

## History Rationale

(To be seen in the light of our BBS)

[Should we have a short version for our Curriculum documents and retain a longer version in our archives]

Short Version:

*Within God's sovereignty, humanity has the responsibility to act and respond with wisdom. The study of History empowers our students to see the consequences, good and bad, of these decisions and reflect on changes in society over time. For the Christian, in particular, there is also the opportunity to see the hand of God in Redemptive history and to give thanks for this.*

Longer version

God requires that His people know their past. In Scripture, God often commands us to remember His mighty deeds and to recall how people have responded. The Bible makes it clear in Isaiah 40: 15 & 28

*"Surely the nations are like a drop in a bucket;" and "Do you not know? .... The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary and his understanding no one can fathom."*

God is in control of the events in our world and is actively at work in them. He has given humankind the mandate to be "fruitful and multiply," to respond in obedience to His call, and to obey the order and norms of all created reality. Humankind has made history in obedient and disobedient ways. We learn from the past and are enabled to better participate in the redemptive work of Christ in the present and future.

Knowing that God is in control allows us to look at history as a part of God's amazing redemptive work, begun after the fall of Adam and Eve and moving toward the redemption of all creation. As students learn about their history and the history of others, they learn to give thanks to God for His faithfulness, love, and providence as well as His ability to sustain people in times of persecution, suffering, and trials.

While we recognize God's sovereignty, we also need to recognize that God has created human beings with the ability to make our own choices. The essence of those choices stems from our individual and collective response to God and His plan. History shows that our choices will have consequences and questions will arise from the study of those consequences. It is not always easy to answer the questions that arise from the study of history such as "Why did this happen? What is the problem? What is the right solution?" But by wrestling with these questions, students come to a closer knowledge of themselves and their responsibilities to God and their neighbour within their time in history.

(Credit: Orangeville Christian School)

### **Aims**

The Australian Curriculum: History aims to ensure that students develop:

- interest in, and enjoyment of, historical study for lifelong learning and work, including their capacity and willingness to be informed and active citizens
- knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the past and the forces that shape societies, including Australian society
- understanding and use of historical concepts, such as evidence, continuity and change, cause and effect, perspectives, empathy, significance and contestability
- capacity to undertake historical inquiry, including skills in the analysis and use of sources, and in explanation and communication.

And ...

- the ability to explore the hand of God in historical developments
- an understanding of their responsibility to make wise choices as choices have consequences
- an understanding of how worldviews shape our understanding of history