

**’N NARRATIEF-KRITIESE BENADERING
AS HERMENEUTIESE RAAMWERK VIR
’N VERGELYKENDE STUDIE TUSSEN DIE
BOEKE OPENBARING EN
THE LORD OF THE RINGS**

deur **ELSIE PETRONELLA MEYLAHN**

Voorgelê ter vervulling van die
vereistes vir die graad

DOCTOR DIVINITATIS

In Nuwe Testament
In die Fakulteit Teologie
Universiteit van Pretoria
Studieleier: Prof Dr Jan van der Watt
April 2005

Opsomming



Op 12:3 "Daar was `n groot vuurrooi draak..."

SUMMARY OF STUDY IN ENGLISH

A narrative critical approach as a hermeneutical framework for a comparative study of the books, Revelation and The Lord of the Rings.

This study was motivated by a crisis in Biblical hermeneutics within postmodernity. Within postmodernity the Bible is no longer read for various reasons and therefore it has become inaccessible for many people although they own a Bible. The Biblical world is too 'strange' and therefore for many people it has lost its relevance to today's challenges and daily struggles. The problem of interpretation and understanding becomes even more complicated with a book like the Revelation of John where the message is hidden behind culturally and historically conditioned symbols and metaphors. There are numerous interpretations and commentaries available to help explain these books, but through these explanations and interpretations much of the narrative and literary affect of these writings is lost.

There are however books, such as J R R Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*, which have a tremendous impact on millions of readers throughout the world. Tolkien's book together with the Revelation of John, have deeply inspired me as books of comfort and strength in times of trial. The questions arose whether these two books can be compared, and secondly, whether a well-loved book like *The Lord of the Rings*, can be used to help readers to enter the world of a wonderful biblical book like Revelation?

These two questions could not be answered with a simple comparative study, but needed to be asked within a theological hermeneutical framework which led to the hypotheses of this study: It is hermeneutically and theologically justifiable to make use of secondary, non-biblical literature which is comparable in its intent, genre, theological perspective, characters and plot, as a hermeneutical tool with which to elucidate and gain access to primary biblical literature.

It was in the search for an appropriate hermeneutic which is theologically justifiable that I discovered the narrative-critical approach. The search for a hermeneutical

approach which would create the necessary space for a non-biblical literary work to be used to interpret and elucidate a biblical work raised numerous theological questions, such as questions with regards to scriptural authority and the question of the relationship between revelation and scripture. I reflected on this approach theologically with regards to revelation and the authority of Scripture and discovered that this hermeneutical approach is very appropriate within a postmodern context as it aptly responds to the challenges of postmodernity.

The two narratives were described within the narrative-critical approach and then compared with each other using the principle of analogy. It was discovered that these two narratives have enough important similarities with regards to intent, genre, theological perspective, characters and plot, so that the one can be used to illuminate the other.

It is the conclusion of this study that the narrative critical approach is a wonderful hermeneutical tool not only to elucidate biblical books, but also to interpret and understand contexts and identity-forming stories and to bring these stories into dialogue with Scripture with the help of secular and contemporary literature where needed.

Sleutelterme:

Narratief-kritiese hermeneutiek

Postmodernisme

Analogie

Openbaring

Hermeneutiek

Narratief

Skrifgesag

Metafoor

Simbool

Die Boek Openbaring

The Lord of the Rings

Inhoudsopgawe



INHOUDSOPGAWE

Hoofstuk 1	Motivering vir die studie	1
1.	Inleiding tot die studie	1
2.	Enkele gedagtes oor die boek 'The Lord of the Rings'	3
3.	Werkswyse	5
Hoofstuk 2	Inleiding tot die tema van die studie	7
1.	Hermeneutiese uitdagings en hipotese	7
2.	Uiteensetting van die probleem van die studie	9
3.	Hermeneutiese skopus van die studie	16
4.	Noodsaaklikheid van hermeneutiek	19
5.	Ontwikkeling van die narratief-kritiese hermeneutiese benadering	26
5.1	Narratief-kritiese benadering binne sy historiese konteks	26
5.1.1	Die teks (sense)	27
5.1.2	Die outeur	37
5.1.3	Die <i>reference</i>	56
5.1.4	Die interpreteerder/ leser van die teks	79
5.2	Narratief-kritiese benadering	84
5.3	Narratief-kritiese benadering en openbaring	93
5.3.1	Openbaring - `n oorsig oor die dogmatiese ontwikkeling van openbaring	94
5.3.2	Openbaring – die Woord van God in geskiedenis	110
5.3.3	Openbaring as storie	131
5.3.4	Stories en verandering/transformasie	132
5.4	Die narratief-kritiese benadering en Skrifgesag	137
5.4.1	Die Kanon	139
5.4.2	Inspirasie	141
5.4.3	Onfeilbaarheid en foutloosheid	147
5.4.4	Outoriteit en gemeenskap	152
6.	Die vertaling van die Skrif in kontemporêre taal	158
7.	Die postmoderne uitdaging tot persoonlike/Christelike identiteit	163
8.	Samevatting	165
Hoofstuk 3	Narratief-kritiese Benadering	169
1.	Narratief	169
2.	Genre	169
3.	Simbool	172
3.1	Die doel van simbole	172
3.2	Karakter van simbole	173
3.3	Verstaansproblematiek	176
4.	Metafoor	178
4.1	Inleidende opmerkings	178
4.2	Die vorming van `n metafoor	179

4.3 Funksie van metafore	180
4.3.1 Metafore open die weg vir nuwe visie	180
4.3.2 Metafore kan ons denke én sodoende ons wêreld verander	180
4.3.3 Metafore affekteer die leser se optrede	181
4.3.4 Metafore en spreke oor God	182
4.3.5 Metafore en 'demoniese' taal	183
4.4 Verstaan van metafore	184
5. Narratief-kritiese benadering	184
5.1 Kort oorsig oor die funksie/ effek van die narratief	185
5.2 Kort uiteensetting van kriteria	186
5.2.1 Outeur	187
5.2.2 Leser	188
5.2.3 Teks	191
5.2.4 Storie en diskoers	192
6. Analogie	201
Hoofstuk 4 Narratief-kritiese analise van die boek	
Openbaring	203
1. Outeur van Openbaring	203
1.1 Die identiteit van die outeur	203
1.2 Die doel van die outeur	206
2. Sosiale analise van die eerste lesers van Openbaring	209
2.1 Motivering	209
2.2 Implisiete leser	210
2.3 Historiese leser	212
3. Diskoers	215
3.1 Genre	215
3.1.1 Inleidende opmerkings	215
3.1.2 Apolaliptiek en Eskatologie	217
3.1.3 Profesie	221
3.1.4 Openbaring - apokaliptiese eskatologie	223
3.1.5 Openbaring, `n fantasie	223
3.2 Teologiese uitgangspunte van Openbaring	225
3.2.1 Dualistiese wêreldbeeld	225
3.2.2 Hoop vir hooploses	240
3.2.3 Nuwe perspektief	255
3.2.4 Wat Christus doen, doen God	257
3.2.5 Oorwinning van Christus en die gelowiges	258
3.2.6 Rol van die gelowiges	262
3.2.7 'Eucatastrophe'	267
3.3 Simboliek en ironie	276
4. Storie	278
4.1 Karakters in Openbaring	278
4.2 Gebeure	289
4.2.1 Kernegebeure	289
4.2.2 Ordening, tydsduur en frekwensie	291

4.2.3 Konflikanalise in Openbaring	295
4.3 Ruimte	296
5. Plot	297
Hoofstuk 5	Narratief-kritiese analise van The Lord of the Rings
	299
1. Outeur van The Lord of the Rings	300
1.1 Identiteit van die outeur van The Lord of the Rings	300
1.2 Doel van die outeur	303
2. 'n Sosiale analise van die eerste lesers van The Lord of the Rings	304
2.1 Implisiete leser	305
2.2 Sosio-historiese inligting	305
3. Diskoers	307
3.1 Genre	307
3.1.1 Fantasie	307
3.1.2 The Lord of the Rings - 'n apokaliptiese geskrif?	313
3.1.3 Slotsom oor genre	317
3.2 Teologiese uitgangspunte	318
3.2.1 Dualistiese wêreldbeeld / lig en duisternis	319
3.2.2 Groter mag agter alles	323
3.2.3 Voorsienigheid	327
3.2.4 Oorwinning deur lyding	329
3.2.5 Rol van die lede van die "Fellowship"	335
3.2.6 Hoop	342
3.2.7 Die ironie van die Bose	347
3.2.8 Oorlogmotief	348
3.2.9 'Eucatastrophe'	352
3.2.10 Eskatologiese hoop	354
3.2.11 Die koning kom! en die nuwe stad	356
3.2.12 Die uitbeelding van die Bose in The Lord of the Rings	358
3.3 Simboliek en ironie	374
3.4 Narratiewe elemente	375
4. Storie	375
4.1 Karakters uit The Lord of the Rings	375
4.2 Gebeure	411
4.2.1 Kernegebeure	411
4.2.2 Ordening, tydsduur en frekwensie	414
4.2.3 Oorsaak-en-gevolg	416
4.2.4 Konflikanalise	417
4.3 Ruimte	418
5. Plot	420
	423
Hoofstuk 6	Vergelyking van die twee narratiewe Openbaring en The Lord of the Rings na aanleiding van die narratiewe analyses

1. Doel van implisiete outeurs	423
2. Implisiete lesers	425
3. Karakters	425
4. Teologiese uitgangspunte	435
5. Samevattend	444
Hoofstuk 7 Konklusie en kritiese refleksie	445
Oorsig oor die proses	445
Bibliografie	453