

Understanding of history in Christian religion and its contribution to the theological anthropology



Guntis Kalme

Department of Systematic theology, Luther Academy, Riga, Latvia

In Christian religion understanding of history unfolds as process, series of events of salvation, which brings man through the dramatic past, the challenging present to the rewarding future. Man is neither locked in a wheel of a circular time as in some pagan religions, nor is his salvation in an unreachable otherworld. It takes place here/now; humans are seen as living witnesses, participants and partners in God's work who is the author of their salvation.

Time consists of unrepeatable moments that are extremely important for the course of salvation such as creation, fall, exodus, events in life of the main protagonist of a Christian religion, Christ and his disciples etc. A line can be drawn between these points. Thus, the ancient circular understanding of time is stretched into a straight line.

With this linear understanding of time, we can legitimately talk about the aim of history as the fulfillment, chronological progress towards a realization of the divine plan, i.e., heavenly homeland.

Thus, the Christian faith is a religion of time. This is also indicated by the division of time in the New Testament - chronos/kairos. The history of salvation unfolds as a series of kairos arranged in a straight line. By joining these kairos, by fitting into their stream, a person gains a meaningful existence. Thus, Christian understanding of history grants important aspects of understanding to the theological anthropology.

Biography:

At present: assistant professor (dozent) at the Luther Academy, scientific editor of the Luther Academy journal Credimus, member of the Constitutional Assembly

2022 – 2025 Vice-Rector of sciences, Luther Academy

2021 - 2022 Visiting assistant professor, Academy of Music.

2015 - present, Head of the Department Systematic Theology at the Luther Academy, Member of the Senate

2010 – present, Leader of the Board of Professor Roberts Feldmanis' Foundation

Education:

2005 PhD Theology (US)

1996 MA Theol. (US)

1990 Licentiate of Theology (equal to Bachelor of Theology, Latvia)

1982 Master of Arts in Philosophy (Latvia)