

**JOHN THE BAPTIST, THE RECEPTION OF MALACHI AND  
LUKE'S WIDOWS –  
A QUICK LOOK AT LUKE'S UNDERSTANDING OF δικαιοσύνη**

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**Abstract.** The long quotations of the book of Malachi are one of the many key features of the first chapters of Luke. It is widely accepted that Luke's infancy stories expand allusions to Mal 3 to a very high degree, but scholars have not yet explained its connection to the rest of the gospel. This article examines Luke's usage of Mal 3. Luke receives this Old Testament Prophet in order to express his own idea of righteousness.

**Keywords:** Righteousness; widows; Malachi; John the Baptist; infancy stories.

**1. Malachi and Luke's intertexts—a basic question**

The long quotations of the book of Malachi are one of the many key features of the first chapters of Luke. It is widely accepted that Luke's infancy stories expand allusions to Mal 3 to a very high degree, but scholars have not yet explained its connection to the rest of the gospel. They mostly read Mal 3 to illuminate the status of John the Baptist, but overlook the strong textual network that Luke has interwoven with this particular intertext. The big studies on John (M. Tilly;<sup>1</sup> C.G. Müller;<sup>2</sup> M. Apel<sup>3</sup>) exclusively limit their research to Lk 1–3 and Lk

<sup>1</sup> M. TILLY, *Johannes der Täufer und die Biographie der Propheten. Die synoptische Täuferüberlieferung und das jüdische Prophetenbild zur Zeit des Täufers*, Beiträge zur Wissenschaft vom Alten und Neuen Testament 17, Stuttgart 1994.

<sup>2</sup> C.G. MÜLLER, *Mehr als ein Prophet. Die Charakterzeichnung Johannes des Täufers im lukanischen Erzählwerk*, HBS 31, Freiburg u.a. 2001.

<sup>3</sup> Cf. M. APEL, *Der Anfang in der Wüste - Täufer, Taufe und Versuchung Jesu. Eine traditionsgeschichtliche Untersuchung zu den Überlieferungen vom Anfang des Evangeliums*, Stuttgarter Biblische Beiträge 72, Stuttgart 2013.