

**A THEO-ETHICAL REFLECTION ON THE EMANCIPATORY MOTIFS OF
EXODUS AND EXILE IN THE HAGAR SLAVE SAGA:
CHALLENGING THE CONCEPT OF POWER.**

**A Thesis
Submitted in Fulfilment of the Requirement for the Degree of
Master of Philosophy in Theology**

of

The University of the West Indies

by

**Doreen Delores Wynter
2007**

**United Theological of the West Indies
Faculty of Humanities
Mona Campus**

ABSTRACT

A Theo-Ethical Reflection on the Emancipatory Motifs of Exodus and Exile
in the Hagar slave saga: Challenging the concept of power

Doreen Delores Wynter

The Historical context of a text was the predominant approach in Biblical interpretation. In recent times, this emphasis has been criticised by some exegetes. However, as this writer believes that history is important, this is the methodology: the emphasis on context which has been adopted for this study. For it is history then, the context of the biblical text, which has influenced current contexts which sees the legitimisation of the subordination of women to men and their exclusion from the religious rituals: word and sacrament.

But whereas the historical critical approach focussed on the context of the author and the period of the time; it is the context of the text as a finished product and the context/social location of the interpreter which become key factors in this re-reading of the Hagar saga. These convergences of text, context and pretext revealed that Hagar a woman from the margins because of race, class and sex, was an agent of liberation. Her liberation stance was demonstrated in her protest movement as evidenced both in her withdrawal, the exodus, from a system of oppression, and also her prophetic protest against the oppressive system while in exile.

The writer posits that exodus and exile are emancipatory motifs in the Hagar slave saga. It is an exegetical exercise with theological and ethical implications for the Caribbean which shares the common context of slavery and oppression. It also confronts the church living in the world, how does this body of resident aliens, albeit a minority grouping seemingly powerless, confront the power structures/systems in the world. The emancipatory motifs of exodus and exile now become the paradigmatic model for liberating theologians and challenge the concept of power.

Keywords: Doreen Delores Wynter; Re-reading of the Hagar slave saga, exodus and exile as emancipatory motifs,

**A THEO-ETHICAL REFLECTION ON THE EMANCIPATORY MOTIFS OF
EXODUS AND EXILE IN THE HAGAR SLAVE SAGA:
CHALLENGING THE CONCEPT OF POWER.**

**A Thesis
Submitted in Fulfilment of the Requirement for the Degree of
Master of Philosophy in Theology**

of

The University of the West Indies

by

**Doreen Delores Wynter
2007**

**United Theological of the West Indies
Faculty of Humanities
Mona Campus**

ABSTRACT

A Theo-Ethical Reflection on the Emancipatory Motifs of Exodus and Exile
in the Hagar slave saga: Challenging the concept of power

Doreen Delores Wynter

The Historical context of a text was the predominant approach in Biblical interpretation. In recent times, this emphasis has been criticised by some exegetes. However, as this writer believes that history is important, this is the methodology: the emphasis on context which has been adopted for this study. For it is history then, the context of the biblical text, which has influenced current contexts which sees the legitimisation of the subordination of women to men and their exclusion from the religious rituals: word and sacrament.

But whereas the historical critical approach focussed on the context of the author and the period of the time; it is the context of the text as a finished product and the context/social location of the interpreter which become key factors in this re-reading of the Hagar saga. These convergences of text, context and pretext revealed that Hagar a woman from the margins because of race, class and sex, was an agent of liberation. Her liberation stance was demonstrated in her protest movement as evidenced both in her withdrawal, the exodus, from a system of oppression, and also her prophetic protest against the oppressive system while in exile.

The writer posits that exodus and exile are emancipatory motifs in the Hagar slave saga. It is an exegetical exercise with theological and ethical implications for the Caribbean which shares the common context of slavery and oppression. It also confronts the church living in the world, how does this body of resident aliens, albeit a minority grouping seemingly powerless, confront the power structures/systems in the world. The emancipatory motifs of exodus and exile now become the paradigmatic model for liberating theologians and challenge the concept of power.

Keywords: Doreen Delores Wynter; Re-reading of the Hagar slave saga, exodus and exile as emancipatory motifs,