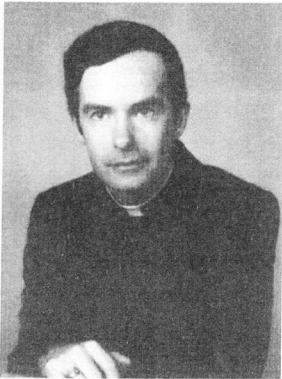


Chaplain's Corner, Hughes Camp Chaplain Richard W Rudd...



Most historians portray the passage of time in a linear format. The ancient Aztecs and Incas perceived the progression of time in a spiral or cyclical pattern. Solomon agreed, comparing time to the sun, wind, and water that go "round and round" and "hastens to the place" from where it

began. (Eccles. 1:5-7) He observed, "What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done... Is there something of which it is said, 'See, this is new?' ' It has been already, in the ages before us." (Eccles. 1:9-10) Christ, referring to the conditions in this world prior to His return, warned, "As it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the coming of the Son of man." (Matt. 24:37, Lk. 17:26) "Likewise as it was in the days of Lot...so will it be on the day when the Son of man is revealed." (Lk. 17:28)

Throughout Holy Scripture, past events and the people associated with them serve as prototypes or templates of events and people in the future. For example, the Passover lamb and Joseph both pointed to Christ; Nimrod and Antiochus Epiphanes point to the Anti-Christ yet to be revealed. Past events and people that are prototypes of corresponding future events are not the same in every detail as identical twins. They are comparable to biological twins; while the details between them vary, their relationship is obvious. The people, places, and names change, but the pattern of similarities in the story and lessons to be learned are what is important. They are revelations that tell us where man has been, where he is, and warn us of where we are headed if we fail to heed their warning. St. Paul, reflecting on the experiences of the Israelites in the wilderness during the Exodus, wrote, "Now these things happened to them as a warning, but they were written down for our instruction." (I Cor. 10:11) Past prototypes are prophetic signs and symbols that are only predestined to re-occur in the future if we fail to learn the lessons they teach. As George Santayana said, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

A review of the outline of events recorded in Joshua, I&II Samuel, and I&II Kings reveals a pattern in Israel's early history comparable to the early history of the US. About 1451 BC, the Jews entered the Promised Land under the leadership of Joshua, subdued the indigenous inhabitants, established settlements, and dedicated the land to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Europeans came to North America, subdued the Indians, established settlements, and dedicated the land to Christ. The Promised Land was divided among the 12 Jewish tribes and a confederation was formed. In America, citizens were divided into 13 colonies and the Articles of Confederation was written. During the Jewish tribal confederation, a division began to form between the 10 tribes in the north called Israel, and the 2 tribes in the south called Judah. Likewise, from the earliest days of American history, a division became apparent between the North and the South. Insignificant to the lesson to be learned, the north and south divisions in Israel and the US were a mirror reflection. In Israel, it was the North that was the cradle of confederation sentiment and resentment against the harsh policies of the South; the South favored a strong central government. Around 1000 BC, David as king united all 12 tribes and coalesced political power into a national government. He conducted a census to be used to galvanize his political power. The people were no longer bound together by their spiritual allegiance to God, but rather by their political allegiance to the king and their allegiance to their individual tribes was weakened. Davide made Jerusalem the capital, built on neutral ground between the North and South. In America, the Articles of Confederation was replaced by the Constitution, the Federalists began the consolidation of political power into a strong central government, and our capital was situated on neutral land between the North and South. In 922 BC, the North separated from the South in Israel; in AD 1861, the South separated from the North in the US. While Israel was united, increased international trade brought greater wealth, social and cultural change to become more cosmopolitan, corruption infected high places, there was an influx of foreign pagan religions and idolatry, and the people departed from their religious roots. Today, Americans are witnessing the .

same pattern of similar characteristics. It is here that the template or analogy ends--for the time being.

In 721 BC, Israel was conquered by Assyria. In 587 BC, Judah was decimated by Babylon. How far the prototype of Israeli history extends into American history depends on whether or not we learn from history and heed the warning signs. "What will you do on the day of...the storm that will come from afar? To whom will you flee for help...?" (Isa. 10:3) America's best defense is to answer, "Our help is in the name of the Lord..." (Ps. 124:8) Speaking to us as He did to Solomon, God says that, "...if My people who are called by My name humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from Heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land." (II Chron. 7:14)

Fr. Richard Rudd

Hughes Camp Chaplain