

Editorial

It is with immense satisfaction that we present the inaugural issue of *KS Studies*, a new scholarly journal dedicated to advancing research in Christian theology and religious studies. This venture builds upon the esteemed legacy of *Studie* (1958-1991), a journal founded and published by Czech theologians who, during the oppressive communist regime that gripped Czechoslovakia from 1948 to 1989, sought refuge abroad.

The intellectual force behind *Studie* was the eminent theologian and scholar Professor Karel Skalický. Having also served as a distinguished professor at the Lateran University in Rome, Professor Skalický returned to his homeland after the fall of communism, becoming Dean of the Faculty of Theology at the University of South Bohemia, where he remains an esteemed emeritus professor.

The name 'KS Studies' is a fitting tribute to Professor Skalický, honouring his profound contributions to the field and his unwavering commitment to fostering international scholarly dialogue. This journal, born from the spirit of his intellectual pursuits, aims to provide a platform for rigorous and insightful research from scholars worldwide.

The University of South Bohemia has generously supported the establishment of *KS Studies*, recognising its potential to enrich academic discourse. We adhere to the highest standards of scholarly rigour, subjecting all submissions to a rigorous peer-review process to ensure the publication of only the most exceptional research.

This inaugural issue explores the multifaceted dimensions of the biblical book of Deuteronomy. All of these articles stem either from the current research project of 'Capital offences in the Deuteronomic Code, and their early linguistic recontextualization', funded by the Grant Agency of the Czech Republic, or from the related conference at our Faculty of Theology in February 2024: 'The Bible, the Language and the Context Recontextualization Of The Hebrew Bible In Antiquity'.

- **Eveline van Staalduin-Sulman** delves into the complex narrative of 1 Samuel 14, analysing how early Jewish and Christian sources attributed responsibility for the limited victory over the Philistines to Saul or Jonathan, highlighting the influence of historical context on these interpretations.
- **Eberhard Bons** examines the crucial principle of individual responsibility enshrined in Deuteronomy 24:16 ('Parents shall not be put to death for their children, nor children for their parents'), tracing its interpretation in the works of

Philo and Josephus and exploring their understanding of individual and vicarious punishment.

- **David Vopřada** investigates Ambrose of Milan's profound exegesis of Deuteronomy, emphasising his understanding of the book as a cornerstone of moral instruction. The analysis highlights Ambrose's innovative approach, drawing upon classical philosophy and Christological interpretations to shape a Christian understanding of self-knowledge and ethical responsibility.
- **Julius Pavelcik** offers a meticulous synchronic interpretation of Deuteronomy 21:1-9 as presented in the Greek Septuagint. By focusing solely on the Greek text, this analysis aims to understand how an ancient Greek reader might have perceived and interpreted the unique ritual described in this passage, emphasising its theological significance within the context of the Greek Pentateuch.

We invite you to explore these insightful articles within this inaugural issue, and we encourage you to join us in shaping the future of scholarly discourse in Christian theology and religious studies through your contributions to *KS Studies*.

Rudolf Svoboda