

A Theology of History

I-A Hebrew Conception of Time

Book of Ecclesiastes (Composed between 500-200 BC)

Vanity of Vanities...All is vanity!

*A generation goes, and a generation comes, but the earth remains forever. The sun rises and the sun goes down, and hastens to the place where it rises...All streams run to the sea, but the sea is not full; to the place where the streams flow, there they flow again....**There is nothing new under the sun.**(1:1-9)*

St Jerome (345-420)

Saint Gregory of Nyssa (335-395)

St. Augustine (354-430)

II-Greek Tragedy

Aeschylus (458 BC)

- *Oresteia or Orestian Trilogy*
- It concerns the murder of Agamemnon by Clytemnestra, the murder of Clytemnestra by Orestes, the trial of Orestes, the end of the curse on the House of Atreus
- The trilogy consists of *Agamemnon*, *The Libation Bearers or Choepheri* and *the Eumenides*.
- *For things happen as Zeus determined, he who moves and perfects everything. For what could take place apart from Zeus? And as for this that has happened, is it not God's doing?*
(*Agamemnon*, 1486-88)

Greek History-Herodotus (440 BC)

Herodotus of Halicarnissus here displays his inquiry, so that human achievements may not be forgotten in time, and that great and marvelous deeds...may not be without their glory.

Heraclitus-(535-475 BC)-*You never enter the same river twice*

Parmenides-(b. 515 BC)

Greek History-Thucydides-Peloponnesian Wars-431-404BC

Perhaps my work will seem less pleasurable to hear because it lacks the element of story-telling.

However, if all those who wish to see clearly what has happened-and what is likely to happen again in the future in the same or similar way, since that is human nature-judge my work to be useful, that will be enough for me. This work is laid down to be a possession for all time rather than a performance for an immediate audience.

III-Augustine's Theology of History

Confessions (400), *City of God* (413-426), and *Retractions* (426-428)

The Six Ages, as formulated by Saint Augustine

The First Age-Adam to Noah and the flood

The Second Age-Noah to Abraham

The Third Age-Abraham to King David

The Fourth Age- King David to Babylonian Exile (597 BC)

The Fifth Age -The coming of Christ in the flesh

The Sixth Age- Our current time

IV-Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger-Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI-History and Worship

The small circles carry within themselves the great rhythm of the whole and give it concrete forms that are ever new...(Spirit of the Liturgy, p.29).

