**MY SOUL PROCLAIMS THE GREATNESS OF THE LORD**

**To Abraham and his descendants forever**

It is righteous to ask: *“What had God exactly said to our fathers, to Abraham and his descendants, forever?”.* For the entire humanity, immediately after the first sin, the Lord told the serpent that the woman and the woman’s offspring would have crushed his head: *“Then the LORD God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, you shall be banned from all the animals and from all the wild creatures; On your belly shall you crawl, and dirt shall you eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; He will strike at your head, while you strike at his heel." (Gen 3,14-15)*. This is the mercy promised by the Lord: delivering man from his burdensome slavery. In light of such promised mercy, the Lord has taken history in his hands with Israel and He has led it until the day of the incarnation of his Only Begotten Son in the womb of the Virgin Mary: *“He has helped Israel his servant, remembering his mercy, according to his promise to our fathers, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”.* This truth is proclaimed by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of Zechariah: *"Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, for he has visited and brought redemption to his people. He has raised up a horn for our salvation within the house of David his servant, even as he promised through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old: salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us, to show mercy to our fathers and to be mindful of his holy covenant and of the oath he swore to Abraham our father, and to grant us that, rescued from the hand of enemies, without fear we might worship him in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, child, will be called prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give his people knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God by which the daybreak from on high will visit us to shine on those who sit in darkness and death's shadow, to guide our feet into the path of peace." (Lk 1,68-79)*. The promise made in the Garden of Eden immediately after sin begins its path in history through Abraham. The Lord promised him that all communities of earth would have found blessing in his descendants: *“Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk and from your father's house to a land that I will show you. "I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you. All the communities of the earth shall find blessing in you." (Gn 12,1-3). “Again the LORD'S messenger called to Abraham from heaven and said: "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you acted as you did in not withholding from me your beloved son, I will bless you abundantly and make your descendants as countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore; your descendants shall take possession of the gates of their enemies, and in your descendants all the nations of the earth shall find blessing - all this because you obeyed my command.'' (Gen 22,15-18).* Let us note well: the blessing is in the descendants.

God’s blessing, through the obedience of Abraham, would have been poured onto the entire world one day, through his descendants. Now the descendants of Abraham are not all his children, otherwise every descendant of Abraham would be a source of blessing for the world, for every man. The Descendants of Abraham is only one: Christ Jesus. Here is how this truth is taught by Saint Paul in the letter to the Galatians *“Thus Abraham "believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." Realize then that it is those who have faith who are children of Abraham. Scripture, which saw in advance that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, foretold the good news to Abraham, saying, "Through you shall all the nations be blessed." Consequently, those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham who had faith.* *Christ ransomed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written, "Cursed be everyone who hangs on a tree," that the blessing of Abraham might be extended to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.* *For through faith you are all children of God in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free person, there is not male and female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendant, heirs according to the promise. (Cf. Gal 3,6-29).*

In Christ Jesus, true, unique, only Offspring of Abraham, God can fulfil all his promises of salvation, redemption, justification, sanctification. He can make every man his child of adoption, making him participant of his divine nature and constituting him in Christ Jesus heir of his eternal kingdom that is the Paradise. Without Christ, out of Him, far from Him, there is no possibility of salvation for man, for God has decided, in his eternal counsel, to save man only through the means of his Only Begotten Son, become true Offspring of Abraham. God has no other promise to fulfil, and he fulfils none of his promise but through the means of Christ Jesus. This promise, in order to be fulfilled, needs four obedience: the obedience of the Woman, the obedience of the Descendants of the Woman, the obedience of the one who is sent to let people know the will of salvation and the ways established by our God, the obedience of the one who wants to be blessed by God.

The obedience of the Woman has been most perfect: *“In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.” (Lk 1,26-38)*. The obedience in the Woman is perfect since the first moment of her conceiving until the moment of her entering the heaven in body and in soul.

The obedience of the Descendants of the Woman, of the Incarnated Word, has also been most perfect: *“For this reason, when he came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; holocausts and sin offerings you took no delight in. Then I said, 'As is written of me in the scroll, Behold, I come to do your will, O God.'" First he says, "Sacrifices and offerings, holocausts and sin offerings, you neither desired nor delighted in." These are offered according to the law. Then he says, "Behold, I come to do your will." He takes away the first to establish the second. By this "will," we have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. (Heb 10,5-10)*. This obedience bears a fruit of salvation for the entire world. Thus, this fruit is revealed by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of the Apostle Paul: *“Therefore, just as through one person sin entered the world, and through sin, death, and thus death came to all, inasmuch as all sinned for up to the time of the law, sin was in the world, though sin is not accounted when there is no law. But death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin after the pattern of the trespass of Adam, who is the type of the one who was to come. But the gift is not like the transgression. For if by that one person's transgression the many died, how much more did the grace of God and the gracious gift of the one person Jesus Christ overflow for the many. And the gift is not like the result of the one person's sinning. For after one sin there was the judgment that brought condemnation; but the gift, after many transgressions, brought acquittal. For if, by the transgression of one person, death came to reign through that one, how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of justification come to reign in life through the one person Jesus Christ. In conclusion, just as through one transgression condemnation came upon all, so through one righteous act acquittal and life came to all. For just as through the disobedience of one person the many were made sinners, so through the obedience of one the many will be made righteous. The law entered in so that transgression might increase but, where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through justification for eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Rm 5,12-21)*. The fruit has been produced. Now one must gather it and everyone will gather it through his faith in Christ Jesus and through the obedience to the Word of faith. One does not gather the fruit out of Christ and neither one lives out of Him, but one lives becoming his body and his life.

The obedience of the missionaries of the Gospel can be perfect, it can be imperfect, it can as well not be there at all. here is what the Apostle Paul reveals about this obedience: *“Moses writes about the righteousness that comes from (the) law, "The one who does these things will live by them." But the righteousness that comes from faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will go up into heaven?' (that is, to bring Christ down) or 'Who will go down into the abyss?' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead)." But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we preach), for, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. For the scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, enriching all who call upon him. For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." But how can they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how can they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone to preach? And how can people preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring (the) good news!" But not everyone has heeded the good news; for Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what was heard from us?" Thus faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.” (Rm 10,5-17)*. Here is what Christ Jesus commands to his Apostles on the mountain of Galilee: *“Then Jesus approached and said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." (Mt 28,18-20)*.

Here is now the obedience to the divine rules to enter the blessing and to remain there forever: *“Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. He came to Jesus at night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you are doing unless God is with him." Jesus answered and said to him, "Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can a person once grown old be born again? Surely he cannot reenter his mother's womb and be born again, can he?" Jesus answered, "Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of flesh is flesh and what is born of spirit is spirit. Do not be amazed that I told you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it wills, and you can hear the sound it makes, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes; so it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." (Jn 3,1-8)*. *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavens, as he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and without blemish before him. In love he destined us for adoption to himself through Jesus Christ, in accord with the favor of his will, for the praise of the glory of his grace that he granted us in the beloved. In him we have redemption by his blood, the forgiveness of transgressions, in accord with the riches of his grace that he lavished upon us. In all wisdom and insight, he has made known to us the mystery of his will in accord with his favor that he set forth in him as a plan for the fullness of times, to sum up all things in Christ, in heaven and on earth. In him we were also chosen, destined in accord with the purpose of the one who accomplishes all things according to the intention of his will, so that we might exist for the praise of his glory, we who first hoped in Christ. In him you also, who have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and have believed in him, were sealed with the promised holy Spirit, which is the first installment of our inheritance toward redemption as God's possession, to the praise of his glory.” (Eph 1.4-14).* The third obedience *– make disciples of all nations –* and the fourth obedience – *salvation is through the faith in Christ and one lives it becoming one only body with Him* –have failed today. Not only does one not preach Christ anymore. The mercy itself promised by God has even been abrogated: namely, that of blessing all the nations in the Descendants of Abraham. Let us note well: not through the descendants of Abraham, but in his Descendants, namely not through Christ alone, but also in Christ. Today the Christian is declaring that every religion is a way of salvation and one must be in brotherhood with every man, no longer as disciples of the Lord but as brothers with the other brothers. Today speaking about Christ is declared an offence for the other man. One is even thinking of a Church from below, a Church in which everyone can enter without any conversion, namely with the total abrogation of the third and the fourth obedience. The third and the fourth obedience lack within the people of the Lord today, in the heart of all the disciples of the Lord. There is a denial, a silent, tacit betrayal, almost conspiratorial, of the truth of Jesus the Lord. It is as if the Christian were ashamed of proclaiming the truth of his Teacher and Lord, forgetting that the truth of Christ Jesus is truth of the Father, for Christ is the only promise of the Father. If we do not preach Christ Jesus, we do not profess his truth with true testimony, we do not love man, for we exclude him from his salvation. A God without Christ, even if unique and only in his heaven, does not save man, because this unique and only God has made no promise of salvation. The Father of the Lord our Jesus Christ has made the promise of salvation and He has made it precisely in Christ, through the means of Him, through Him and with Him. Therefore, there is no salvation not even in accepting the grace and the truth of Jesus the Lord. Salvation is in becoming, we, in Him, descendants of Abraham, for God’s salvation is only in the Descendants of Abraham for those who in Christ become true children of Abraham. Today the soteriological disaster is devastating and drag the entire theology and Christology together with ecclesiology in its devastation. If the third obedience does not rise in fullness and in purity of truth, the fourth obedience can never arise. Without the third obedience the world is abandoned and handed over entirely to the slavery of sin and of death. Virgin Mary, Mother of God, Angels and Saints, give us the truth faith and the true obedience in Christ the Lord. ***19 March 2023***