

Chapter 5 enumerates the theological implications of the seed of Gen 3:15 by showing the major themes and minor motifs.

Conclusions

This dissertation concludes that there is a Messianic intention in Gen 3:15, based on the proven, narrowing phenomenon of the seed in the Hebrew text of this verse. The Seed and the serpent have a fatal and deadly clash, in which the Messiah is eternally victorious on behalf of all the righteous seed.

THE FATHERHOOD OF GOD: AN EXEGETICAL STUDY FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

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The purpose of this dissertation is to develop a theology of the fatherhood of God from the Hebrew Scriptures. Although many studies have explored the topic from the perspective of other disciplines, the actual theology of God's fatherhood, as revealed in the Hebrew Scriptures, has been neglected until now. This has resulted in a dichotomization of the concept of God as presented in the so-called OT and NT.

Because of the tendency to explain God through the lenses of Greek and Roman mythology, chapter 1 surveys ANE thought, showing that the fatherhood-of-God concept precedes it and is more pervasive than the more modern mythologies seem to indicate. However, although similar terms and concepts are found (e.g., creative, salvific, kind, compassionate, merciful), the relationship that the ANE gods enjoyed with humans was not nearly as personal, intimate, or widespread as the relationship that God enjoys with his "children."

The eighteen occurrences of God's fatherhood explicitly mentioned in the Hebrew Scriptures are exegeted in chapter 2. These texts are grouped together in the "Song of Moses" (Deut 32), the "Vision of Nathan" (2 Sam 7; 1 Chron 17; 22; 28; 29), in the Psalms and Wisdom literature (Pss 68; 89; 103; Prov 3), and in the prophets (Isa 63; 64; Jer 3; 31; Mal 1; 2). The theological themes within them are discussed in chapter 3, arriving at a picture of God as one who is passionately involved with his individual children.

One of the main contributions of this dissertation is that it explores God's fatherhood from a theocentric perspective, rather than an anthropocentric one. However, the implications of this view of God impact human experience, since the attributes of God's fatherhood found in the Hebrew Scriptures provide researchers and practitioners in family dynamics a positive, multidimensional role model for human fatherhood.