

OPINION

by Lubomir Ignatov, Assoc. Prof., PhD,

on the dissertation work of Nako Petkov Nakov for the award of the ONS "Doctor" in professional direction 2.4. "Religion and Theology", scientific specialty "Sacred Scripture of the New Testament"

on a topic:

"Liturgical Aspects in the Book of Revelation of St. John the Theologian (Chapters 4 and 5)".

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The mystery covering the contents of the book of Revelation has occupied the minds of many a multitude of theologians and ordinary readers of it, but relatively few have dared and tried to lift the veil from what is written in it, although the book itself is called "Revelation", i.e. discovery, unveiling.

There is no doubt that Nako Nakov chose the above-mentioned subject out of a desire to peer into the secrets of this unique prophetic book of the New Testament. Aware that this field of inquiry is indeed difficult amenable to scientific investigation, he proceeds to carry out his scientific inquiries cautiously, relying on what has been achieved back in time by distinguished theologians. To the reader flipping through his dissertation work, it becomes clear that the dissertation student is aware of the complexity of the researched matter, but is probably also impressed

by the courage with which he undertakes to research in a specific direction the part of the book of Revelation he has chosen.

It is evident that the PhD student has put tremendous effort and remarkable diligence into the composition and presentation of his dissertation, which we ultimately find in the form and quality of a serious research paper, with its inherent scholarly contributions. In the proposed text, almost everything related to the book of Revelation is presented in a systematized form. As already mentioned, Mr. Nakov refers in his work to the scientific achievements of prominent researchers in this field, using them as a base on which he builds with his own scientific studies, which is actually the contributing element of his work.

Overall, the dissertation work of doctoral student Mr. Nako Nakov meets the requirements for a similar kind of scientific works. The statement is scientific and at the same time light and comprehensible, which makes the complex matter accessible even from the first reading. The necessary research-supporting methodology was selected and a large volume of source and research literature was used, a significant part of which is in foreign languages. All this is again a sign of hard research work, which led to the aforementioned dissertationability of the work and its realization as a truly serious dissertation work, representing an indisputable contribution to this field of theological science.

The scientific work is presented in the order of 200 printed pages. It consists of an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion and a bibliography covering 150 titles, of which 64 are in Cyrillic and an impressive 86 in Latin. The underlined notes are 338.

All three parts of the scientific composition are a significant gain for theological science. The third part (chapter) represents a kind of synopsis of the

interpretations of the book of Revelation, which has not yet been undertaken by Bulgarian theologians. At the end of the Abstract, the dissertation student indicates four specific contributions of his scientific work, with which I fully agree with his findings.

The conclusion follows the usual way of presenting this part of scientific works. In general terms, it is a farewell to the reader as an attempt is made to take stock of the work done, accompanied by confirmation and additional theological clarification of the results achieved.

I have no comments about the Autorefera.

During the internal discussion of the dissertation text of Mr. Nako Nakov, a number of omissions, ambiguities, inaccuracies and oversights in the composition of the work were pointed out. They did not actually impair the conceptual and contribution quality of the presented work, but according to the requirement to present an objective judgment, they were mentioned for the sole purpose of making the presentation impeccable.

We find the dissertation text subsequently attached to the public defense documentation in a fundamentally revised form, in response to the recommendation made during the preliminary discussion. I am pleased to note that, with very few exceptions, the recommendations made by me have also been taken into account.

The merits of Mr. Nako Nakov's dissertation work are in the necessary sufficiency for it to be well received among Orthodox readers seeking theological knowledge, especially regarding the last book of the New Testament holy canon - the book of Revelation. The information presented in it is very useful and timely for Bulgarian theological science and especially for those involved in research in the field of liturgy and the related history of Christian worship and church musicology.

The work would certainly be an interesting read not only for Orthodox theologians. I highly recommend its publication.

In conclusion, on the basis of the obtained and presented above excellent impressions of the dissertation work submitted for assessment, as well as of the overall research work of the dissertation student, bearing in mind the scientific contributions indicated, I find it reasonable to give my extremely high and worthy assessment and convinced I recommend to the Scientific Jury to award Mr. Nako Nakov the scientific and educational degree "Doctor" in the scientific specialty "Holy Scripture of the New Testament" in professional direction 2.4. "Religion and Theology".

Prepared the opinion:

Sofia, October 10, 2024

(Assoc. Prof. PhD Lubomir Ignatov)