

SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION AND BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

INTRODUCTION

This volume of *Scriptura* contains eight contributions on the theme 'Social transformation and Biblical interpretation'. These contributions, together with all the articles in *Scriptura* vol. 72 (2000), are the results of a NRF-funded research project that investigated the relationship between different contexts of social transformation and Biblical interpretation.

Whereas the previous volume presented some interdisciplinary perspectives on this topic, the present volume provides the results of the four case studies that were done in this project. The article of *Van der Kooij* (together with his progress report in *Scriptura* vol. 72) deals with the case study that investigated the use of the Bible by Reformed Churches in The Netherlands in their reflection on the social issue of homophilia. Together with Meyer (*Scriptura* vol. 72) *Daniels* analysed the use of the Bible during Apartheid-South Africa as represented in the Belhar Confession. Two articles present the results of the case study that was done on the use of the Bible in the document 'Ras, Volk en Nasie', which provided a theological basis for Apartheid Theology. *Jonker* and *Basson* deal with different sections of this document. *Kawale* and *Manda* conducted the fourth case study in the Malawian context. They examined the use of the Bible in the ecclesial discussions on the role of women in the Church of Central Africa, Presbyterian (CCAP) of Malawi.

In a last article in this section of the present volume *Jonker* summarizes the results of the project, and presents a comparative study in which certain general trends are deduced from the different case studies. By giving more profile to the interaction between social transformation processes and Biblical interpretation the results of this project have hopefully contributed to a better understanding of this interaction.

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