

# THE STORY OF SALVATION

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What's the Story of Salvation, and do we find it in the Creed and the Eucharistic Prayer? Many questions face Christians and non Christians when they consider the history of Christianity. The matter is more important when related to the Catechism. Is it important to ask: how do you pray, or do you meditate when praying?

In order to explore that, I pointed it out in the Creed and the opening of Eucharistic Prayer IV. We know that the story is mentioned in the Creed and the Eucharistic Prayer; it is divided into three parts, firstly concentrated on the Father, then on the Son, after that, on the Holy Spirit.

## I

The story has a beginning with God; it has a centre with His Son Jesus Christ, and an end with the Holy Spirit. It's a complete story since God has a perfect nature, and pure love for us. He created mankind aiming the perfect union with Him. In the beginning, everything God created was good, but with man was very good (Gen 1: 31). God wants a divine life for us. He walked with them in the paradise (Gen 3: 8), endowing them with freedom. But He can't force anyone to love Him. Adam allowed himself to die because he wanted to be as God. The Fruit Adam and Eve ate deprived them from the Grace of God, so they became only creatures. This is because sin has separated the human beings from God.

Despite this, God promised Adam and Eve that her offspring will strike the serpent's head (Gen 3:15). Since that time human beings were far from the perfect union with God. However, God always loves His people and He wants them to return to the divine home. In the Book of Genesis we find what happened to Noah. God saw how great man's wickedness on earth was. After the flood, He established a new covenant with Noah and his family. And this covenant has been renewed with Abraham and his tribe. The Divine Epic continued in Egypt when God, by Moses, made a new covenant with the nation of Israel crowned by the Ten Commandments.

## II

God's plan is to let mankind believe that they are His people. But they didn't obey the commandment in the Promised Land. However, God still loved them and aimed to write His law within their hearts. When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son Jesus Christ, born of Virgin Mary, so that we might receive adoption. As proof that we are children, God sent the spirit of his Son Jesus into our hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" as St. Paul said (Gal 4: 4-6). At 30 year, Jesus starts His mission, and was baptized by John the Baptist, then He preached and proclaimed the kingdom of God.

## III

In order to establish His Holy Church, Jesus Christ chose Peter to be her leader; 'I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven' He said (Mat 16: 19). But Jesus was rejected

because sinful people have rejected God. Jesus rose from the dead because He has the divine nature. Unfortunately, Jews, despite seeing His miracles, they didn't think about them; they did not ponder on 'why He is doing miracles'. When Jesus broke the bread (Lk 24: 30), the disciples understood what was going on, so they returned to Jerusalem. He said to Simon Peter to feed His lambs, to tend His sheep. On the Pentecost day, Jesus sent them the Holy Spirit. The Church has the key of the kingdom. Despite Stephen explaining the story of salvation to the Jews (Act 7ff), they rejected it and stoned him; earning the crown of the first martyr.

The Church, through twenty centuries, has been living the Holy Spirit days. She tries to proclaim the kingdom of God to all mankind; who is God the Trinity. So we are waiting for the next coming of our Lord, which is the final stage of the story of salvation.'

I ask dear reader to clearly identify the three parts in the Creed and the opening of the fourth Eucharistic Prayer. I think some will fail. Maybe the confusion will be in the first part; moreover some will not mention the existence of the Holy Trinity within the text.

Really, many of faithful, have been saying the Creed for a number of years without focusing on the points above, but from now on, we have to remember the story every time attending mass.

We are in need to present more efforts regarding catechizing Christians. As, Pope Benedict XVI said: 'the aim of all Christian education, moreover, is to train the believer in an adult faith that can make him a "new creation", capable of bearing witness in his surroundings to the Christian hope that inspires him.' We have to work harder towards adult education similar to our dedication to children's formation.