

God will be all in all

The French historian Fernand Braudel wrote a history of the Mediterranean area (1949). (<http://oldsite.english.ucsb.edu/faculty/ayliu/unlocked/braudel/mediterranean-toc.pdf>)

In his view history develops on three levels or three types of 'durée': one seemingly immobile level which is the unchanging physical environment (longue durée), the second is the calm rippling history of states, societies and civilizations (conjonctures), the third are the short, quick and nervous movements that we call events (événementielle).

Most politicians and economists and also historians, says Braudel, focus on the short events and think and analyse in periods of decades. The events that we most of the time look at - and he compares it to the sea - are the foam on the waves of time.

We need a different horizon and will need to consider history in centuries and even millennia. That is what Braudel calls: "l'histoire de longue, même de très longue durée". (source: Nexus 2015, nr 69, p. 43)

(see for a critical comment: <http://dspace.mit.edu/bitstream/handle/1721.1/71718/21h-991j-fall-2004/contents/assignments/response3.pdf>)

Deep in the ocean we find the currents like the Gulf stream and the Carribean current. Together with the influence of the sun and the planets they define the movements of the long swell waves of the sea. Where these long waves at the surface of this body of water find earth the whitecaps and the foam on the crests of the waves appear and finally the waves break on the rocks and in the sand.

We could also try to apply this metaphor to church history.

When we look at Protestantisms we could define Protestantisms as the foam on the long wave of Christianity. Other waves are Jewish religion, Budhism, Hinduism and Islam.

On the third and deeper level we find the current of 'religion' or 'faith'.

There was a time before Protestantisms and there will be a time after Protestantisms.

There was a time before Christianity and there will be a time after Christianity

And in time and space- on the deep level of life- we believe that God will be there and be all in all. (1 Corinthians 15:28 - o theos ta panta en pasin).

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Wittenberg, april 2016