

Dissertation Defenses at Baptist Bible Seminary

— *Old Testament* —

Michael Cha — *The Positive End-Time Fate of the Nations in the Book of the Twelve*

Abstract: This dissertation seeks to develop a biblical theology of the positive eschatological fate of the non-Israelite nations in the Minor Prophets from a dispensational premillennial perspective. This biblical theology will examine the Minor Prophets' usages of the terms "peoples" in passages describing the positive end-time fate of "nations" and "the nations." The relevant passages for this study include Amos 9:12; Micah 4:1-4; Zephaniah 3:8-10; Zechariah 2:15; 8:13, 22-23; 9:7, 10; 14:9, 16-19; and Malachi 1:11.

Ismael Dora – *The First Rock Song: Contributions of Divine Metaphors to the Theology of the Song of Moses (Deut. 32:1-43)*

Abstract: The topic of metaphor has stimulated production of scholarly works since the 1970's when several philosophers began to formulate various theories regarding this difficult subject. IN the field of biblical studies, some scholars and exegetes have investigated metaphors in the Hebrew Bible, but much remains to be done since the majority of these works only focus on the poetic books, especially the book of Psalms.

This dissertation examines three divine metaphors in the Song of Moses: God is a rock, God is a father, and God is an avenging warrior. This study's approach looks at the literal meaning of the vehicle to see how it was used in ancient Israel and/or in the ancient Near Eastern neighboring nations. This paves the way for the literary and theological examination of the metaphor, which is conducted in three steps: a) identification and interpretation of the metaphor; b) function of the metaphor; and c) theological observations regarding the use of the metaphor.

This project utilizes a linguistic approach to figurative language, meaning that the metaphors in the Song of Moses are studied and examined through the biblical text. This method helps the exegete to understand the metaphorical statements and the rhetorical effects they

produced. It also helps to understand the intention of the original author of the Song as he communicated this message to his audience.

— *New Testament* —

Pavel Togobitsky — *Two-Voice Framework and -(θ)H- Forms in New Testament Greek*

Abstract: This dissertation examines the usages of the voice-forms with the -(θ)η- affix in the aorist and future tenses in the text of the Greek New Testament. The recent paradigm shift in the voice studies from the three-voice framework (active, middle, passive) to the two-voice framework (active, mediopassive) raises a question about the relevancy of the middle interpretation of the -(θ)η- forms, which, in the old paradigm, were considered as passive or deponent only. The dissertation (1) describes the place of the -(θ)η- forms in the middle domain, (2) suggests the classification of their meanings using the structural, functional, and cognitive approaches, (3) tests all the cases of the verbs with the -(θ)η- affix in the New Testament in light of this classification. As a result, the applicability and usefulness of the two-voice framework have been demonstrated.

— *Systematic Theology* —

Jay Hollinshead — *The Σάρξ / Πνεῦμα Antithesis in the New Testament Pauline Letters of Galatians, Philippians, and Romans*

Abstract: This dissertation critically evaluates Russell’s seminal work regarding the Pauline meaning of the classic σάρξ/πνεῦμα antithesis in Galatians 5-6 and tests Russell’s threefold methodology (lexicography, socio-anthropology, and rhetorical criticism). In this study Russell’s threefold methodology is modified with updated augmentations in each area of research to assess more accurately his determinations. From these enhancements in methodology this study seeks to justify or not, or further refine, any understanding of the σάρξ/πνεῦμα antithesis Russell proposed by testing it with the modifications in Philippians 3 and Romans 7-8 with the intent to formulate a NT Biblical Theology of Paul’s σάρξ/πνεῦμα meaning. The study concludes that the σάρξ/πνεῦμα antithesis principally or chiefly refers to a redemptive-historical realm, sphere or era rather than the common ontological “dual-nature” meaning for a σάρξ/πνεῦμα antithesis. It also concludes that σάρξ semantically retains an

anthropological element in each passage, though it relates to ethics only indirectly and subsequently in Galatians and Romans. It is determined that Paul's principal rubric for this antithesis is soteriology, and sanctification is a subsidiary extenuation or application. The findings lay a more precise Biblical Theology groundwork on which a more rigorous Systematic Theology significance and application may be constructed. This should provide some aid in being more precise when extrapolating any implications for sanctification under Paul's principal rubric of soteriology, based on how specifically he uses $\sigma\acute{\alpha}\rho\chi$ in antithesis to $\pi\nu\epsilon\delta\mu\alpha$ in Galatians, Philippians and Romans.