THE POOR IN THE DEUTERONOMIC CODE FROM THE AFRICAN AND MINJUNG PERSPECTIVE

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By

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose and Significance of the Study

This study examines the theology and the socio-economic status of the Poor as presented in the Deuteronomic Code (DC [1]). The theological perspectives from the Deuteronomic codes can illuminate African and Minjung Theological perspectives on the understanding of the Poor. In this study, aspects of social responsibility to the Poor as well as the macro-economic perspectives that link the relationship of the Poor to the powerful, are illuminated. Internationally, the concern of the international community, within the larger socio-economic structures should entertain responses to solving the problem of Poverty. This should be the focus of the larger world economic structures. The legislation of the DC deals with the socio-economic, as well as the political well-being of the Poor, also known as the *personae miserabiles*. This study is therefore interested in Deuteronomic theology on the situation and social condition of the Poor and the destitute. It examines the social conditions both in the Ancient Near East[2] and in the DC.

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[1]The Acronym DC will be used to refer to Deuteronomic Code.

[2]Hereafter the acronym ANE will be used for the purposes of this research. In this case it will mean the former Fertile Crescent comprising the kingdoms of Babylonia, Mesopotamia, Egypt, Israel, Syria, Assyria, Phoenicia etc.

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