

Soul Food



The Future?

By Ken Ortize

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What does the future hold? My response is somewhat of enigmatic: I believe that the future is going to be exactly like the past, but different. What do I mean?

We live in such a rapidly changing world, to

most the answer seems obvious: Intellectual advancements in science, medicine and technology are moving forward at a pace unparalleled in human history. By all appearances, mankind is progressing upward and onward.

Yet Jesus warned against such unjustified optimism:

“On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea.

Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world...

You will hear of wars and rumors of wars...

Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.

There will be famines and earthquakes and pestilences in various places.”

In truth, very little has changed. Our world has not become more humane or safer. Death, disease, injustice, murder, aging, conflict, famine and poverty are as intractable as ever. Democracy is not spreading but contracting. Armed conflicts have

not lessened, but increased by twenty percent. Wars have become more deadly as technology enables us to kill more effectively.

What has not changed is human nature. Given the same set of circumstances, men make the same choices with exactly the same consequences. This is why King Solomon asked over 3000 years ago, “Is there anything of which one can say, ‘Look! This is something new?’” (Ecclesiastes 1:9). As a scientist and inventor, Solomon made many “new” things that improved the life of his nation. But he soon realized that people stay the same. They simply do evil, better!

Sir John Glubb, one of the 20th centuries most distinguished military leaders, statesman and historians, came to the same conclusion. After a lifetime of researching the rise and fall of great nations, he concluded in his

book The Fate of Nations, “It has been shown that the rise and fall of great nations are due to internal reasons alone... Decadence is a moral and spiritual disease, resulting from too long a period of wealth and power, producing cynicism, decline of religion, pessimism and frivolity.” He then added, “They imagined that their pre-eminence would last forever... was hereditary.... They spend lavishly on their own benevolence, even as their economy got weaker... The heroes of declining nations are always the same—the athlete, the singer or the actor... indifference to religion... increasing materialism and the laxity of sexual morals... increasing use of

obscene language... corruption of officials... and the fact that politicians always seemed to amass large fortunes while in office... selfishness permeated the community.” Instead of “giving and serving,” people become obsessed with “getting and snatching.” “We the people,” become “ME, Myself and I.”

Finally, Glubb warned, “Ten generations [250 years]... suffice to transform the hardy and enterprising nation into a welfare state, her greatness gone.” In one week the United States will celebrate it’s 239th birthday. I wonder what the next 11 years will bring? ❖

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