



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

**A MULTIDIMENSIONAL APPROACH
TOWARDS THE COMMUNICATION
OF
AN ANCIENT CANONIZED TEXT:**

**Towards determining the thrust, perspective and strategy
of 1 Peter**

by

Jacques Rousseau

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With gratitude to my parents, my wife Marietjie and our children who provided a loving, caring and understanding "home" during my academic sojourns

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I dedicate this dissertation to my parents, my wife Marietjie, our children and my in-laws. Your innumerable sacrifices over so many years to enable me to write this dissertation, have been beyond the call of duty. I trust that the privilege that you have given me of analysing and experiencing the communication of the paradoxical-Christological-cosmologic symphony of 1 Peter will give you back someone who will reflect something of the love and care of our Father in Christ Jesus.

* * *

A MULTIDIMENSIONAL APPROACH TOWARDS THE COMMUNICATION OF AN
ANCIENT CANONIZED TEXT:

Towards determining the thrust, perspective and strategy of 1
Peter

by

Jacques Rousseau

PROMOTOR: Professor A B du Toit

DEPARTMENT: New Testament

DEGREE: Doctor Divinitatis

* * *

- OUTLINE OF THIS DISSERTATION -

This dissertation is an attempt to face the current cacophony in biblical scholarship by suggesting a multidimensional approach to biblical texts, as a reality-orientated, problem-solving and progressive-effective hypothesis.

In chapter I the hermeneutical and exegetical dilemma is illustrated in the light of the history of research on 1 Peter. In section A an analysis of this cacophony identified a lack of theory and methodology as the dissonant elements in biblical interpretation. In section B a communication theory is proposed, to deal with the hermeneutical-exegetical dilemma. With the aid of insights from semiotics, linguistics, literary theory and reception theory, a multidimensional communication model is outlined, to do justice to the static, dynamic and dialectic parameters of textual communication. In order to simplify this multidimensional (i.e. the intratextual dimension as the prelude, the historical dimension as the interlude and the metatextual dimension as the finale of text analysis) and plurimodal (i.e. syntactic, semantic and pragmatic modes of a text) model, the notions of static thrust, dynamic perspective and dialectic strategy are proposed as the basic parameters and constituents in textual communication. A theoretical outline of the implications of this model is also given in section B. In section C the presuppositions underlying this model are crosschecked in the light of the epistemologico-paradigmatic parameters of the philosophy of science.



Chapters II, III and IV are an implementation of this communication model. In these chapters a methodology for the intratextual (chapter II A), historical (chapter III A) and metatextual (chapter IV A) analyses is proposed, wherafter in each of them, it is implemented, in order to determine the thrust, perspective and strategy of 1 Peter (i e in sections B and C of chapters II, III and IV respectively).

The implementation of this multidimensional approach to 1 Peter has confirmed the hypothesis that a one-dimensional approach to ancient canonized texts is futile. The over- and underexposure of the text by either an absolutized text-immanent or historical analysis is comparable to someone trying to solve Rubic's cube by turning only one level of squares. Therefore it is concluded that a multidimensional approach to textual communication which takes account of the basic relief-mapping function of the static thrust, the cosmologic-orientational function of the dynamic perspective and the persuasive function of the dialectic strategy, is required. Ultimately the analysis of the thrust, perspective and strategy of 1 Peter has illustrated new possibilities of experiencing the successful communication of an ancient canonized text as a cosmologic battle between perspectives.

/ * * *



**'N MULTIDIMENSIONELE BENADERING TOT DIE KOMMUNIKASIE VAN 'N OU
GEKANONISEERDE TEKS:**

**'n Oefenloop ter vasstelling van die gerigtheid, perspektief en
strategie van 1 Petrus**

deur

Jacques Rousseau

PROMOTOR: Professor A B du Toit

DEPARTEMENT: Nuwe Testament

GRAAD: Doctor Divinitatis

* * *

- SAMEVATTING -

Hierdie proefskrif is 'n poging om die huidige kakofonie in die bibliologiese dissiplines die hoof te bied, deur 'n multidimensionele benadering tot Bybelse tekste daar te stel as 'n werklikheids-georiënteerde, probleem-oplossende en progressief-effektiewe hipotese.

In afdeling A van hoofstuk I word die hermeneutiese en eksegetiese kakofonie geïllustreer aan die hand van die navorsingsgeskiedenis met betrekking tot 1 Petrus. Die primêre oorsake vir hierdie dilemma word geïdentifiseer as 'n gebrek aan 'n teoretiese en metodologiese onderbou vir die uitleg van Bybelse tekste. In afdeling B word 'n kommunikasie model daargestel om die hermeneuties-eksegetiese dilemma die hoof te bied. Hierdie multidimensionele kommunikasie model is gebaseer op bydraes vanuit die semiotiek, linguïstiek, literatuurwetenskap en resepsie teorie, om sodoende reg te laat geskied aan die statiese, dinamiese en dialektiese parameters van tekstuele kommunikasie. Ten einde hierdie multidimensionele (dit is die intratekstuele dimensie as die prelude, die historiese dimensie as die interlude, en die metatekstuele dimensie as die finale van teks analise) en plurimodale (dit is die sintaktiese, semantiese en pragmatiese modi van tekste) model te vereenvoudig, word drie begrippe naamlik die "statische gerigtheid", die "dinamiese perspektief" en die "dialektiese strategie" voorgestel as verteenwoordigend van die basiese elemente van tekstuele kommunikasie. Die teoretiese onderbou van hierdie model word ook



in afdeling B bespreek. Afdeling C sluit die eerste hoofstuk af deur die voorveronderstellings wat hierdie model ten grondslag lê, te evalueer in die lig van die epistemologiese en paradigmatiese parameters van die wetenskapsfilosofie.

Hoofstukke II, III en IV pas hierdie kommunikasie model toe op l Petrus. In hierdie hoofstukke word daar telkens eers 'n metodologie vir die intratekstuele (hoofstuk II A), historiese (hoofstuke III A) en die metatekstuele (hoofstuk IV A) analyses ontwerp, waarna dit toegepas word deur die gerigtheid, perspektief en strategie van l Petrus (dit is in afdelings B en C van die betrokke hoofstukke) te analiseer.

Die implementering van hierdie multidimensionele benadering op l Petrus het die hipotese bevestig dat 'n een-dimensionele benadering tot ou antieke tekste futiel is. Die oor- en onderbeklemtoning van tekste deur of 'n verabsoluteerde teks-immanente of historiese benadering, kan vergelyk word met iemand wat Rubic se kubus wil regkry deur slegs een vlak vierkantjies aanhoudend te draai. Daar word gekonkludeer dat slegs 'n multidimensionele benadering wat rekenskap gee van die basiese reliëf-karterende funksie van die statiese gerigtheid, die kosmologies-oriënterende funksie van die dinamiese perspektief en die ooredende funksie van die dialektiese strategie, reg kan laat geskied aan tekstuele kommunikasie. Die analise van die gerigtheid, perspektief en strategie van l Petrus het inderdaad nuwe moontlikhede getoon om die suksesvolle kommunikasie en resepsie van ou antieke tekste te ervaar as 'n kosmologiese stryd tussen perspektiewe.

* * *