

Judaic Roots of Christianity in the Work of Pope Benedict XVI

Summary

The aim of this dissertation is to analyze the way of depicting relations between Judaism and Christianity in the teaching of Benedict XVI.

The main part of the analysis is preceded by a chapter concisely presenting the evolution of the Christian teaching on Jews and Judaism, mainly in the first centuries AD and from the Second Vatican Council.

The first major research goal was to indicate how Benedict XVI understood the common heritage of Judaism and Christianity. As part of this task, selected, most common topics of teaching in this field were presented, including the use of two key metaphors: roots and ties.

The second goal was to compare the approach of Benedict XVI with the previous teaching of the Church and to point out the similarities and differences. In this part of the analysis the following topics were addressed: the comparison with the teachings of John Paul II and with earlier documents, historical issues as well as an analysis of the language Benedict XVI employed to describe the relationship between Christianity and Judaism.

The analysis of the achievements of Benedict XVI suggests that he continues the teaching of the Second Vatican Council and John Paul II in the field of Jews and Judaism, but clearly emphasizes the need to deepen the understanding of the relationship between the two religions and to specify the terms used so far. In his opinion, the dialogue with Jews should concern the person of Jesus whose mission fulfills the promises given to Israel in the Old Testament.

J. Drach

M. P. K.