

The Strategy of Satan and the Cycle of the Soul

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, July 7th AM

Last week we discussed how History has way of repeating itself because there are spiritual forces at work seeking to shape it (*History*) by shaping us (*Humans*)! (1 Jn 5:19; 2 Cor 4:4; Eph. 6:12) Because of this, there's a remarkably predictable pattern behind the rise and fall of Societies (civilizations) and even individual "souls". This cycle has been going on since Eden and God made ancient Israel to pause at the border of the Promised Land in order to review it.

1. Revelation: God reveals himself and his will. Deut. 8-11 Ch 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."

God's Revelation expects our:

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

If we respond obediently to God's Revelation →

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; Pr. 29:2

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."*

The Alternative to obedient responding is obstinate:

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

A. We grow proud of "our successes" and forget their real source. Dt 8:11, 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 Self (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..."*

Rebellion eventually produces:

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."*

God's Rebuke is His Revelation/Invitation to:

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."*

2 Chron 7:14 *"If my people, ..., 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."*

1) Repentance brings Renewal: James 4:7-8

Further rebellion will result in eventual:

7. 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! Ro 1:28; Mt 13:15

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"*

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

An honest and objective review of our History will show us!

"We have staked the whole future of American, not upon the power of government, far from it. We have staked the future of all of our political institutions upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves ...according to the Ten Commandments of God. " Madison

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

An honest and objective review of your life and values will reveal it!

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."

Dt 30:19 *"I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that thou and thy seed may live:"*

Rev. 12:10,11 *"Woe to the inhabitants of the earth! For the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knows that he hath but a short time."*

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, (Genuine Conversion)

by the word of their testimony;(Sincere Christian Conduct)

and they loved not their lives unto the death." (Devoted Commitment)