

The Cycle of Societies and Souls. Deut. 8

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, July 3rd AM

History has an uncanny way of repeating itself. That's because "behind" human history are forces at work seeking to shape it. (1 Jn. 2:15,16; 5:19; 2Cor. 4:4; Eph. 6:12) Because of these forces, there's a fairly predictable pattern behind the "rise and fall" of civilizations and "souls". God stopped Israel at the brink of the Promised land to review this cycle in Deuteronomy 8.

1. Revelation: God reveals himself and his will. Deut. 8:1,2

"All the commandments... shall ye observe to do that ye may live, and multiply, and possess the land... Thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee..."

A. God always initiates the Revelation of Himself. (Heb. 1:1; Jn 6:37,44)

B. God's Revelation is always our **Invitation** Deut 8:2 *"...to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldst keep (protect, guard) his commandments, or no."*

2. Response: We decide if (or how) we will respond to God's revelation/ Invitation.

Vs 1 *"All these commandments ... shall ye observe to do (guard and obey) that ye may live and multiply"*

A. Freedom of Choice is God's gift to us. Joshua 24:15 *"Choose ... whom ye will serve"*

B. Freedom of Choice is also Satan's greatest **Opportunity!** Gen. 3:1-6

3. Reward: If we respond obediently, God blesses (that heart, home, or society).

Vs 2,7,10 *"ye shall multiply and possess the land... the LORD thy God bringeth thee into a good land... When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the LORD for the good land ..."* (Also Deut. 10:12-13)

A. Honoring God is Good for US! Ro. 12:2; Ps. 33:12

It was certainly good for America! *"God shed his grace on thee"*

Pro 14:34 *"Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people."*

4. Rebellion (We shift **Loyalties**) Pr 13:10 *"Only by pride cometh contention"*

A. We grow proud of "our successes" forgetting God blessed us. Vs 11, 17

"Beware that thou forget not the LORD ... And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth."

B. Rebellion causes us to replace God, for Satan! 1 Sam 15:23 *"For rebellion (meri comes from marah (Bitter)) is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry..."*

5. Rebuke: God tries to get our **Attention!** Deut 8:5

"consider in thine heart, that, as a man chasteneth his son, so the LORD thy God chasteneth thee."

A. God Loves Us To Much To Let Us Go Our Own Way **Unchallenged.** (2 Tim. 3:16)

Rev 3:19 *"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent."*

Ps 90:3 *"Thou turnest man to destruction; (dakkā': Crushing consequences) and sayest, Return..."*

Mal 3:7 *"Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts."*

6. Reconsider: We determine how we'll respond. Deut 8:6

"Therefore thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD... walk in his ways, and to fear him."

A. If we **repent**, the cycle **Repeats!** (God restores and blesses us!) Pr. 2:23 *"Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you."*

- 1) **God delights to draw us back to him.** 2 Chron 7:14 *"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."*
 James 4:7-8 *"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God"*

B. If we continue to "Rebel", the result is

7. (Eventual) **Reprobation!** Deut 8:11,19,20 *"Beware that thou forget not the LORD"*

A. Definition: English "Unprincipled, Rejected, Disapproved"

- 1) Old Testament Jer. 6:30 **"Reprobate: (Maas) despised, rejected, useless"**
- 2) New Testament: Ro. 1:28 *"a Reprobate mind"*; Titus 1:16 *"to every good work, reprobate"*
Adokimos: unapproved, disqualified, rejected, castaway, Worthless!

B. Declaration: Deut. 8:11,20 *"If you forget the LORD... and walk after other gods, ye shall surely Perish (Ābad': lose / destroy yourselves Mt 7:13) as the nations which the Lord destroyed"*

- 1) History is filled with examples the sad ending of this cycle! (Pr. 1:24-32)
 - a) Psalm 78 is a historical review of this cycle over the first 500 years of Israel's existence. In it we're told to remember this cycle so that *"the generation to come might know them... That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God but keep his commandments: and might not be...stubborn and rebellious."* Ps. 78:6-8

Unfortunately, all it takes is one generation to "drop the ball" and Satan gains an advantage.

Conclusion: Where do you think America is in this Cycle?

1. Revelation 2. Response 3. Reward 4. Rebellion 5. Reproof 6. Reconsider 7. Reprobation
 Romans 1:21-32 reveal the diagnosis and prognosis of this terrible condition and concludes:
For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: (Homosexuality in Vs 26,27) 28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind... 32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure (Syneudoke'ō: affirm, approve of) in them that do them."

This (affirming and approving of homosexuality) has now become the official policy position of our Country's Laws and Leaders.

7 years ago this month the "Supreme Court" outlawed the DOMA and redefine marriage.

The real "Supreme" Judge has already declared: Is 5:20-21

"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, "

Application: Where are YOU in this cycle? Ro. 1

1. Revelation: Has God "revealed" Himself to you? *"for God hath shewed it unto them." v. 19*
2. Response: How are you responding to God? *"glorified him not as God." vs 21*
3. Reward: Have you experienced God's blessing? *"neither were thankful" vs 21*
4. Rebellion: Are you responding in obedience? *"served the creature more than the creator" vs 25*
5. Rebuke: Is God trying to "get your attention?" *"Wherefore God also gave them up to..." vs 24*
6. Response: What is yours? (Jer. 6:16,17) *"Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein. I set watchmen over you, saying, Hearken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken."* If we refuse to hearken, the enemy will overtake us and because of a reprobate mind, we may not even recognize it! (Deut. 30:19)

Thomas Jefferson *"I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is Just, and that His justice can't sleep forever!"*