

Abstract

This diploma thesis *Role and Significance of Joseph in the Gospel of Matthew* is divided into five chapters. The first two chapters are an essential basis for a study of the next three chapters that are the core of this thesis. Thanks to these, it can be said who Joseph is. The first chapter deals with the linguistic and literary analysis of the first two chapters of the Gospel of Matthew, since these two chapters are seen as a source of exploration into Joseph's character. The second chapter of this thesis is concerned with a synoptic comparison of the gospel texts which speak about Joseph. The third chapter follows up on Joseph's position, task and role in Jesus's genealogy, as recorded by Matthew. The fourth chapter follows up Joseph's role as Mary's husband. The biblical narration is put into the context of entering into a Jewish marriage with all the sequences of events and requirements. Further, the fourth chapter elaborates on Joseph's role as Jesus's father before the Law, including all the rights and obligations Joseph had to fulfil towards Jesus. The fifth chapter enquires into Matthew's second chapter from Joseph's point of view. Here Joseph is situated into his historical, political and social contexts. This chapter also deals with the trust between God and Joseph because Joseph's entire life is built on this trust.