

SUMMARY

1. Title of doctoral dissertation

The Fatherhood of God in the Gospel of John in the Context of the Targum Neofiti 1. An Exegetical-theological Analysis

2. Summary of doctoral dissertation

The fatherhood of God is an important theological theme in the Gospel of John. This is indicated by the fact that the term 'father' is the most common word. It occurs 136 times, of which 118 times God is referred to as Father. This is even more evident when we compare it with the Synoptic Gospels, where the term appears much less frequently (Matt-63, Mk -18, Lk-56). In the Fourth Gospel, the relationship between the Father and the Son is presented in a particular way. The Father is the One who loves the Son (Jn 3:25; 10:17) and delegates all authority to Him (Jn 3:35). Jesus, on the other hand, is identified as the only begotten Son (Jn 1:18; 3:16) and the One sent by the Father (Jn 12:44). This relationship is so close that the Father can be seen in the Son (Jn 12:45; 14:9). The consequence of this is their profound unity expressed in the words: 'I and the Father are one' (Jn 10:30).

The Gospel of John also shows the fatherhood of God towards believers. It should be noted, however, that this relationship is presented through the lens of the bond between Jesus and the Father. The evangelist emphasises that the full experience of God as Father can only be experienced by the disciples after the resurrection of Christ. This means that they can experience the relationship with the Father to the extent that they participate in the life of the Son. They become children of God through faith in the Word (Jn 1:12) and receive new life through the Holy Spirit (Jn 3:5).

The dissertation consists of four chapters. The first and second present general ideas about the fatherhood of God in Targum Neofiti 1 and the Gospel of John. They have a parallel structure in order to make the similarities clearer. The next two chapters analyse selected verses

of the fourth Gospel in the context of the respective Targum. Again, the similarity in structure is due to the historical-critical method and theological exegesis adopted.

The first chapter is entitled 'God as Father in Targum Neofiti 1'. It presents the fatherhood of God in three aspects: transcendent (the Father who is in heaven), immanent (God who manifests himself on earth) and social (God towards the sons of Israel). The terminology is discussed first, followed by an analysis of the contexts in which the targum passage under study occurs.

The second chapter takes up the theme: 'God as Father in the Fourth Gospel'. It is analysed in three aspects (transcendent, immanent and social), analogous to the previous chapter. It should be emphasised, however, that there are deliberately no references to the Targum Neofiti 1 at this stage, although terminological and theological similarities with targumic texts are repeatedly pointed out.

The third chapter: 'Jesus as the Son of God' analyses selected texts from the Gospel of John concerning the fatherhood of God in relation to Jesus (Jn 1:18; 10:30; 17:1). Each of these has been subjected to literary, exegetical and theological analysis. At the stage of literary analysis, an attempt is made to retrovert the Aramaic text that may underlie the Greek version of the Gospel. This action is motivated by the conviction of an Aramaic source for the Fourth Gospel, existing either in written form or solely in oral transmission.

The fourth chapter, entitled 'The disciples as children of God', provides a literary, exegetical and theological analysis of selected texts from John (Jn 1:12-13; 3:3-5; 17:20-21). In addition, an Aramaic retroversion of the relevant verses concerning God's fatherhood towards the disciples has been undertaken. It should be emphasised that in the third and fourth chapters the texts of John are examined in the context of the traditions contained in Targum Neofiti 1.

In conclusion, this thesis shows many similarities between John's idea of the fatherhood of God and the traditions contained in the Targum Neofiti 1. John's presentation of the Father's relationship with the Son and with the disciples repeatedly refers to terms or ideas found in the Targum tradition. The research carried out confirms that the texts of the Fourth Gospel can be better understood in the light of this targum.

3. **Keywords:** fatherhood, Gospel of John, Targum Neofiti 1

Sr. Donata Chwito