

**‘Deutero-Isaiah’s Oracles of Salvation:
A Form-Critical Reinvestigation’**

Anthony Yin Fai Loke

OCMS, Ph.D

October 2010

Abstract

The thesis explores Deutero-Isaiah’s Oracles of Salvation and the present scholarly disagreement concerning its form, terminology, number, and sub-categories and proposes a fresh re-investigation of the genre in order to develop a new perspective of the message of Deutero-Isaiah.

The first two chapters focus on key areas of disagreement. It is proposed that the hypothesis ‘One *Gattung*, Many Forms’ is a solution to the above problem, and avoids misunderstandings that arise when scholars confuse the *Gattung* of the Oracle of Salvation with the Forms of its other sub-categories. An heuristic model with four form elements is developed as a tool to compare sixteen selected salvation oracles from Deutero-Isaiah. The third and fourth chapters present a detailed form-critical analysis of these texts where only six texts are shown to closely correspond to the model.

The fifth chapter attempts to form-critically classify the other salvation oracles in Deutero-Isaiah into its various sub-categories namely, Assurance of Salvation, Proclamation of Salvation, Royal or Commissioning Oracle, Hymn, and Mixed Salvation Oracle. The sixth chapter examines the relationship between the two major blocks of Deutero-Isaiah namely, chapters 40-48 and chapters 49-55, as well as the relationship between the polemic and salvific genres where the dominant salvific genre exerts a strong influence on the polemic genre.

The seventh chapter investigates in greater detail the relationship and interplay between the polemic and salvific genres through the use of text clusters in the two major blocks in Deutero-Isaiah and proposes that there is a clear intentional placement of polemic and salvific speeches together which is related to Deutero-Isaiah’s message of countering the despair and despondency of his fellow exiles in Babylon.