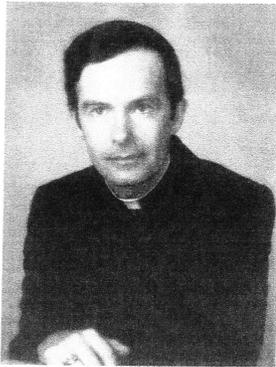


Chaplain's Corner, Hughes Camp Chaplain Richard W Rudd



"A generation goes, and a generation comes, but the earth remains for ever. The sun rises and the sun goes down, and hastens to the place where it rises. The wind blows to the south, and goes round to the north; round and round goes the

wind, and on its circuits the wind returns. All streams run to the sea, but the sea is not full; to the place where the streams flow, there they flow again." "What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done; and there is nothing new under the sun. Is there something of which it is said, 'See, this is new'? It has been already, in ages before us." (Eccles. 1:4-7, 9-10) Sooner or later we are bound to discover that those things that seem new to us, and this is especially true for children and adults not well versed in history, are not at the core of their essence new at all. All things continue in motion, yet are where they were from the beginning. As the earth remains where it is and the sun, moon, winds, and rivers keep their same course, so history ebbs and flows back and forth through the ages.

Tatianus, born in 2nd century Mesopotamia, chided arrogant Greeks for claiming credit they did not deserve and calling barbarian the people who originated those arts the Greeks highly valued. He told them, "For shame, do not call those things inventions, that are but imitations." The traditional European perception of history has been one of events moving along a horizontal linear time line. After discovering America, Europeans also discovered a different concept of history. The Aztecs, considered to be primitive, developed a calendar that was circular like the gears of a clock, reflecting their perception of the movement of history as being a cyclical and vertical pattern in which events repeated themselves.

In 1541, the Ottoman Empire controlled the Holy Land. Aware of the Christian teaching that Christ will return to earth and re-enter the Temple Mount in Jerusalem through the Eastern Gate, the Moslem sultan Suleiman attempted to prevent this repetition of history by fulfilling the prophecy of Ezekiel made 2000 years before Suleiman (Ezek. 44:1). The sultan ordered the Eastern Gate sealed and placed a Moslem cemetery in front of it, believing the Messiah

would not pass through it and become ritually impure. Four hundred years after Suleiman, Stanton, Lincoln's secretary of war, established a cemetery around Gen. Lee's home to prevent him from returning there to live.

The annals of American history are soiled with the bloody atrocities committed against fellow Americans by numerous renegade thugs like Sherman in the east and red legs in the west. Yankee prison camps were the sites of horrific torture and senseless death. Seventy years later, Nazi storm troopers assaulted their fellow countrymen and infamous concentration camps continued to be sites of inhumane torture and death.

America, 155 years ago, experienced a war among the states over the South's desire to withdraw from the Union. For different reasons, America is witnessing the rise of another secessionist movement. Led by LaRaza (The Race), militant Latinos are proclaiming as their goal the reconquista (reconquest) and secession of eight western and southwestern states.

Jeremiah recorded how idolatry within Israel motivated parents to sacrifice their children to the pagan deity Molech in the belief that their deaths would bring their parents prosperity. (Jer. 32:35) In 1973, 2500 years after Jeremiah wrote, abortion became legal in the US. The vainly attempted justification is a woman's right to choose—to choose what? In only a minute fraction of cases is rape or the life of the mother a factor. Most abortions are parents sacrificing their living, yet unborn, children for their own convenience.

Christ said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no man comes to the Father, but by Me." (Jn. 14:6) Speaking of Christ, Peter said that "...there is salvation in...no other name..." (Acts 4:12) During the Roman Empire of the first century, offended pagans charged Christians with being intolerant and exclusive. Today, the same accusations are made against Christians who refuse to recognize pagan religions and practices as co-equals. Christians were not exempt from Roman military service and were coerced by officers to offer sacrifices to pagan gods. America's Christian military chaplains have been pressured by their superiors

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to refrain from invoking the name of Christ in their prayers and to condone sodomy.

Christ predicted that in the last days conditions would return to those of previous ages. "As it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of man." "Likewise as it was in the days of Lot...so will it be on the day that the Son of man is revealed." (Lk. 17:26, 28) It is said that the primary reason for Rome's collapse was implosion due to internal decay, not explosion due to the attacks of barbarians. If the US continues on its current course, consideration of the possibility of America's decline as a world power and eventual demise is already being discussed. Left to our own devices, the history of mankind is the repetition of the same mistakes and reaping of the same results. The only way, the only hope of breaking history's fatal cycle, both in our personal lives and as a nation, is through Christ Who promises, "Behold, I make all things new." (Rev. 21:5) "Therefore, if one is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come." (II Cor. 5:17)

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