

IDEOLOGY OF 'NEIGHBOR':
A THEOLOGY OF TRANSFORMATION
FROM A THEOLOGICAL-ETHICAL INTERPRETATION
OF LEVITICUS 19

BY

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I declare that the thesis which I am submitting to the University of Pretoria for the degree PhD has not been submitted by me to any other university for degree purposes; and

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A Summary of Ideology of 'Neighbor:' A Theology of Transformation from a Theological-Ethical Interpretation of Leviticus 19

Chapter one gives a proposed outline for the research that will develop the theological-ethical dimension of neighbor as discerned from Leviticus 19. This chapter will give the reader an understanding of the purpose, motivation, and a hypothesis for the proposed research. An outline of the impending study will also be highlighted.

In chapter two a brief discussion of two events and the evangelical denomination that have shaped my worldview will be highlighted. This chapter will also explore the diverse world of ideological criticism. A look at the wide ranging areas of specialties within ideological criticism will be the focus of this chapter. The way in which ideological criticism will be utilized as an interpretive methodology will be argued alongside Mary Douglas' ring composition as a function of socio-rhetorical criticism.

A grammatical analysis of Leviticus 19 will comprise chapter three. The Masoretic text of the Hebrew Bible will be the primary source for this analysis. The exegesis of Leviticus will be the foundation for the study of the proposed topic. The purpose for the historical setting of the writing of Leviticus 19 will be given as well as archaeological evidence describing the societal make-up of the time period.

An alternative interpretative emphasis will be argued in chapter four. Ring composition, as outlined by Mary Douglas, will be the tool utilized for this interpretation for Leviticus 19. This chapter will also explore the ways in which three New Testament characters utilized and contextualized passages from Leviticus 19.

Chapter five will spotlight the recent events of May 2008. This month demonstrated the explosive consequences of unleashed and uncontrolled xenophobic violence. This month saw some of the most terrifying events since the inception of democracy in South Africa. Commentary and deliberation on the causes that sparked this violence will be examined through the eyes of journalists, politicians, citizens, foreigners and religious leaders.

The reluctance of evangelicals to engage in social transformation will be critically analyzed in chapter six. Two movements that polarized the evangelical community will also be addressed. The thrust of this chapter will be the proposed theology of transformation. If this strategy of transformation might be utilized by the evangelical church, sustainable social justice could be possible. This strategy will be presented in a practical, applicable manner. The interrelationship between spiritual and social transformation will conclude this chapter. All of these will be encapsulated within the idea of *ubuntu* or African hospitality.

Chapter seven will bring to a conclusion the research. There is a short synopsis of past and present religious creeds and statements of faith. The *Hitler Effect* will be examined in the light of how people focus on the minute differences instead of celebrating their overwhelming similarities. The events of November 2008 in America will be viewed through the refining lenses of society and its effect within

greater society. This chapter will conclude with a summary of the study, reflections and future considerations.

Key Terms:

Ideological criticism; ring composition; Mary Douglas; Southern Baptist Convention; Civil Rights Movement; xenophobia; *ubuntu*; theology of transformation; evangelicals; social transformation

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Abbreviations of Journals/Periodicals/Commentaries/Dictionaries

AB = The Anchor Bible

ABD = The Anchor Bible Dictionary

AJET = Africa Journal of Evangelical Theology

AOTC = Apollos Old Testament Commentary

BI = Biblical Interpretation

CC = A Continental Commentary

CCM = The Christian Century Magazine

COT = Commentary on the Old Testament

CT = Christianity Today

DBI = Dictionary of Biblical Interpretation

DOTP = Dictionary of the Old Testament Pentateuch

DTIB = Dictionary for Theological Interpretation

Intr = Interpretation

ISBE = The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia

JNWSL = Journal of Northwest Semitic Languages

JPH = Journal of Planning History

JRE = Journal of Religious Ethics

JSOT = Journal for the Study of the Old Testament

JSOTS = Journal for the Study of the Old Testament Supplement

JTS = The Journal of Theological Studies

JTSA = Journal of Theology for South Africa

NAC = The New American Commentary

NG = National Geographic

NICNT = The New International Commentary on the New Testament

NICOT = The New International Commentary on the Old Testament

NIDOTTE = New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and
Exegesis

NIGTC = New International Greek Testament Commentary

NTC = New Testament Commentary

OTE = Old Testament Essays

PSP = Psychopathology and Social Prejudice

RevExp = Review & Expositor

RelTheo = Religion and Theology

Scr = Scriptura

SABJT = The South African Baptist Journal of Theology

TDNT = Theological Dictionary of the New Testament

Th = Themelios

ThV = Theologia Viatorum

TNIC = The Tyndale New Testament Commentaries

TOTC = The Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries

Trans = Transformation

TWOT = Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament

WBC = Word Biblical Commentary

WBE = The World Book Encyclopedia

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