

**OLD TESTAMENT ETHICS WITH RESPECT TO HUMAN
VALUES FOR A DECONSTRUCTION OF A SECULARIST
UNDERSTANDING OF HUMAN RIGHTS.
AN ORTHODOX POINT OF VIEW**

CĂTĂLIN VARGA

Abstract. This research addresses the divine right of the concept of Human Rights, a topic widely debated in contemporary society. God, through the Law of Moses, offers to the man created according to His image a series of rights that come to valorise the dignity and freedom of the human being. Human Rights, through their status of revealed laws, can only be applicable in practice if they are integrated into their religious circuit of divine inspiration. The secularisation and relativisation of rights in today's society are leading to the impossibility of their application on a global scale - the rights of dominant influence groups on the capital market most often damage the dignity of the weaker. Now more than ever, it is necessary to overcome this vicious way of applying the right of the most powerful, by rediscovering our sources and returning to the roots; this is how, guided by God, the Jewish society succeeded in implementing human rights at an universal level, integrating them in terms of dignity, in the case of foreigners and slaves as well. The Right to promote Holiness - as the only guarantee of concrete applicability of rights, considering that the moral man, will never constrain his neighbour's freedom and dignity - is, in our opinion, the only way to establish a genuine norm. Without this visionary resurrection, we will witness the disappearance of Human Rights the way we know them nowadays.

Keywords: Human Rights Theory, ethics, Old Testament, secularism, laws, contemporary Orthodox vision, Right to Sanctity.

Introduction

The Old Testament spirituality and mysticism provide the most appropriate framework for the fulfilment of the law, a point from which an interhuman relationship springs, out of respect and appreciation for the dignity of one's neighbour. Human rights are rooted in the prescriptions of the Law of Moses that guarantees the right to liberty and dignity for every individual (even the foreigner or slave could enjoy rights equal to free Jews). The Biblical law facilitated a series of universally applicable rights, unconditional and related to human dignity and human value: the right to liberty; the right to the benefits of the law of the talion;