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*Biblical Theology – "In the Depths of the Revelation of God's Word"*  
(*Teologie biblică – „În adâncul revelației Cuvântului lui Dumnezeu”*)

### Habilitation thesis

Abstract

**This thesis has been prepared** in accordance with the rules laid down in the Education Act (614/2023, Article 69, paragraph 5a) relating to acquiring doctoral habilitation (i.e. the accreditation to supervise doctoral research).

Accordingly, the thesis begins with a description of the scientific and academic achievements in order to obtain the doctoral degree, continues with the skills obtained during the research activity and finally proposes additional possibilities for research and career development.

**The first direction of my research** in the field of Biblical Theology, after familiarizing myself with the principles of exegesis and biblical hermeneutics and after learning the languages in which the biblical texts were written (Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Aramaic), focused on that "dimension of liberation" that the Feast of Easter, both Jewish and Christian, has in mind when evoking the founding events of the Jewish People and of the Christian Community respectively. Since this dimension of freedom is fundamental to the existence of every community, it is cultivated through liturgical celebrations. In this sense, the mythical component of the celebration is meant to keep alive the founding event in the consciences of the participants (i.e. the Liberation from Egypt, for the Jewish Community and the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, for the Christian Community) so as they may realize the value of their identity and their present situation, while the ritual component offers the participants the opportunity to "become" their protagonists even if they did not actually take part in it. This research and approach became the theme of the Master's Dissertation entitled "The liberating dimension of the Jewish and Christian Easter celebration", defended in 1996 at the Catholic Institute in Paris.

**The second direction of my research** in the same sphere of biblical theology was to go deeper in understanding the status and value of figures of speech used for expressing the message of God's Word. A special place in my research has been reserved to metaphor in general and military metaphor in particular. In this regard, after highlighting the presence of this figure of speech in biblical texts in a pre-doctoral Dissertation, entitled "Study on the Metaphorical Language of the Bible – Military Metaphor" and defended in 1998 at the Catholic Institute in Paris, I highlighted the presence of military metaphor in Greek-Roman literature and patristic literature of the first Christian centuries, respectively, in a pre-doctoral Dissertation, entitled "Study on the Military Metaphors of Greek-Roman and Patristic Literature", defended at the Sorbonne University in Paris in 1999. The purpose of that study was to outline a kind of "metaphorical universe" made up by the military metaphors of these literary bodies and to highlight the possible relationships between them.

The research culminated in exploring deeper what a metaphor is and how it expresses the message of God's Word, from the perspective of linguistics and philosophy of language. In this respect, within the doctoral dissertation entitled "The Linguistic, Ethical and Theological-Christian dimension of the military metaphor in the Bible", which I prepared and defended in 2009 at the University of Bucharest, I highlighted, in a first moment, the current vision on metaphor from the perspective of linguistics and I elaborated a method of exegetical analysis of metaphor. Then, in a second moment, I revisited the main military metaphors of Holy Scripture, dwelling at length on the metaphor in chapter 6: 10-20 of the Epistle of the Apostle Paul addressed to the Ephesians, that is to a community composed mostly of Gentile Christians. Throughout the exegetical analysis of this metaphor, a concept emerged, namely that of the "new man". In this perspective, the addressees of the Epistle are urged, first of all, to live day by day according to their new personal identity. Indeed, with Baptism everyone individually became a "new man", and the author lists a rather detailed series of exhortations that constitute a true "code" of very varied and very practical ethical teachings. But the concept of the "new man" also refers to the Christian community insofar as it is aware that it must integrate into it the old element, namely the Judeo-Christian component, and this not so much out of a necessity to restore history, but above all out of a simple structural necessity. Indeed, the Church, defined as a community of baptized and faithful in Christ, has overcome the distinctions between "uncircumcised" and "circumcised." Therefore, becoming a "new man" in the collective sense requires that, regardless of origin, Christians respond to the call to form one body and one spirit in Christ.

**My research activity**, after obtaining my PhD degree, materialized in accepting to collaborate in various already existing projects art (participation in Bible translation and/or revision teams; book translation; revision of Lectionaries, Catechisms; scientific reviews, book editing and publishing, etc.), and then I took the initiative of organizing or co-organizing projects and symposia. At the same time, I accepted invitations to speak at various cultural and/or scientific events. In addition, I began to write articles both in specialized magazines and in vulgarization and church magazines, to participate in public debates in the academic environment as well as in the media.

After obtaining the habilitation, I intend to relaunch a research project in the field of intertextuality, more precisely an investigation of how certain biblical themes are reflected in Romanian literature. In addition, I intend to write and edit Bible Courses and Textbooks much-needed in the Faculties of Theology.

**My organizational and teaching capacity** is reflected by the administrative tasks I have assumed within the faculty in this field and by the student-centered teaching methods I use in my lectures and seminars. Also, for some time I have been teaching a course on the methodology of intellectual work in the field of theology, which proves my ability to explain and facilitate learning and research.

I am confident that the experience I have gained in over 25 years of activity in the field of theology could now be shared for the benefit of new doctoral students, I hope to guide them so that they may reach the required scientific maturity.