The collapse of sensitivity, the division of the sense from thought, the loss of a sense for internal and external order, and the decline of the classical and Christian cultural framework are characteristics of modern European civilization. The holistic examination of the basis of the programme is aimed at the raising of awareness about interpersonal action between the culture of the individual and of society as a whole. Culture as a whole, the holistic way of living, manifests itself especially in religion, art, laws and intellectu-

⁸ A comparative study of formal genres and of related forms of the documents, of their structures it is possible to established both likenesses and unlikenesses of tales, legends and other literary forms expressing these themes. The more it is manifest that literary documents do not follow culture areas or language boundaries the more it is manifest that some other principle must be taken into account. The universal existential impact is evident. The book of Genesis in the Bible gives two versions of a creation myth with worldwide analogies. Another perennial question concerns human life in interpersonal relationships in love, marriage, fidelity and infidelity. In this context, the topic of longing and temptation is best placed.

al activities. Society as a whole and all social organizations are dependent on tradition.⁹ The culture of the individual cannot be isolated from the culture of the society as a whole. The research programme groups cover the most important fields of theological study, and as such also set the foundations for educating specialized theological workers and educating broader circles of citizens in the framework of the specialized education programme of the Faculty of Theology, scientific and popular publications as well as public appearances, especially in the media.

Recent Publications of the Research Group

Ambrožič Matjaž, Mitja Ferenc, and Gojko Zupan. *V objemu stoletij: kronika župnije Kočevska Reka*. Ljubljana: Družina, 2007.

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Krašovec, Jože. “Beseda v prevodu: revizija ali novi prevod Svetega pisma.” In: *Bogoslovni vestnik* 67 (2007): 315-342.

⁹ Tradition is a spiritual bond between the present and the past between the individual and the greater fellowship in space and time. A tradition lives as long as any practical interest is connected with it. In the humanities we are confronted with an interaction of oral and written transmission. Tradition is a dynamic collection of material that points to the ongoing human struggle for survival and meaning in real-life situations.

- . *Svetopisemska lastna imena: fonetika, etimologija prevajanje in transliteriranje = Biblical Proper Names: Phonetics, Etymology, Translation and Transliteration*. Ljubljana: Slovenska akademija znanosti in umetnosti, Razred za filološke in literarne vede = Academia scientiarum et artium Slovenica, Classis II: Philologia et litterae: Znanstvenoraziskovalni center SAZU, Založba ZRC, 2007.
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