A examination of the Book of Revelation from a liberation theology perspective


Abstract

This study emerged from a study of the Book of Revelation originally undertaken in the Bible study programme of a local Baptist Church congregation in Kingston, Jamaica. Soon, dissatisfaction was felt by the writer, who had conducted the study, concerning the methodological procedure adopted and the practical relevance achieved. Insights gained from the Theology of Liberation, its own methodological procedure in general and hermeneutical approach in particular, showed up the inadequacies of the approach that had been adopted and also suggested possibilities which have become the basis of this present study. There resulted a heightened appreciation of the book including fresh awareness of its significance for the contemporary world, particularly the so-called Third World. There seems to be a certain structural correlation and correspondence of experience between the context and people of the book's focus and the context and peoples of Today's Third World. The context was one of oppression and the experience one of struggle and endurance. The Book represents reflection on engagement in solidarity and struggle against oppression, on the part of its writer and his fellow-believers. The reflection took place in the light of the Word of God, the book being greatly influenced by the Old Testament in particular, without it being quoted and by the inspiration of the Spirit. Self-Conscious Contextual orientation, practical commitment, prophetic consciousness, political sensitivity, ecclesial framework of action and witness and liberative hope soteriologically grounded and eschatologically focussed are significant features of the reflection. These features which are themselves anticipatory of certain insights of the theology of liberation give the Book very powerful meaning and effective relevance particularly for the Third World experience. The book's significance is, however, not exhausted by the particular contextual relevance emphasised. It combines remarkably the contextual and cosmic, thus indicating quite instructively that the contextual and universal are not necessarily mutually exclusive realms for theological reflection that is self consciously contextual.

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Liberation is first and foremost liberation from the radical slavery of sin. Its end and its goal is the freedom of the children of God, which is the gift of grace. As a logical consequence, it calls for freedom from many different kinds of slavery in the cultural, economic, social, and political spheres, all of which derive ultimately from sin, and so often prevent people from living in a manner befitting their dignity. As with all movements of ideas, the "theologies of liberation" present diverse theological positions. Their doctrinal frontiers are badly defined. 4. The aspiration for 'liberation', as the term itself suggests, repeats a theme which is fundamental to the Old and New Testaments. By Dr. Sung Kuk Kim – The book of Revelation includes more references to the Hebrew Scriptures than any other NT book. Even the sheer volume of scriptural references in the book of Revelation seems to suggest that the study of more. Through in-depth examination of the use of Psalms in Revelation this thesis demonstrates how significantly the Psalms influenced the composition of the book of Revelation and offers a fresh insight into the structure and theology of the book. In this essay, by means of a reformed perspective, we will focus on the major academic contributions concerning the new creation and argue that our present cosmos is in continuity with it, being the final destiny of redeemed humanity. more.