

DISSERTATION ABSTRACTS

A STUDY ON THE INFLUENCE OF PHILOSOPHICAL PRESUPPOSITIONS RELATING TO THE NOTION OF THE GOD-HUMAN RELATION UPON THE INTERPRETATION OF EXODUS

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Date completed: July 2015

No exegesis or act of interpretation is presuppositionless. Accordingly, this study addresses the question of the influence of philosophical presuppositions upon the interpretation of the God-human relation in Exodus. Chapter one provides a brief introduction to why such analysis is necessary. It explores the neglected issue of presuppositions in exegesis and why Exodus is an appropriate platform upon which to evaluate them. This introductory chapter also presents the purpose and methodological approach of this study, namely, the descriptive analysis of the text. Chapter two addresses the philosophical issues behind the conception of the God-human relation, namely, the notion of ontology (God), the notion of epistemology (human), and the notion of history (relationship). Chapter three identifies these philosophical conceptions in the foundation of two interpretative traditions: the historical-grammatical and historical-critical methods. Chapter four traces the influence of these presuppositions within the interpretation of Exodus in general and in the context of the notion of the God-human relation in particular. The dissertation concludes by summarizing its findings and conclusions and exploring the academic and existential implications of the study.