

R. Meynet, *Rhetorical Analysis. An Introduction to Biblical Rhetoric*, JSOT.S 256, Sheffield 1998.

## PREFACE TO THE ENGLISH EDITION

The present work is more than just a simple translation of *L'Analyse rhétorique. Une nouvelle méthode pour comprendre la Bible. Textes fondateurs et exposé systématique* (Initiations, Paris: Les Éditions du Cerf, 1989; Italian translation: *L'analisi retorica*, Biblioteca biblica 8, Brescia: Editrice Queriniana, 1992). It is, in fact, a new, revised, and augmented edition.

The second half of the book has been totally rewritten in order to accommodate particularly the developments in the analysis of the first two chapters of Amos, after the publication of the commentary written in collaboration with Pietro Bovati (*Le Livre du prophète Amos*, Rhétorique biblique 2, Paris: Les Éditions du Cerf, 1994; Italian edition: *Il libro del profeta Amos*, Retorica biblica 2, Rome: Edizioni Dehoniane, 1995).

The new 'Foreword' includes an article first published in Portuguese, then in French, in Italian and in Arabic: a new method, unknown to the educated layman, is expounded here in accessible form. These few pages have proved to be a precious source of help, particularly to my students at the *Centre Sèvres* in Paris, but also for my students in biblical theology at the Gregorian University in Rome.

As an introduction to the second part, I have added the first half of a study on the presuppositions of rhetorical analysis given as a seminar paper at the Catholic school of theology of the University of Strasbourg and published in a collection of essays entitled *Exégèse et Herméneutique. Comment lire la Bible?* (LD 158, Paris: Les Éditions du Cerf, 1994).

Finally, to conclude the second part, I have included a conference paper that the Roman group of New Testament exegetes had asked me to give: 'I frutti dell'analisi retorica per l'esegesi biblica', published in *Greg.* 77 (1996) pp. 403-436.

It remains for me to wish that this new version of a book which has yet no equivalent on the subject, be useful to the English speaking public.

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