

LET MY PEOPLE GO

EXODUS 3:10

Eddy L Maertens

At a crucial moment, “*God remembered His covenant*” with Abraham: that He would deliver his descendants from the slavery into which they had fallen. Out of that covenant faithfulness, He called Moses and sent him to Pharaoh with a clear command: “Let My people go” (cfr. Genesis 15: 13 - 16; Exodus 3: 10). God's “remembering” here is not a recollection as if He had forgotten something, but the powerful activation of His promise.

However, there is an even deeper and earlier moment when God's purpose becomes visible: when man gives in to temptation and separates himself from the Source of life. In the midst of the judgment, a word of hope is already spoken against evil: “He will crush your head” (cfr. Genesis 3: 15). God does not let go of man but promises a decisive victory over the power of death as a definitive break with the fellowship of his Creator. The Gospel according to John proclaims the fulfillment of that divine purpose in words known throughout the world: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life” (cfr. John 3: 16 - 17).

In this light, one can say that in Christ the divine command resounds once again - now directed not at an earthly potentate but at the powers of sin and death themselves: “Let My people go. Let them go free, so that they may make their way through the wilderness of this existence, on the road to the promised life, the true and everlasting Canaan.”

