

CHOOSING THE FULLNESS

Much of this lesson is summarized from the book Choosing the Fullness: Wickedness or Righteousness, by S. Michael Wilcox, Bookcraft, 1988.

There are two roads men may follow

- One leads to a fullness of light and truth
- One to a fullness of iniquity and destruction

Societies that reached a fullness of wickedness

- Generation of Flood
- Jaredites
- Nephites in 400 AD
- Sodom & Gomorrah
- Israelites (captivity, etc.)
- Canaanites (Joshua)
- Nephites before Christ (especially Amonihah)

Signs of fullness of iniquity

- Violence (Gen 6:11-13)
- Vengeance
- Secret combinations (Ether)
- Without Civilization (Moroni 9)
- Perversion of procreative gift (Jude 1:7)
- Fascination with evil (Lev 18:24-25)
- Arm of flesh (materialism & military might)
- Oppression of poor
- Refusal to repent
- Cast out righteous (Hel 13:14)
- Criticism & charge of bondage (Alma 30)
- All things become relative (Alma 30)
- False indignation (Alma 10:24)
- Sin against knowledge (2 Ne 1:10, Alma 9:20-22)
- People entertained by iniquity

There is no better indication of what the people of any period are like than the plays they go to see. Popular drama shows the public quality as nothing else can. (*Edith Hamilton, The Roman Way, Avon Books, 1960*)

Warnings to a modern world

- Inner enemy is more dangerous
- Satan's kingdom has many heads
- None are spared in Babylon (DC 64:24)
- Be ye not troubled (avoid doom & gloom) (Joseph Smith Matt 1:23)
- Stand in holy places (DC 45:32)
- Preach the Gospel. (= good news: salvation is available through Christ)
- Cease not to labor (Moroni 9:6)

Societies that reached a fullness of righteousness

- City of Enoch (JST Gen 14:34)
- City of Melchizedek (JST Gen 14:34)

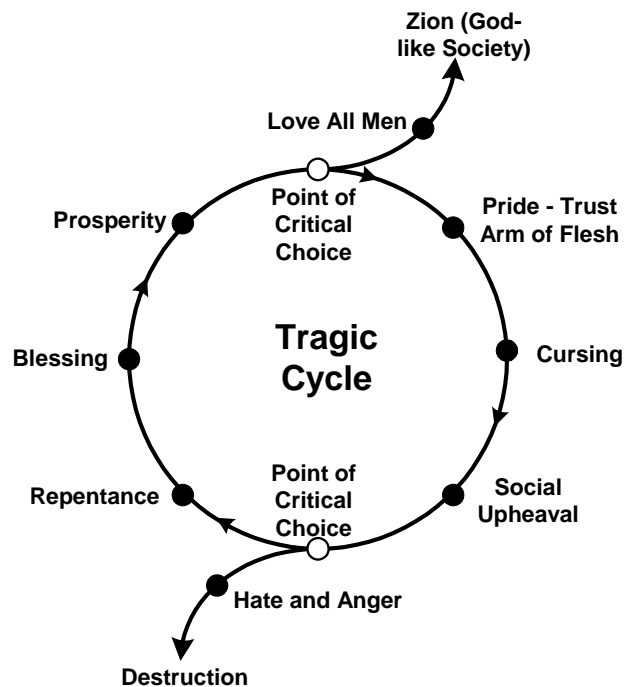
- Nephites in 1st & 2nd centuries

Characteristics of Zion societies

- Continue in God, growing in light
- Full of grace and truth
- Beatitudes (Sermon on the mount)
- Born again, mighty change (Mosiah 5:2)
- Comply with ordinances of gospel
- Constant repentance
- All things common, law of consecration (stewardship, and private property, not communism)
- Beauty, holiness, cleanliness, peace, happiness, joy
- Every man seeks interest of his neighbor.
- All things done with an eye single to glory of God (DC 82:19)

The Tragic Cycle

- Societies follow this pattern
- Often they loop several times
- Eventually they choose to leave the cycle at a point of critical choice



What the Future Holds

- We are experiencing a great division among the people (2 Ne 30:10)
- Both critical choice points will be reached
- Most people will go down to destruction (D&C 45: 68-69)
- Some will establish Zion (3 Ne 21; Moses 7:62)

