

Abstract

This thesis analyses the status and role of women in early Christian communities through the prism of Old Testament, New Testament texts, ancient novels, and apocryphal acts. The thesis uses comparative literary analysis to examine how women were portrayed in religious texts and what roles were assigned to them in the context of the social, religious, and political structures of the time.

The aim of the thesis is to reveal how religious texts influenced the perception of women and what impact these stories, literary genres, and characters had on the actual position of women in society. The research highlights the differences between the portrayal of women in the Gospels and the apocryphal texts, emphasizing the polyvalence of the texts and the different interpretations of female characters in different cultural and historical contexts.

The findings show that although women were often portrayed in subordinate or passive roles, there are significant examples where women took on active and leadership roles, suggesting more complex social dynamics than traditionally presented. The thesis also highlights the importance of intertextuality and literary techniques in understanding historical texts.

This work contributes to a better understanding of the social and religious aspects of early Christianity and offers new insights into the roles of women in these communities. Keywords include early Christianity, women's roles, literary analysis, social history, intertextuality.