

RESUMÉ

God's relationship towards man takes place in scope of the history of salvation. The Old Testament is the annunciation of great acts of God, where the key role is played by the Israelite nation. God gradually reveals himself to man in a way so that the addressee – man – is able to understand God's revealed love. God is always the first one to have the initiative. God's communication with people reaches its top by the contract at Mount Sinai. And not only that, God also gives man his eternal promises, reveals him his name and leads him out of Egypt. In the Old Testament God is totally free from any sexual practices which are so inherent with the surrounding nations' polytheism.

Israel learns about the only God mostly through experience, not through analogy or theological research. It is because man was able to learn about God's character and attributes from God's self-revealing. There are a number of references to God's fatherly love towards Israel in the Old Testament. A number of similarities exist between the character of earthly father and God, the basic reason being that man can not think in other categories than man's ones. But then there must be also a similarity between mother and God because the origin of both fatherhood and motherhood is in God himself.

God wishes to be everything to man and his love has infinite forms. God is a fighter, rescuer, redeemer, Lord, King, judge, spouse, husband, but if necessary, he is also a mother to a poor, suffering person. God offers loving arms, hugging on his lap, comfort and motherly tenderness.

This thesis does not intend in any case to argue that God is a Father and a Mother to an equal extent and that these two terms can be exchanged arbitrarily. Although God is mostly a Father, there is a motherly attribute evidently present in him. If this attribute was not there, it would disagree with the order of creation. God created man as male and female, father and mother, he blessed them and so gave them a share in his creating activity. All of these roles mirror in a unique way an attribute of God's love that is not only a fatherly but also a motherly one.