

In five chapters, this thesis traces the question of humanity in the thought of the French philosopher Emmanuel Lévinas, mainly in his works *De l'évasion* (1935), *De l'existence à l'existant* (1947), *Totalité et infini* (1961) and *Éthique comme philosophie première* (1982), which represent various stages of his philosophical development. It offers an exposition of Lévinas's most original concepts, follows their development and sketches their parallel and/or polemic concepts in the European thought, placing them within the context of Lévinas's life-work. For Lévinas, the question of humanity appears as a transposition of the question of God, who can not become an object of rational inquiry. In conclusion, the question of humanity becomes the theological issue par excellence. This study tries to show how theology can draw inspiration from Lévinas's concepts in various manners: (1) methodology: Lévinas shows what happens to our thought when we follow the principle *Sein-lassen* in questioning God and when we take this principle as a basis of our theological research; (2) re-thinking: Lévinas offers a critical revision of traditional theological concepts and endows them with existential meaning, (3) marginalized phenomena: Lévinas thoroughly analyzes phenomena, which has been neglected or marginalized by the systematical theology as onto-theo-logy, and puts them back on the scene within his concept of humanity, (4) exegesis: Lévinas's concepts spring from his original understanding of the Scripture, which means they can also be applied in Biblical hermeneutics, (5) ethics: in Lévinas's thought, ethics antecedes all thought, as the inherent sense of the Old Testament revelation is the ethical message. The thesis contains a brief biography, literature and index.