

This thesis presents the world of thoughts of Prof. ThDr. Jan Heller (1925 - 2008) which ranges from theology, namely the Old Testament theology, to the study of religions. This overlap between theology and the study of religions is proved as highly productive. The paper also deals with Heller's approach to the world - with religious philosophy that is formed by the biblical message and draws on the philosophy of Martin Buber. The paper also examines the influences of Heller's direct teachers - theologians Slavomil . Daněk and Karl Barth on his work.

Within the field of the religious studies the paper is concerned with the responsive hypothesis - a theory of the origin of religion that Heller offers as his own contribution to the study of religions. The thesis also deals with the distinction between religion and religiosity, with theory and theology of the ethical turn during the Axial Age, with Heller's approach to the non-theistic religious systems and examines also the possibilities of an interreligious dialogue between Christianity and the non-theistic religions. Heller's studies in the field of ancient religious systems surrounding the old Israel are dealt with as well.

Concerning theology, the paper deals with Heller's approach to the text of bible and the related question of the traditional process. Besides, the paper maps Heller's views on hermeneutics and biblical exegesis.

In terms of philosophy, the thesis examines Heller's orientation on Martin Buber's personalism with its emphasis on relationship and dialogue and presents Heller's thoughts on the possibilities of overcoming the duality of subject and object by such relationship. This work also presents Heller's philosophicaltheological thinking about the relationship and the responsibility of man for the environment.

Key words:

Jan Heller, religion, responsive hypothesis, interreligious dialogue, bible