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**Anna Bąk, *Perswazyjna funkcja
cytatów przywołanych z Księgi Izajasza
w 1 Kor 1, 18–3, 4*, Wydawnictwo Naukowe
Uniwersytetu Papieskiego Jana Pawła II
w Krakowie, Kraków 2010, 324 pp.**

The Holy Scripture is the basis of the Christian faith. The New Testament presents the life of Christ and His teachings, at the same time showing the development of the Church and the problems arising in this process. Both Testaments are in unity, what can be seen by the use of the Old Testament in the books of the New. In the book, being the doctoral thesis prepared on the seminar of the Department of Biblical Hermeneutics and Judaic Studies, supervised by prof. Roman Pindel, the author discusses the use of quotations and allusions from the Book of Isaiah in the initial doctrinal part of the First Epistle to the Corinthians (1:18–3:4). The text was analysed with the use of methods of rhetorical analysis. The work can be set as an example of following the guidelines of the documents of the Pontifical Biblical Commission: *The Interpretation of the Bible in the Church* and *The Jewish People and their Sacred Scriptures in the Christian Bible*. The author showed outstanding skills in the analysis of the Old Testament texts – the Book of Isaiah in its original Hebrew version and its Greek translations, as well as the New Testament texts – the First Epistle to the Corinthians and the rhetorical analysis based on Greek – Roman and Semitic patterns.

The bibliography of the book shows the author's familiarity with the scientific literature in her field of analysis, comprising of more than 230 books in Polish, English, German, French, Italian and Spanish.

The first chapter of the book is devoted to the analysis of the argumentative situation of 1 Cor 1–4. The issues of authorship and addressees of 1 Cor 1–4 are discussed, as well as the integrity of 1 Cor, the rhetorical problems of 1 Cor 1–4, particular rhetorical stages of the text as the source of information about the addressees: *prescript* (1 Cor 1:1–3); *exordium* (1 Cor 1:10–17); *probatio* (1 Cor 3:3–4. 18. 21–22; 4:3. 6. 8–13); *peroratio* (1 Cor 4:14–15. 19–20; 5:2), the factions in the Corinthian Church were characterised with reference to Paul, Apollo, Cephas and Christ. The chapter finishes with the summary of the analysed data.

Chapters two and three are the analysis of the subsequent verses of 1 Cor 1:18–2:5 and 2:6–3:4, as well as the references to the Book of Isaiah included in them. The second chapter begins with the comparison between Isa 29:14b and 1 Cor 1:19 in which it is quoted, a detailed exegesis of the Isaiah's text with the analysis of Isa 29:9. 10. 11–12 as its first background and Isa 29:13–14. 15. 16 as its immediate context, as well as Isa 29:17–21. 22–24 as its second background. The author of the book then presents Isa 19:11–12; 33, 18 as examples of evident allusions in 1 Cor 1:20 and compares the analysed fragments of Isa to 1 Cor in a similar way. She reveals the historical background of the discussed verses of the Book of Isaiah (Isa 19:1–25), the thematic correlation between Isa 19:11–12 and Isa 29:14b, the primary context and exegesis of Isa 33:18, its background (Isa 33:1–16), immediate context (Isa 33:17–24), the connection between Isa 33:18 and Isa 19:11. 12 and 29, 14b. She then discusses Isa 44:25 in a similar way, treating it as a source text of a probable allusion in 1 Cor 1:20. The author goes on to analyse 1 Cor 1:18–2:5 with regard to the persuasive function of 1 Cor 1:19–20; she begins by delimitating 1 Cor 1:18–2:5 and defining rhetorical stages of its particular parts: *propositio* (1 Cor 1:17); *subpropositio* (1 Cor 1:18); the significance of arguments included in 1 Cor 1:19–21 and 1 Cor 1:22–24; *conclusio* (1 Cor 1:25) and 1 Cor 1:26–31; 1 Cor 2:1–5 as individual text units. The chapter is summed up with well – justified conclusions based on the analysed data.

Chapter three includes well presented references to the Book of Isaiah and their persuasive role in 1 Cor 2:6–3:4. First the references to the Book of Isaiah in 1 Cor 2:9 are shown (a collective quotation bearing similarities to Isa 64:3); the primary context of Isa 64:3 is presented, as well as its primary background (Isa 63:7–14), its immediate context (Isa 63:15–19a. 19b–64:4a) and its secondary background (Isa 64:4b–11). Then, as another source of the quotation in 1 Cor 2:9, the fragment of Isa 65:17 is analysed, its primary context is shown as well as its exegesis, Isa 65:1–16a as its broader background and Isa 65:16b–26 as its immediate context are discussed. The issues connected with Isa 52:15 as a possible source of the quotation in 1 Cor 2:9 are presented in a similar way. The author also discusses the connection between the source texts of 1 Cor with the texts which were the source of quotations and references in 1 Cor 1, 16–2, 5 analysed in the previous chapter: Isa 29:14b; 19:11. 12; 33:18; 44:25. She analyses the persuasive function of 1 Cor 2:6–9 with reference to the persuasive function of 1 Cor 2, 9. The complex analysis is summed up with logically formulated conclusions. The author moves on to the analysis of the allusions referring to Paul's apostolic self – awareness and looks at Isa 40:13 as the source text for 1 Cor 2:16, presents the primary context and the exegesis of Isa 40:13, its immediate context (Isa 40:1–11. 12–17), its another context (Isa 44:18–31), the connection between Isa 40:13 with the words of Isaiah, being the origin of 1 Cor 1, 19; 2, 9. The author also touches on Isa 61:1 as the source text for the *propositio* in 1 Cor 1:17, shows the primary context and the exegesis of Isa 61:1, and finishes with the analysis of 1 Cor 2:10–3:4 with reference to the persuasive function of 1 Cor 2:16 and presents the persuasive function of Isa 40:13 in 1 Cor 2:6–3:4 and Isa 61:1 in 1 Cor 1:18–4:21.

The book finishes with the presentation of the research data, which shows the correlation of both Testaments and the methods of argumentation used by the Apostle of the Nations in his correspondence with the faithful of the Judaic origin and its followers, as well as with the Gentiles. The conclusion also shows the analysis of the Epistle in order to emphasise the possibilities faced by Judeo – Christians: the preparation of the originally gentile faithful to the appropriate understanding of the texts of the First Covenant.

The book is written in a clear, communicative style. The issues discussed in it show the unity of the Bible, the significance of the Old Testament for the understanding of the New Testament and the methods of argumentation used by St. Paul based on the knowledge gained in the Jewish and Hellenic circles. The analytical thoroughness in the exegesis of the Old and the New Testaments and the theological understanding of the texts that the book is an example of is outstanding. One might only hope that the author will continue to write and present other interesting books.

Kraków

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