



Ceremony for awarding the

Doctor Honoris Causa

distinction to His Excellency

Professor Joseph Verheyden, Ph. D.,

Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium.

Motivation

The Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca has awarded the Doctor Honoris Causa distinction to Professor Joseph Verheyden, at the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium, for his tremendous work in researching the Q source, the Synoptic Gospels, and the New Testament. Professor Verheyden has been a long-time supporter of biblical research at our university. His work has contributed to the development of the process that has led to the current versions of Mark, Matthew, and Luke. He fostered a paradigm shift regarding the importance of early Christian literature, and he is one of the coordinators of *Novum Testamentum Patristicum*, a large international project exploring the reception of the New Testament in patristic literature.

The awarding ceremony took place on November 21, 2024. Professor Joseph Verheyden delivered a presentation entitled “The Bible of Violence: Suffering and Hope”. He expanded upon the concept of violence found in the texts of the Christian Bible, which he categorizes into four axes. The first axis refers to historically acknowledged acts of violence and mythical ones, physical and psychological suffering, and the loss of human and animal life. The second approach regards spatio-temporal axes and violence on human, divine, and



satanic levels. The third axis exposes the agents and victims of violence. In the fourth axis, the use of violence is justified through various explanations.

