

Primary objective of the presented research project consists in the analysis of intertextual relations between the Book of Wisdom and the Letter to the Romans. This will allow to verify proposed hypothesis – a hypertextual relations between the texts of mentioned above books. A relation consisting in reworking of one of the texts in another. The second scientific purpose consists of a new reading of the Letter to the Romans and an attempt to see the diaspora Judaism of Alexandria from a different perspective.

At first, the objective of the research carried out in the project will be to elaborate and evaluate existing scientific discussion concerning the subject. After this stage of the project, the attention will be granted to comparison research of two ancient texts in question, the research will be carried out on the basis of critical editions of the texts. Similar words, expressions, phrases, themes and ideas of both texts – Book of Wisdom and the Letter to the Romans – will be put together, as well as differences and reworking of motifs will be shown.

The research in this project consist of ‘frontier research’, due to the fact that in Polish bible studies scientific literature, works comparing two Bible books whose connections are firm but not evident, were not observed. The research carried out in this project and its evaluation would not only allow to reread the Book of Wisdom and the Letter to the Romans and shed a new light on their content, but also lead the way to other similar research projects in future. The proposed hypothesis, if confirmed, could establish a firm ground for further intertextual studies of the Bible.

Another justification of the topic chosen for the research is that research of this project would contribute to the studies of the Judaism of diaspora in Alexandria, where the Book of Wisdom has been written. The research on the Book of Wisdom and its presupposed reception in the Letter to the Romans is about to shed light on the image of diaspora Judaism from the perspective of Paul – a Jew, deeply rooted in Jewish world and culture, who adopted Christianity. A reinterpretation and a new image of diaspora Judaism – after all and important current of Judaism at that time – is one of the expected results of the project.

It is important to note as well the parallel between the diaspora Judaism from the Book of Wisdom – Judaism which was open to gentiles and described by a Hellenistic Jew – and the Christianity from the Letter to the Romans – Christianity which was open to Judaism, described by a Jew and a Christian at the same time. The depiction of those relations of openness and mutual ideas in conversation corresponds to the contemporary problems of the pluralistic world, in which we live today. Showing the answers from the ancient texts to similar problems experienced in the past and today, can create a parallel and foster the forging of contemporary society relations of the two religions (Judaism and Christianity) who live with each other in a continuous ‘intertext’.

It is also worth noted, that the Letter to the Romans constitutes for the Protestant theology one of the most important bible and new testament texts whatsoever. Choosing it as the topic of research is not coincidental in the beginning of Martin Luther 500th birthday celebration. Presented project enters into the protestant-catholic debate which started in XIX c., concerning the intertextual relations between Wis and Rom. A similar project and the presentation of its results on international conference in Helsinki (Society of Biblical Literature International Meeting, Helsinki 2018), can encourage mutual understanding and foster interreligious and interdenominational scientific dialogue.