

## THE "THRONE OF GOD" MOTIF IN THE HEBREW BIBLE

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This dissertation explores the biblical significance and theological implications of the "throne of God" motif through an exegetical investigation of the texts of the Hebrew Bible which have direct reference to it.

Chap. 1 states the problems which the biblical "throne of God" motif poses, and also sets forth the importance, methodology, and procedure of this study.

Chap. 2 reviews pertinent literature since the turn of the century. This survey reveals that the current status of investigation on the topic is only fragmentary.

Chap. 3 is devoted to the investigation of the "divine throne" motif in ancient Near Eastern literatures such as Sumerian, Akkadian, Hittite, Ugaritic, and Egyptian texts. One of the remarkable points in these texts is that the throne was deified and/or worshiped as a cult object.

Chap. 4 presents a brief study of the "throne" terminology in order to provide a linguistic background for the exegetical study which follows. Four Hebrew terms (*kissēʔ*, *kissēh*, *môšāb*, and *ʔkūnah*), one Aramaic word (*korsēʔ*), and other related expressions are surveyed here.

Chap. 5 undertakes an exegetical investigation of the "throne of God" passages of the Hebrew Bible. The throne of God mainly symbolizes his eternal kingship/kingdom, judgeship, and creatorship. Thus, it points to both sides of time, i.e., *Urzeit* and *Endzeit*. It also represents the authority of the One who calls and sends the prophets, functioning as the place of revelation. It is, as well, the insignia of God's victory over his enemies and of his absolute power. There are, in addition, many other implications. In sum, the throne of God stands for the totality of God's attributes and activities in sustaining the universe and in bringing about the salvation of his people.

Chap. 6 summarizes and synthesizes the results of the investigation. This chapter also compares the biblical "throne of God" motif and the extrabiblical "divine throne" motif. Many peculiar aspects of the "throne of God" motif in the Hebrew Bible attest to its own unique provenance.