

ABSTRACT

The intertextual shows how biblical texts in the Old Testament relate to the text at New Testament, in terms of allusion, echo, and quotation. In intertextuality there are intertextual reference and historical meaning. This study analyses the intertextual reference and historical meaning of the clause “God is Love” in the Bible. Using a qualitative descriptive method, data was obtained from Bible verses related to the theme of God's love in the New International Version (NIV). Data were collected through observation, documentation, and note-taking techniques. This study identified intertextual reference namely: quotation, allusion, echo, and historical meaning proposed by Hays (1989). In this analysis, it is found that all intertextual reference between the OT and NT of echo God is love found are Immanuel “God with us”, the Suffering of God’s servant, cornerstone and a firm foundation, God’s spiritual blessing and the last one is God’s forgiveness and redemption. Seven types of historical meaning support intertextual criteria: availability, volume, repetition, thematic coherence, historical plausibility, history of interpretation, and satisfaction. The results show that the echo of “God is Love” in the Bible has a strong intertextual relationship between the Old and New Testaments that strengthens the theological and historical understanding of God's love.

Keywords: Intertextual reference, Historical meaning, Bible verse, God is Love