

Blessed Is The Nation Whose God Is The LORD!

(Psalm 33:12)

Into: ***Happy Fourth of July!*** Yesterday marked our 239th year as a nation. I would like to thank all the men and women, military and non-military, who have sacrificed for the freedoms we enjoy. I am especially mindful of all the godly men and women who have gone before us. Those who have provided us with the spiritual foundation that has made America great. I am of the opinion that America has enjoyed the blessings of God because many of our people have worshipped and served Him. If we are to continue as a free and blessed nation, we must continue to worship and serve God. May God grant us the ability to draw close to Him, and to live for His glory!

Psalm 33:12 says, “Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD.” It is my belief that America has been one of the most blessed nations on earth because we were founded upon God and His Word. From the first settlement by the Pilgrims, to our founding Father’s Declaration of Independence from Great Britain on July 4th 1776, America has been a nation founded upon Judeo-Christian principles. Even with all our current problems, we are still the most generous, prosperous, free, and God-blessed people on the face of the earth!

My mission this morning is to review our Godly Heritage. Contrary to the accounts of modern historical revisionists, who claim that the Founding Fathers were wealthy, slave owning, sexually promiscuous, alcoholics, who got their ideas from the European Enlightenment; the historical record shows that our founding Father’s and the Pilgrims who preceded them, were men of deep biblical faith. Their writings prove that they looked to Almighty God and His Word to establish our nation as one nation under God, thereby making America a truly blessed nation. **Look first at the Faith of the Pilgrims.**

I. The Faith Of The Pilgrims

A. The voyage to North America

The Pilgrims, as you may know, were a group of Christians separatists who were fleeing religious persecution in their native England. They fled first to Holland, and then finally to North America. The Pilgrims set sail for the New World on September 6, 1620, on a ship called the Mayflower. Following a long and difficult voyage lasting 66 days the Pilgrims arrived off the shores of Cape Cod.

Prior to settling at Plymouth, a meeting was held onboard the Mayflower, and an agreement called the Mayflower Compact was worked out. Of primary importance was the Pilgrims' declaration that they had come to America for the purpose of, and I quote, "For the glory of God and the advancement of the Christian Faith." This my friends is why America has been such a blessed nation. The American dream was placed in the bosom of our founding fathers by Almighty God. America has been a blessed nation because of its founding upon God.

A president of one of the South American countries was talking with Roger Batson, an American diplomat of yesteryear, and they were discussing the differences between South America and North America. The president said, "Even though South America, while composed of many great nations and abundant natural resources, has lagged far behind North America." Roger Batson responded to this South American president, "What do you think the difference is?" The South American president wisely said, "I'll tell you the difference. Those who settled South America came to South America because they were seeking gold. Those who settled North America came to North America because they were seeking God."

This South American president attributed America's success to God. **As Psalm 33:12 says, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD."** America is great because of America's God. Look secondly with me at **The Faith Of Our Founding Fathers**

II. The Faith Of Our Founding Fathers

America was born 239 years ago on July 4, 1776 with the singing of the Declaration of Independence. The 56 Founders who had worked for months to hammer out a document proclaiming their independence from Great Britain, were elated when the Declaration of Independence was approved in principal by the Congress on July 2, 1776. An official vote to separate from Great Britain was taken two days later on July 4th, 1776. Listen to what one of the signers, our second President John Adams had to say about this historical event, "This day of July 1776, will be the most memorable and epochal in the history of America. "I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generation as the 'Day of Deliverance' by solemn acts of devotion to Almighty God."

I believe that very few Americans, or Christians for that matter, ascribe thanks to Almighty God for the freedom and independence He allowed our Founding

Fathers to achieve. **John Adams certainly did.** The Declaration of Independence was a declaration of independence from Great Britain, *but more importantly it was a declaration of dependence upon Almighty God.*

We should also remember the great sacrifice that was made on the part of those 56 brave men who signed the Declaration of Independence. Five of the signers were captured by the British and tortured to death; twelve had their homes destroyed by British troops; three had their sons killed by the enemy; and nine of the 56 died in the Revolutionary war. May we never forget that liberty and freedom are never free.

Listen to a few quotes from our Founding Father's advocating the importance of Jesus Christ, Christianity, and the Bible.

John Adams, a Signer of the Declaration of Independence and second President of the United States:

“The general principle on which the fathers achieved independence were the general principles of Christianity. I will avow that I then believed, and even now believe, that the general principles of Christianity are as eternal and immutable as the existence and attributes of God.”

James Madison, a Signer of the Constitution, Author of the Federalist Papers, Framers of the Bill of Rights, and Fourth President of the United States:

“I have sometimes thought there could not be a stronger testimony in favor of religion or against temporal enjoyments, even the most rational and manly, than for men who occupy the most honorable and gainful departments and who are rising in reputation and wealth, publicly to declare their unsatisfactoriness by becoming fervent advocates in the cause of Christ, and I wish you may give in your evidence in this way.” Madison was suggesting that regardless of one's success, all men need to denounce themselves, and exalt the Lord Jesus Christ.

Samuel Adams, a Signer of the Declaration of Independence; ‘Father of the American Revolution’; Ratifier of the U. S. Constitution; and Governor of Massachusetts, declared:

“I rely upon the merits of Jesus Christ for a pardon of all my sins.”

Like so many of the Founding Fathers, Adams was trusting in Jesus Christ for forgive-ness and pardon from sin.

Benjamin Rush, one of the youngest Signer of the Declaration of Independence; Surgeon General of the Continental Army; Father of American Medicine; Treasurer of the U. S. Mint; and Father of Public Schools:

“The only means of establishing and perpetuating our republican form of government is the universal education of our youth in the principles of Christianity by means of the Bible.”

After being appointed Surgeon General, Benjamin Rush visited the troops and treated many of the wounded. He was troubled by what he saw. It looked as if the British were winning. When he returned from his tour he asked John Adams if he thought they could win the revolution. **Adams replied, “Yes! If we as a people will fear God and repent of our sins.”**

Throughout the dark days of the Revolutionary War, Congress issued numerous proclamations calling on the people of the 13 Colonies to pray to God for His gracious intervention in their just and holy cause.

John Hancock issued over 2 dozen proclamations calling on all men to humble themselves, to fast and to pray. This was common during the American Revolution. However, few Americans today have ever heard this precious truth.

Patrick Henry, known as the “Firebrand of the American Revolution”—“An appeal to arms and the God of hosts is all that is left us. But we shall not fight our battle alone. There is a just God that presides over the destinies of nations. The battle sir, is not of the strong alone. Is life so dear or peace so sweet as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it almighty God.

I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me Liberty or give me death.”

George Washington said, “It would be impossible to govern rightly without God and the Bible.” *In his Thanksgiving Proclamation of 1789* Washington said, “It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the Providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor.”

Abraham Lincoln—“Our forefathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal” from his Gettysburg Address.

This conviction led Lincoln to fight for the abolishment of slavery. He writes, “I am naturally anti-slavery. If slavery is not wrong, nothing is wrong. I cannot remember when I did not so think.”

“Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves, and under a just God, cannot long retain it.”

America’s First Bible **America’s First Bible**

Following the surrender of Britain’s General Cornwallis at Yorktown in 1781, a plan was advanced and presented to Congress by Robert Aitken of Philadelphia to print America’s very first English-language Bible. Congress approved the plan and authorized the Bible’s printing. The front cover contained the following endorsement: The United States in Congress assembled . . . recommend this edition of the Bible to the inhabitants of the United States.” It has become one of the rarest and most expensive books in the world, with only 20 copies remaining.

The Drafting and Signing of the Constitution of the United States

From May through September 1787, fifty-five Founding Fathers met in Philadelphia to draft a constitution to govern the new nation. The document they created was initially signed by thirty-nine of the fifty-five delegates, and sent to the states for ratification. By 1789 the Constitution had been approved by all the states and a new federal government formed.

Consider the following: Of the 55 men who framed our constitution, 50 of them were professing Christians. Thirty of them were devout Christians, and 20 of them were believing Christians. This is amazing, the fact that 50 out of the 55 men who framed the Constitution were Christians, goes against the modern teachings of revisionists—those who rewrite history to support their godless views.

James Madison, the chief architect of the Constitution and the fourth President of the United States said this, and I quote, “We’ve staked the whole future of American civilization, not upon the power of government. Far from it. We have staked the future upon the capacity of each and every one of us to govern ourselves, to sustain ourselves according to the 10 commandments of God.”

George Washington, who was elected to serve as the first President of these United States said on **April 30, 1789** in his first inaugural address, and I quote, “My fervent supplication is that Almighty God who rules over the universe, who provides in the counsel of nations and who’s providential aid can supply every human defect, that His (God’s) benediction will concentrate to the liberties and happiness of the people of the United States, a government succeeded by themselves for these essential purposes.”

On June 8, 1845 **Andrew Jackson our 7th President** said, “The Bible is the rock upon which our republic stands.”

Abraham Lincoln, in 1861 as he was bidding his farewell in Springfield, Illinois said this, “Unless the great God that assisted Washington shall be with me, and aid me I must fail. But if the same omniscient mind and mighty arm that directed and protected him, shall guide and support me I shall not fail. Let us pray that the God of our fathers may not forsake us now.”

Listen to what President Lincoln had to say about the Bible, “The Bible is the best gift God has given to men. All the good the Savior gave to the world was communicated in this book. If not for it we would not know right from wrong.” Abraham Lincoln believed that we have a Bible that tells us right from wrong. How are we to know what is right from what is wrong? God tells us in His Word, the Bible. Lincoln goes on to say, “All things most desirable for man’s welfare, both here and hereafter are to be found portrayed in the Bible.”

In 1941 President Woodrow Wilson said, “America was born to exemplify devotion to the elements of righteousness which are derived in the Holy Scriptures.” This is our birthright brothers and sisters, to practice the righteousness which is described in the Holy Scriptures.

Finally, in 1931 the United States Congress adopted the **Star Spangled Banner** as our national anthem. Do you know the story behind the Star Spangled Banner? Listen to the following presentation of the **Star Spangled Banner**.

Closing story: On December 17, 1927, while surfacing from a submerged run off Cape Cod near Provincetown, Massachusetts, the American submarine **S 4** was accidentally rammed and sunk by the Coast Guard destroyer *Paulding*. Divers attempted to rescue them and when they went down, they could hear the survivors tapping on the hull of that submarine in Morse Code. They were tapping out a question: “*Is ... there ... any ... hope?*” “*Is ... there ... any ... hope?*”

In light of our Supreme Court's unconstitutional ruling last Friday, mandating Same-Sex Marriage, this same question is being asked today by Christians all across America: "Is there any hope for America?" "Is there any hope?"

Well on this the 229th birthday of America, I want to reaffirm the truth of **Psalm 33:12 "Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD."** May we follow the example of our godly Founding Fathers by repenting of our sin and calling upon our gracious and merciful God. If we will look to Him, He will heal our land.