



The Fourth of July: A Celebration of History **P R E P A R E T H E W A Y**

Why Does God Care About History?

The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth.

LUKE 3:5

- To Highlight His Faithful Ones:
 - God highlights those in Scripture who have been faithful and God-honoring (the “great cloud of witnesses”) so that we might be inspired to imitate them.
 - He also highlights those who have not been faithful, so we can avoid their mistakes.
- To Highlight His Faithfulness:
 - God calls us to reflect on His faithfulness so that we might become more faithful.
 - God wants us to give Him the glory, to recognize His hand at work.
 - God wants an accurate accounting of history because he knows men will try to twist it to either take away God’s hand or glorify themselves.

Is it important to know the history of our nation’s founding?

“History, by apprising them [the citizens], of the past will enable them to judge of the future; it will avail them of the experience of other times and other nations; it will qualify them as judges of the actions and designs of men;”
- Thomas Jefferson, 1784

What Happened around the 4th of July or “Independence Day”?

- July 2, 1776: Second Continental Congress voted for independence from Great Britain
- July 4: Congress approved the early draft of the Declaration of Independence
- Signed by John Hancock, President of Congress, and Charles Thompson, Secretary of Congress
- July 8: Members of Congress read the Declaration at Independence Hall in Philadelphia followed by the ringing of the Liberty Bell on which is inscribed: “Proclaim liberty throughout the land and to all the inhabitants thereof.” - Leviticus 25:10
- July 19: Congress votes to produce a beautifully inscribed copy of the Declaration on parchment
- August 2: 56 Founders sign the now famous version of the document

Our Rights Come from God:

“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, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”
- Declaration of Independence

Why Was Separation from Britain Needed?

“When in the Course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them”
- Declaration of Independence

Our Morals & Laws Come from God:

“Thus when the Supreme Being formed the universe, and created matter out of nothing, he impressed certain principles upon that matter, from which it can never depart, and without which it would cease to be... This law of nature, being coeval [coexistent] with mankind and dictated by God himself, is of course superior in obligation to any other. It is binding over all the globe, in all countries, and at all times: no human laws are in validity, if contrary to this; and such of them as are valid derive all their force, and all their authority, mediately or immediately, from this original.... Upon these two foundations, the law of nature and the law of revelation [from Scripture], depend all human laws; that is to say, no human laws should be suffered [permitted] to contradict these.” - William Blackstone(1723–1780), 2nd most cited by the Founders

John Adams to his wife on how Independence Day should be celebrated:

“The second day of July, 1776, will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more.”
- July 3, 1776

The Impact of Christianity on our Independence:

“The general principles on which the fathers achieved independence were...the general principles of Christianity...I will avow that I then believed, and now believe, that those general principles of Christianity are as eternal and immutable as the existence and attributes of God; and that those principles of liberty are as unalterable as human nature.”
- John Adams to Thomas Jefferson on June 28, 1813

Was The Declaration an Act of Rebellion?

- “[T]here was no anarchy. . . . [T]he people of the North American union and of its constituent states were associated bodies of civilized men and Christians in a state of nature but not of anarchy. They were bound by the laws of God (which they all) and by the laws of the Gospel (which they nearly all) acknowledged as the rules of their conduct.”
- John Quincy Adams, July 4, 1821
- “Q. It has often been said, that America is in a state of rebellion. Tell me, therefore, what is Rebellion? A. It is when a great number of people, headed by one or more factious leaders, aim at deposing their lawful prince without any just cause of complaint in order to place another on his throne. Q. Is this the case of the Americans? A. Far otherwise.”
- Declaration signer Francis Hopkinson, 1792
- “On the part of America, there was not the most distant thought of subverting the government or of hurting the interest of the people of Great Britain, but of defending their own privileges from unjust encroachment; there was not the least desire of withdrawing their allegiance from the common sovereign [King George III] till it became absolutely necessary – and indeed, it was his own choice.”
- Declaration Signer Rev. Dr. John Witherspoon, 1815

The Miraculous Nature of Our Nation’s Independence:

- “Our rifles were leveled, rifles which, but for you, knew not how to miss – ’twas all in vain, a power mightier far than we shielded you. Seeing you were under the special guardianship of the Great Spirit, we immediately ceased to fire at you... Listen! The Great Spirit protects that man [pointing at Washington], and guides his destinies – he will become the chief of nations, and a people yet unborn will hail him as the founder of a mighty empire. I am come to pay homage to the man who is the particular favorite of Heaven, and who can never die in battle.”
-Indian Chief recounts a battle during the French & Indian War with George Washington, 1770
- 56 men representing 13 states with no army or navy declared their independence from the worlds largest military superpower of their day
- “Do you recollect the pensive and awful silence which pervaded the House when we were called up, one after another, to the table of the President of Congress to subscribe to what was believed by many at that time to be our death warrants?”
- Dr. Benjamin Rush (Declaration Signer)

Is the United States Linked to Christianity, Jesus Christ and the Gospel?

“In the chain of human events, the birthday of the nation is indissolubly linked with the birthday of the Savior. It forms a leading event in the progress of the Gospel dispensation. The Declaration of Independence first organized the social compact on the foundation of the Redeemer’s mission on Earth [and] laid the cornerstone of human government on the first precepts of Christianity.”
- John Quincy Adams, July 4, 1837

4th, Final, and Most Important Verse of the Star Spangled Banner by Francis Scott Key:

Oh thus be it ever, when free men shall stand, between their loved home, and the war’s desolation.

Blessed with victory and peace, may the Heaven-rescued land, praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation!

Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just, and this be our motto, “In God is our trust!”

And the star spangled banner in triumph shall wave, o’er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

“If My people, who are called by My Name, will 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.”

- 2 Chronicles 7:14

May we all pray for a 4th great awakening in the United States...