

Foreword

This monograph is the published version of my doctoral dissertation. Writing a dissertation is an activity one cannot do alone. As a PhD researcher I found myself lucky to be surrounded by people who supported me in this exciting endeavour and who have, directly or indirectly, contributed to the final product of four, dare I say, fruitful years of academic research. Although my gratitude exceeds beyond the limits of what can be expressed by means of a written text, this foreword is a token of my gratefulness.

First and foremost, a word of thanks to two wonderful human beings, i.e., my promotors Prof. dr. Hans Ausloos and Prof. dr. Bénédicte Lemmeliijn. They both embody the perfect image one has of a promotor. Just as *hapax legomena*, which are unique due to their oneness, so are my promotors who are unique and by whom I was blessed to have been guided. Not only did they support me during the writing process of the dissertation, they also supported me on a personal level. Without their continual support and kindness, I would not have been the scholar I am today. I am forever grateful that they were my two promotors of my doctoral dissertation and I want to express the hope that this collaboration is not the end but the beginning of an enduring partnership.

Next to my promotors, there are other professors from the academic community who deserve a token of my appreciation. The first one is Prof. dr. Johann Cook who has followed my career with utmost interest and who has created ample opportunities to boost my academic career. The assignment to co-author the *SBL Commentary on the Septuagint* volume of Proverbs, being the most exciting one. I am looking forward to further collaborate with him in the years to come. Another one is Prof. dr. Johan Lust. Not only did I enjoy our regular ping-pong games, I also appreciated the talks we had before, after or during the games. Many thanks to the members of my *comité d'accompagnement*, i.e., Prof. dr. Jean-Marie Auwers and Prof. dr. Brian Doyle, for their insightful remarks and their patience and endurance when reading my dissertation. A special thanks goes out to Prof. dr. Mathijs Lamberigts for giving me the opportunity to work as a science collaborator on a project of *Religie, zingeving en levensbeschouwing* before receiving a scholarship. During this year, I was blessed to work under the supervision of Prof. dr. Johan De Tavernier, whose company I have greatly appreciated during the last few years. Of course, I am blessed by having obtained funding by the *Fonds Spéciaux de Recherche* (FSR) to pursue a PhD and whose generous scholarship has enabled me to do what I love to do, i.e., doing research and working on a dissertation for four years.

Working at two faculties, i.e., the Faculté de theologie (UCLouvain) and Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies (KU Leuven), has the advantage of meeting a lot of warm people who have supported me during the writing process of the dissertation. In Louvain-la-Neuve, I had the pleasure of being surrounded with wonderful colleagues of the *Groupe de recherche Septante et critique textuelle*. I would like to thank Ellen, Camilla and Martinus for their great interest in my research and their presence during numerous conferences where I have presented one of my papers as well as their kind friendship. A special word of thanks goes out to Beatrice. We have started this adventure together and together we have come to the end of our journey. Her unconditional friendship and support were heart warming. I hope we can continue our academic journey together for many years to come. *Grazie mille!*

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