

## *God's Design for America*

### *The Beginning of Hope*

As we annually celebrate our freedom from England, it might be more accurately portrayed as more a celebration of our freedom from the tyranny of helplessness. Early Americans were helpless to chart their own course as a nation and helpless to overcome the constrictive rules of an occupational force. Today, I think we might be feeling a little helpless as well. It seems no matter what the majority of the people say, those in power never seem to listen.

The brilliance of America's founding comes from the fact that those that formed it believed in God and relied upon God to help form the course, the very path of America. Their collective brilliance was in their utter and complete humility.

The dawn of the American dream began with the taste of freedom enjoyed by those very first settlers. They were free to worship just as they pleased, never having to look over their shoulder. No longer would a government control a church. Their faith in God during these ordeals enabled them to clearly see what God ordained for America would indeed be fulfilled. American patriots set the example by letting Godly wisdom direct their efforts.

Throughout the world, the cry for freedom and peace is heard from so many nations. In some parts of the world, where hatred and oppression persist, the cry for freedom is so very often muzzled. The peoples of the world want the freedom we have, yet we are in grave danger of losing it. The preservation of our freedom is dependent upon the return to the rule of God's refining and defining laws.

As early as 1620, **King James 1<sup>st</sup>**, in the New England Charter said the goal was: "*to advance the enlargement of Christian religion to the glory of God Almighty.*"

In the Charter it says: "*We submit our persons, lives and estates unto our Lord Jesus Christ, the King of kings, and Lord of lords and to all those perfect and most absolute laws of His given to us in His Holy word.*" Not to the laws of man but to the laws of God. Are our leaders of today willing to submit their very lives and estates to the advancement individual liberty for all?

Those absolute laws formed the basis of our Constitution. *“We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal. That they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”*

No other nation on this earth began this way.

**Noah Webster** offered this: *“The moral principles and precepts contained in the Scriptures ought to form the basis of all our civil constitutions and laws.”* All laws should come from scripture. Is Biblical scripture being considered by our elected representatives? Are judges in America giving full consideration of our laws that are based upon God’s Holy Word?

**Abraham Lincoln:** *“It is the duty of nations, as well as men, to owe their dependence upon the overruling power of God to recognize the sublime truth announced in the Holy Scriptures.”* That overruling power of God has never been so needed as now in America.

The Declaration of Independence is structured upon two Christian principles: first, a Creator that governs the affairs of men. Second, that mankind is a fallen creature and cannot, on his own, by himself, create fair laws or obey them. We need God’s help. It is in the seeking of God’s will and obeying it, that our incredible nation was formed. We should never forget that.

July 4, 1821 *“The highest glory of the American Revolution was this; it connected in one indissoluble bond the principles of civil government with the principles of Christianity. The connection between civil government and God’s law cannot be broken.*

*“From the day of the Declaration...they (the American people) were bound by the laws of God, which they all, and by the laws of The Gospel, which they nearly all acknowledge as the rules of their conduct.”* **Samuel Adams**

In the 1700’s, the great English lawyer, **William Blackstone**, wrote “Commentaries.” In this book he offers that everyone should know that it is self-evident that God is the source of all laws. He believed that God was personal to mankind. Thus, we hold that the individual is critical to our nation. And, we know, it is the individual with whom God wants to have a relationship. *“We have staked the whole future of American civilization, 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, to control ourselves, to sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God."* **James Madison**

So important was the Bible to our founding fathers that the Committee of Congress ordered 20,000 bibles to be imported from Europe. When it was first printed in the US, that bible was called the Bible of the Revolution, now among the world's rarest of all books.

*"It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians, not on religions, but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Hear this and think. "For this very reason peoples of other faiths have been afforded asylum, prosperity, and freedom of worship here."* **Samuel Adams.** Not once does it say we are to dissolve our faith so others can be more visible.

In 1646, Harvard required that the bible be read twice a day, and the students be proficient in what they read. At that time, 52% of Harvard graduates became ministers. Thus, it must be true, "it is in the reading of scripture that we find our calling."

The first act of unity in Cape Henry of 1607 was a prayer meeting held in front of a cross erected on the soil.

As Americans moved west, evangelism was a priority. Throughout the southwest, the Catholic church provided paschal support and built schools. The American Sunday School Union started thousands of bible studies across the unsettled west.

As lawlessness reigned in the far reaches of the American west, inevitably came revival. Lawlessness led back to the Lawgiver. In the face of unholy living, the Holy Spirit moved to bring people back to their faith. Even in New York, in the mid 1800's tens of thousands of people met, every day, at noon, for Bible studies.

At the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, Portland, Oregon held mid-day Bible studies. 242 stores agreed to close between 11 and 2 pm for these studies, and they all signed an agreement that no one would open their doors during the Bible study period.

The nation's capital, Washington, DC saw unrestrained faith. For years, the Capitol Rotunda was the meeting place for Sunday church services for all to attend.

Every session of Congress begins with prayer. Every session of the Supreme Court begins with prayer. The question is: do they really believe in what they are praying? A nation is at stake, not a career, nor an imprint on history, nor a self-serving legacy.

The notion that a prayer to God must be hushed up, or silenced, or covered up, or not visible in the public eye, is simply not based on fact, nor reality, nor history, nor law, nor American culture, nor the pure American experience.

We are reminded by that fact by **Thomas Jefferson**: “*God who gave us life, gave us liberty. Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that theses liberties are a gift from God.*” For us, we can remove all references to God from our municipal buildings and classrooms, but can we remove God from our national conscience? No, God is not leaving us, yet. We are given the right to freely exercise our faith. To show it, to not hide it. To treasure it.

God is responsible for the formation of this nation and all the blessings that have come to it. That fact should be imbedded into our collective souls.

Today we see that we have become a nation that has granted freedom to commit so many sins that it once legislated against. Or as it says in Judges: “*to do what is right in his own eyes.*” Thus, leaving God’s will behind. It is the death knell of the human spirit. Doing what we think is right in our own mind is not without consequences.

There is an old hymn that says, “*there is no place where earth’s sorrows are more felt than up in heaven.*” God shares the sorrow of a people that have forgotten Him. We, as ardent Christians still praise Him; thank Him; worship Him; pray to Him; and have a unique communion with Him. That will never change.

**The survival of America, as a free nation very much depends upon the survival of Christianity within it.**

That is why we must pray. If you think you are powerless to bring the nation back to its Godly roots, you are right. You do not have that power. But God does. Pray for it.

God is waiting on us to return to Him. He is waiting on us to meet for Bible study. He is waiting on us to come to church every Sunday, because there is nothing more important in our lives. God is waiting on us to have a renewal where people by the thousands meet for Bible study. God is waiting on us to fall to our knees and honor Him as the creator and benefactor of America. God is waiting and willing to restore

America. We need only to honor the true King by kneeling before Him. True evangelism begins in our hearts, and our homes. America was built from the ground up, Patriots provided hope for all through a personal commitment to God.

There has never been a nation on this earth like America. Never. In all of history, every nation has been led by monarchs, kings and queens, or by tyrants or despots. Not America.

No nation has been conceived in liberty. From its very conception to its birth, individual liberty has been the deepest interest. No nation is like this. Many have leaned toward it, or even begged for it, to have a nation like America, but it has yet to happen. That is why hundreds of millions want to flock to America.

No nation has begun with a fresh sheet of paper and the men of God sitting down to write a plan for her. America. Freedom to speak, to write, to be protected by law, to allow land and home ownership; to vote for the leaders.

America is a land set aside by God for thousands of years, waiting for just the right people to come to this *new* Canaan. This was the Second Exodus planned by God. Our founding fathers offered us a new people, a new land, a people who love the Lord. That love freedom. That will follow His laws. That will love His Son.

Ironically, it is the nations that are the most prosperous in which Christianity suffers most. The wealth, the lifestyle, the culture of “having things” renders indifference to God. Wealth allows people to think of themselves as the provider rather than God.

*“No man can serve two masters, for he will love one and hate the other, or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and Mammon.”*

**Matthew 6:24.**

Great wealth often precludes church attendance. The group think is, “If I have everything I need and want, why do I need God?” How hollow those souls.

It is important for all of us to remember: It is not our Christian faith that has been overrun, rather it is our faith that has been neutralized, made ineffective and irrelevant for our nation. The absence of God in the fabric of today’s America allows that very fabric to be torn, or thrown away, or burned. When the President of the US leaves out “under God” in saying the Pledge of Allegiance, we see a gaping hole in that soul.

What I suggest is a way to change the collective indifference to God. Permanent change for our nation. On this day of liberty and independence, I urge you to consider praying in earnest, all the time, every day. Form your own prayer groups and lift your prayers

You don't like Congress, pray for them.

You don't like the President; pray for him

You don't like the IRS, the NSA, the CIA, or whatever. Pray for them.

You don't like the direction the country is going, pray for new leadership.

We will not allow the malaise and collective depression of the nation to obscure the hope we have in God. Christians have not lost hope. Our hope is in God, not the powers of man.

We should pray to God for the forgiveness of our collective sin of ignoring Him and His will, and His Son. And of ignoring His laws, or re-writing them.

The issues of our times are not issues that are foreign to God. He knows them all, and He knew the direction we would go if we continued to ignore His love and his law.

This is not a time of dismay, but a time for hope!

Our Christian faith formed this nation. It can *reform* it and heal it as well.

Prayer can:

Overcome all interest in ungodly pursuits

Withstand any scrutiny

Build a strong relationship with God

Save our families

Save our children

Stop our violence

Heal our land

Restore peace in the human heart

**Joshua 22: 5** *“Only be very careful to observe the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, to love the LORD your God, and to walk in all his ways and to keep his commandments and to cling to him and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.”*

So, on this Fourth of July, I urge you to pray. To find a church that holds the Gospel as God’s Holy Word. Come a to Bible study. Bring your kids to Sunday School. Start a Bible study in your home. Love as Christians and to pray as Christians. We are not the hope of the world, God is. He is listening. Are you praying?

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