

## From the editors

The next issue of the *Scriptura Sacra* yearbook of the biblical environment of Opole, which we would like to present, contains the achievements of this environment in its fundamental research strands, which are the master's theses in biblical studies and the development of the study of Hebrew rhetoric. Hence, the individual articles correspond to these strands of biblical research.

The current issue opens with a comprehensive article from the Hebrew rhetoric division, authored by Dr. J. Bosowski, titled "Three Levels of Structure and Composition in the Oracles Against Egypt". The area of research is covered chapters 29–32 in the Book of Ezekiel, analyzed in the light of Hebrew rhetoric. The starting point of the research is the different proposals for the structure of the specified chapters, and consequently understanding the meaning of the oracles delivered against Egypt. Through rhetorical analysis, it was possible to discover a composition that in two systems (3 oracles each) announces the final collapse of Egyptian power.

The following articles are the output of the promoted masters of the Theological Faculty of the Opole University, both priests and laymen, who prepared and defended their theses in biblical studies. The first text is an article by Rev. W. Cholewa, M.A., entitled "Man the King of Creation. An intertextual analysis of Genesis 1:1–2:4a and Ps 8". The inspiration for taking up two – seemingly – distant texts was the common motif of man in the role of king and ruler of creation. From the analyses used: structure, rhetorical forms, as well as intertextual analysis, it is clear that the anthropology of the two works, although showing significant lexical differences, nevertheless remains consistent. According to it, man remains a king who exercises authority over the entire earth in the name of the Lord.

The second text is an article by D. Pyclik, M.A., entitled "Moses – Messenger of Yahweh (Exodus 1:1-14:31)", which shows the originality of the mission of God's chosen people against the background of the Exodus from Egypt. The author focused

on the first part of this oh-so-important book to bring out the timeless message contained in God's revelation to the chosen people, who are henceforth to undertake the service of the One God.

The next text in the biblical analysis section is an article by Dr. M. Szymończyk entitled: "The Davidic Messiah in the Old Testament tradition". In a sense, as it was above in the case of Moses, it is a contribution to outline the character. But this time the panorama of texts is much broader, because it includes those parts of the historical books that contain narratives about David, read in the perspective of the announcement of his descendant (2 Sm 7:1-16), as well as the poetic texts contained in Ps 89 and 132. The author skillfully managed to link distant texts, showing their impact on the New Testament realization in the person of Jesus Christ.

Particularly noteworthy is the study by Rev. K. Józefczyk, M.A., who took up the topic: "The motif of water in the Elijah cycle (1 Kings 17–2 Kings 2)". Using the historical-critical method, enriched by literary analysis: rhetorical, narrative and comparative, he very skillfully demonstrated the fundamental role played by the water motif in the Elijah cycle. In fact, its absence and the drought caused by it is the main axis of the narrative about this prophet in the context of the unfaithfulness of the covenant the chosen people made with God.

Remaining in the stream of the tradition of historical books, we present an article by Rev. M.A. M. Kandzia, entitled: "Jerusalem-Samaritan antagonisms in the Books of Ezra and Nehemiah". It is a contribution based on the study of the history of Second Temple Judaism, in which the genesis of the Jerusalem-Samaritan disputes should be traced. The author used the method of intertextual and comparative analysis of selected biblical and extra-biblical texts to indicate as precisely as possible how the so-called Samaritan schism came about.

The last of the biblical articles is the text of M.A. J. Niestrój on the topic: "Man and his vocation as seen in the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah". The author undertook the demanding task of not only analyzing the selected passages of this important prophetic book itself, which speak of vocation. She skillfully managed to bring out those elements from Jeremiah's life that represent existential experiences flowing from God's call and the consequences taken. An equally important value of this work is that it points out the timeless nature of the vocation God bestows on man, amidst the many trials and experiences to which he responds in various ways at different stages of his life.

An addition in the issue under review is the reviews section, in which we include a discussion of another volume of Benedict XVI's statements in the *Mystagogia Benedicti* series, this time devoted to Marian texts (Fr. Prof. A. S. Jasiński, OFM). We also include a review of the latest publication by Fr. Prof. J. Kochel and Fr. MA-lic. A. Sepiolo entitled. "Ways of Upbringing. A primer on biblical pedagogy", which is a good example of the application of the biblical message in the upbringing of the younger generation (Fr. Dr. A. Demitrów).

The current issue culminates with two reports on events taking place in biblical environments in Poland. The first revisits the symposium of the Association of Polish Biblical Scholars, which took place in Włocławek on 14–16.09.2022 (Fr. Dr. A. Demitrów). While the second text is an account of the September edition of the Opole School of Semitic Rhetoric (M.A-lic. A. Białowąs).

