My PhD project: Isaiah 65–66 and the Apocalyptic Genre in 1 Enoch

My doctoral work is about how Isaiah 65-66, as a prophetical post-exilic text in the Hebrew Bible, has thematically influenced or left its mark in 1 Enoch, which is a Jewish-apocalyptic text from second century BCE. The title of the project is, therefore, Isa. 65-66 and the Apocalyptic Genre in 1 Enoch. The second part of this theme suggests a broader approach than 1 Enoch, but central to this work is the thematical relationship between the prophetic genre in Isa. 65–66 and the apocalyptic genre in 1 Enoch. In exegetical research, scholars are aware of the connection between the Old Testament prophetic genre and the apocalyptic genre in early Judaism. However, what is lacking is a closer analysis of Isa. 65–66 as a whole, and its reception and rewritten form in 1 Enoch. The purpose with my research theme is, therefore, to do a thematic analysis from a genre perspective which can further enlighten our understanding of the book of Isaiah’s importance for later interpretations of faith and life.

The generations that live today in our global world, have and do experience great changes in areas such as politics, religion, values, and geography. Reactions and backlashes have not been long in coming, e.g. in the form of extremes such as acts of violence and racism, but also in apathy and hopelessness. The ancient texts which my PhD project are about, come from two historical periods (the Persian and Greek) in Ancient Near East, which also were very transforming for people who lived there and then. Isa. 65–66 and 1 Enoch are reactions or expressions against these changes, as the resistance grew to counter that which their authors understood as a threat of religious convictions, justice and ancient traditions. The relevance of a research project about Isa. 65–66 and the apocalyptic genre in 1 Enoch, is to highlight the importance of two isaianic chapters in a new dynamic era, a still have today within Judaism and Christianity.

My project is relevant because of the influence Hebrew prophecy, and apocalyptic notions have on spiritual worlds views. Even if my research is about texts and reception before the current era, this project can still create a deeper understanding of why people do not give up their convictions, or compromise, despite transformative crises and disasters, but rather are strengthen in their faith and are ready to resist. In Isa. 65–66 we have such an uncompromising voice, who, from dualistic worldview, is criticising and opposing the spirit of the time. At the same time, Isa. 65–66 is one of those prophetic texts from the Hebrew Bible which have inspired the apocalyptic authors of 1 Enoch and their dissatisfaction with their own time. In short, both prophecy and apocalypse consist of ideologies that influence people and society on different levels, and history can always teach us something when different epochs are compared to each other.

The general question of my PhD project is: Are there themes in Isa 65-66 that visionaries are alluding to in the later Jewish apocalyptic genre, explicitly or implicitly? Research have shown that is the case, but not in a satisfactory way when it comes to its scope. A more exact question for this project is then: In what degree does the apocalyptic genre reflect, or use the predictive text in Isa. 65–66? An important follow-up question, which the thesis must discuss, is then: Can apocalyptic trademarks be perceived in Isa. 65–66, and if so, which ones and in what degree? Because there is a lot of material in the Jewish apocalyptic genre, these questions span over so much material that it cannot be contained in a single doctoral thesis. Therefore, my questions will specifically be about the relationship between Isa 65-66 and 1 Enoch.

What then are my expectations from these questions? I don’t think my answers will change much the current theories about the apocalyptic genre and its origin. Research has shown that Jewish apocalypse has a multitude of background and cannot be traced to one single source. However, a comparative study between Isa. 65–66 and 1 Enoch can strengthen the book of Isaiah’s significance for the origin and purpose of Jewish apocalypse. Thus, the goal of this research is to read Isa. 65–66 thematically from the perspective of my questions, with the intent to investigate analogies to the apocalyptic genre, specifically in 1 Enoch, and in that way further confirm the dynamic presence of Isa. 65–66 in the latter text.

List of publications (updated 161020)

Anthologies

"Forska och gestalta på Ölands Folkhögskola,” pages 221–232 in Kunskap utan väggar – perspektiv och
**Articles**


**Reviews**


**Translations**


*Logos Bible Software 3.0*. From English to Swedish, the grammatical terms (spring/fall 2006).

**Lectures and Conferences**

“Gamla testamentet och historiografi”. Bibelsynsdagen at ÖMS (27/10 2012).


Exam Essays


*Hur får jag kursdeltagare att reflektera?*. Exam essay for a degree in pedagogy at Folkhögskolärarprogrammet, Linköpings universitet (Linköping, vt. 2000).

*Jesaja 61 och Hansons socialhistoriska teori om apokalyptik i Jes. 56-66*. Exam essay (Pro Gradu) for TM in Gamla testamentets exegetik at Åbo Akademi (Åbo, Finland, 2003-12-08).

Checking of facts

