"A WORD IN SEASON" HANDLING ARIGHT THE WORD OF GOD

Prof. univ. dr. Silviu Tatu

Institutul Teologic Penticostal din București

ABSTRACT OF THE

HABILITATION THESIS

submitted to

Școala doctorală *ECUMENE*

Facultatea de Teologie Reformată

Universitatea Babeș-Bolyai

Cluj-Napoca, România

2018

Abbreviations

AB Anchor Bible

AnOr Analecta Orientalia

BFBS British and Foreign Bible Society (lately The Bible Society)

BZAW Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft

EDCR Ediția Dumitru Cornilescu revizuită (revised edition of D. Cornilescu version of the Bible in

Romanian)

HSS Harvard Semitic Studies

HTR Harvard Theological Review

IBS International Bible Society (lately Biblica)

JANES Journal for Ancient Near Eastern Studies

JBL Journal of Biblical Literature

JJS Journal of Jewish Studies

JNES Journal of Near Eastern Studies

JSOT Journal for the Study of the Old Testament

JSOTSup Journal for the Study of the Old Testament Supplement Series

JSS Journal of Semitic Studies

NHL North-Holland Linguistic Series

NTR Noua Traducere Românească (New Romanian Translation, version of the Bible, 1st ed. 2007,

2nd ed. 2017)

OLA Orientalia Lovaniensia Analecta

OT Old Testament

SBIR Societatea Biblică Interconfesională din România (Interdenominational Bible Society of

Romania)

SBLRBS Society of Biblical Literature Resources for Biblical Studies Series

SDSSRL Studies in the Dead Sea Scrolls and Related Literature Series

SIL Summer Institute of Linguistics

SILUTAPL SIL International and the University of Texas at Arlington Series

SSN Studia Semitica Neerlandica

VT Vetus Testamentum

WBC Word Biblical Commentary

ZAH Zeitschrift für Althebräistik

Abreviated version (English)

Since 1992 when I started my theological education, 25 years have passed with unmistakable progress. By 2006, when I completed my doctoral studies at Oxford Centre for Mission Studies, I managed to accomplish also a good number of competencies and connections of great support for my future academic development. Thus, with the aid of my *doktorvater*, Dr. Wilfred G.E. Watson, I could found a publisher for my dissertation (Gorgias Press, New Jersey, USA, 2008) and gain access to a group of scholars employing delimitation criticism that eased publication by the well-known international publisher Brill (Leiden, Holland). Langham Trust, my most loyal sponsor during the doctoral studies continued to encourage and support my academic endeavours. Grace to Langham International I could undertake a four year post-doctoral programme with six weeks sessions each year overseas in Oxford (twice), Singapore and Wheaton (USA) during 2011-2014, and another session in Leuven at the Evangelical Theological Faculty. Langham Writers grants allowed me to write two books (2015, 2017), and two more are still on the way (2018).

My teaching career started even before completing my BA studies in theology and for five years was intertwined with the office of Chief Librarian at Emanuel University in Oradea and even teaching classes in Library Automation at the State University in Oradea. Since 2001 though, once moved to the Theological Pentecostal Institute in Bucharest, I focused on theological studies alone. While being here I could develop from assistent professor (2003), associate professor (2008) and full professor (2017). One could say that I grew up alongside the school I was teaching in, exploring new dimensions of teaching as the Bachelor programme got perfected and a Master programme was started, improving theology courses and producing new ones. Most courses were on Old Testament exegesis and theology.

Over the years I retained my interest in the academic work: peer-reviewing for *Pleroma*, the theological journal of the Theological Pentecostal Institute in Bucharest and joining the peer-review team at Editura Universitară in Bucharest; reviewing books for the *Journal for the Study of Religions and Ideologies*, the *Society for Old Testament Study Book List, Themelios*, and *Pleroma*; attending international conferences both in Romania and abroad mostly through the *Society for Old Testament Study, Society of Biblical Literature* (among others), *Langham International Research and Training Seminar* and the *Theological*

Pentecostal Institute in Bucharest; working in a cooperative research group such as Pericope; contributing in three Bible translation projects: Noua Traducere Românească, Colegiul Noua Europă, Societatea Biblică Interconfesională din România; affiliating to professional organizations: Tyndale Fellowship, Society of Biblical Literature, Society of Old Testament Study, Evangelical Theological Society, Uniunea Bibliștilor din România and Romanian Association for Religious Studies.

At the popular level, I continued my involvement through the web, radio, TV, journals, and youth camps to disseminate the theological knowledge. At the same time I have translated many books from English into Romanian. My Christian ministry continued and got to higher levels of involvement especially after my ordination as Baptist pastor in 2001. More academic books were translated into Romanian and/or edited for Casa cărții and Cartea creștină, the two Romanian theological publishers in Oradea.

Concerning my research method, one could easily notice that both my academic involvement and publications point out a preoccupation with textual criticism, form criticism and literary criticism with a growing interes in Applied Linguistics. As opportunities arose, I took classes in Classical Hebrew, Modern Hebrew (Hebrew University), Akkadian (Oxford University), and Ugaritic (Edinburgh) and rounded my linguistic competence. Many seminars taken in translation work and manuscripts of the Hebrew Bible sharpened my ability to work with the Old Testament.

The publications hoard includes articles and books published in English and in Romania, both in Romania and abroad. The international journals that published my articles are *Vetus Testamentum* (2006), *Journal for the Study of Religions and Ideologies* (2007), *Journal for the Evangelical Study of the Old Testament* (2014), *Transformation* (2006, 2013). Acclaimed international publishers such as Ugarit-Verlag (2007), Brill (2007, 2009), and Peeters (2011) published my articles in collective volumes. Various articles were published in English in *Studia Theologica* and still other articles in Romanian journals such as *Analele Universității din Oradea* (2002), *Pleroma* (2002, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2006, 2011, 2014, 2016, 2017), and *Jurnal Teologic* (2005, 2006). Romanian collective volumes included my articles written in Romanian (2006, five articles in the 2016 OT Introduction first volume).

To these, eleven books could be added on several major topics: biblical Hebrew textbook (1999, ²2001), exegesis on biblical narratives (Judges – 2004, ²2011; Genesis – 2011), socio-cultural context (2007, ²2008, ³2014), OT theology (2007), OT addresses (minor prophets – 2008; Joshua – 2010), classical Hebrew poetry and Ugaritic poetry (two volumes in 2008), commentaries (Amos – 2010), Revelation (2015), OT introduction (2016).