

RECOVERING THE SEMANTIC CONNOTATIONS OF THE VERB 'ĀMAN (אָמַן) IN QAL

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1. INTRODUCTION

The biblical study of faith implies an understanding of the diverse semantic levels expressed in the Hebrew vocabulary within their respective literary contexts. Hence, the field of study is theological and philological. The source of Revelation manifests itself in a privileged form in the divinely inspired Scripture. For this reason a believer can speak of the double dimension of its authorship: the divine and the human¹. The human author communicates his or her experience of faith in the sacred text through the cultural and linguistic limitations, typical of the Semitic culture of ancient times. The Scripture, therefore, articulates in a theological manner diverse phenomenological manifestations of conviction and security derived from a personal relationship with God². Therefore, it is necessary to elucidate and clarify the basic meaning of the Old Testament vocabulary that has been used by the original authors in order to

1 This theological principle is stated by CVII, *Dei Verbum* no. 11: «Deum habent auctorem, atque ut tales ipsi Ecclesiae traditi sunt. In sacris vero libris conficiendis Deus homines elegit, quos facultatibus ac viribus suis utentes adhibuit, ut Ipso in illis et per illos agente, ea omnia eaque sola, quae Ipse vellet, ut veri auctores scripto traderent».

2 Cf. CVII, *Dei Verbum* no. 12.