



Is Your Life a Thankful Life?

Psalms 118:24: (NASB) *This is the day which the LORD has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it.*



The Thanksgiving holiday - it is a most misunderstood and misapplied American tradition. We all love the day off, the gathering of families and friends, the abundant food and the design of the day for leisure, but what was it originally? What was the reason for that original feast back in 1621 and what was the intention of the United States government in maintaining the November celebration? Stay with us as we look into some history, some Scriptures, some music and even some humor as we focus on Thanksgiving. Is it just a holiday or is it a way of life?


Today we are living in a land of plenty, where the whole idea of "need" has been dramatically redefined to fit a more ancient definition of "want."
(Due to copyright, audio transcript from "The Skit Guys" is omitted from this Rewind.)

(Source: Excerpts from <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~netlapm/Page31X.htm>)

The Pilgrim story is an adventure that has become the best known part of the American-Dutch heritage. The Pilgrims, fleeing from religious persecution in England, found refuge in Leiden in The Netherlands before they emigrated in 1620 on the "Mayflower" to America, where they established Plymouth Colony, the first sustained English settlement in New England. The stirring story of their migration, their years of exile in Holland, and the early years of their colony is told by Governor William Bradford in his memoirs, "Of Plymouth Plantation," which many consider the first monument of American literature. The well-known "Mayflower Compact," drawn up by the Pilgrims onboard ship to serve as the basis of their future legal and social organization is an early example of a social contract; it was heralded by John Quincy Adams as a fore-runner of ideas developed in the Constitution of the United States of America.

The Pilgrims were Calvinist dissenters from the state Church of England (the Anglican Church)... Known as "Separatists," they withdrew from the church which they believed was tainted by continuation of traditional but non-biblical ceremonies. In this the Pilgrims differed from other Calvinists who remained in the Church of England to purify it, who are known as "Puritans." The idea of separation from the state church was launched in England by Rev. Robert Browne of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. Later Separatists were called "Brownists" by their opponents (as is seen in Leiden's refusal to extradite the Pilgrims' pastor John Robinson in 1609).

Browne had preached anti-establishment sermons as early as 1578, and soon he and his followers fled to Middelburg in The Netherlands. In 1582, under the influence of Dutch Mennonites (whose congregations had already existed separately before the Dutch Reformed Church became dominant), Browne published two tracts arguing for separation and for congregations with freely-entered mutual covenants allowing all members to select the pastor and lay leaders democratically. In 1593 Rev. John Penry, a friend of William Brewster's, was executed for publishing anti-Anglican pamphlets; Separatists who refused to conform with the state church were threatened with banishment, while at the same time leaving the country peacefully was prohibited them...

 **Thanksgiving (Part 1), I Thank You, Johnny Cash**

- *On Thanksgiving Day a family sat down to have their meal. There was very little on the table, a few things from the field. No turkey, fancy dressing. Some bread and a little beans, for the crops had been a failure and the times were pretty lean. The father bowed his head, it was their habit to say grace, and a calmness came over his bland and wrinkled face. "Dear Lord," he said, "we thank you*





for the sun that was warm today. And we thank you for the singing of the birds and the laughing of the children as they played. And thank you for that neighbor of mine that fixed my plow. Thank you for that old plow horse. We sure could use a cow."

Put the concept of thanksgiving in perspective with the other most important things:

1 Thessalonians 5:16-25: (KJV) ¹⁶Rejoice evermore. ¹⁷Pray without ceasing. ¹⁸In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. ¹⁹Quench not the Spirit. ²⁰Despise not prophesyings. ²¹Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. ²²Abstain from all appearance of evil. ²³And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it. ²⁵Brethren, pray for us.

When we put thanksgiving in perspective, we can reap the priceless benefits of faith and sanctification.

Where does Thanksgiving begin?

Thanksgiving to God begins with our acknowledgement of His greatness and our insignificance:

Psalms 86:1-4: (NASB) ¹Incline Your ear, O LORD, and answer me; For I am afflicted and needy. ²Preserve my soul, for I am a godly man; O You my God, save Your servant who trusts in You. ³Be gracious to me, O Lord, for to You I cry all day long. ⁴Make glad the soul of Your servant, for to You, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

(Source: www.pilgrimhall.org) The Voyage of the Mayflower and the Speedwell

The Leiden Separatists bought a small ship, the Speedwell, in Holland. They embarked from Delftshaven on July 22, 1620. They sailed to Southampton, England to meet the Mayflower, which had been chartered by their English investors. There, other Separatists and additional colonists joined them.

On August 15, the Mayflower and Speedwell set sail for America. The Speedwell leaked so badly that both ships turned back to England, putting in first at Dartmouth and then at Plymouth. Finally, on September 16, 1620, the Mayflower set sail, alone, for America.



The Mayflower was a sizable cargo ship, around 100 feet in length. She had served many years in the wine trade. With the crowding of 102 passengers plus crew, each family was allotted very little space.

The 66-day voyage was frequently stormy. At one point, a main beam cracked and had to be repaired using a large iron screw. When the passengers sighted Cape Cod, they realized that they had failed to reach Virginia, where they had permission to settle. The season was late, however, and supplies of food and water were low. They could go no further.

Thanksgiving to God continues in faith and praise:

Psalms 86:5-8: (NASB) ⁵For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in lovingkindness to all who call upon You. ⁶Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer; And give heed to the voice of my supplications! ⁷In the day of my trouble I shall call upon You, for You will answer me. ⁸There is no one like You among the gods. O Lord nor are there any works like yours.

God is THE Creator that can answer prayer because everything else is just the imaginations of man.



Intentional gratitude, *Gratitude Rewires Your Brain*, dickrauscher.com

- *When we intentionally focus our attention on gratitude, science is showing us that what we are literally doing is we are in the process of rewiring our brain to more easily take in gratitude. In other words, the more we see gratitude, the more we pay attention to the happy things and the things that we're grateful for, the more our brain actually begins to see it, to look for it. In other words it becomes more "Velcro-y" if you will.*

Intentional gratitude helps to rewire the brain to more easily take in gratitude - see it and the brain looks for it!

The Pilgrims arrived safely at Cape Cod aboard the Mayflower:

(Source: William Bradford, Of Plymouth Plantation) (Olde English spelling)

"Being thus arived in a good harbor and brought safe to land, they fell upon their knees & blessed ye God of heaven, who had brought them over ye vast & furious ocean, and delivered them from all ye periles & miseries therof, againe to set their feete on ye firme and stable earth, their proper elemente....

But hear I cannot but stay and make a pause, and stand half amased at this poore peoples presente condition; and so I thinke will the reader too, when he well considered ye same. Being thus passed ye vast ocean, and a sea of troubles before in their preparation (as may be remembred by yt which wente before), they had now no friends to wellcome them, nor inns to entertaine or refresh their weatherbeaten bodys, no houses or much less townes to repaire too, to seeke for succoure....

What could not sustaine them but ye spirite of God & his grace? May not & ought not the children of these fathers rightly say: Our faithers were Englishmen which came over this great ocean, and were ready to perish in this willdernes; but they cried unto ye Lord, and he heard their voyce, and looked on their adversitie..."

20-30x more input, *Gratitude Rewires Your Brain*, dickrauscher.com

- *Because of the way our brain is hard wired, we pay attention and we take in the bad almost immediately but we need an estimated 20-30 times as long to take in and digest, in other words, to breathe in, the good. And that's of course assuming we even see it. So when you first begin working with gratitude you have to slow down. You have to breathe it in. You have to let it get into your consciousness. The more time you can take to breathe that in and really pay attention to it, the more that you are going to be rewiring your brain.*



Meditating upon God and praying are great tools to help us rewire our brains.

Gratitude marvels at the magnitude of His plan for all as well as His attention to one lowly soul:

Psalms 86:9-12: (NASB) ⁹All nations whom You have made shall come and worship before You, O Lord, and they shall glorify Your name. ¹⁰For You are great and do wondrous deeds; You alone are God. ¹¹Teach me Your way, O LORD; I will walk in Your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name. ¹²I will give thanks to You, O Lord my God, with all my heart, and will glorify Your name forever.



When was the first “governmental” Thanksgiving Proclamation?

(Source: www.pilgrimhall.org)

There are two (and only two) primary sources for the events of autumn 1621 in Plymouth: Edward Winslow writing in *Mourt's Relation* and William Bradford writing in *Of Plymouth Plantation*.

Edward Winslow, *Mourt's Relation*: (In modern spelling) ...our harvest being gotten in, our governor sent four men on fowling, that so we might after a special manner rejoice together, after we had gathered the fruits of our labors; they four in one day killed as much fowl, as with a little help beside, served the Company almost a week, at which time amongst other recreations, we exercised our arms, many of the Indians coming amongst us, and amongst the rest their greatest King Massasoit, with some ninety men, whom for three days we entertained and feasted, and they went out and killed five deer, which they brought to the Plantation and bestowed on our Governor, and upon the Captain and others. And although it be not always so plentiful, as it was at this time with us, yet by the goodness of God, we are so far from want, that we often wish you partakers of our plenty.

Realize that God is worthy of universal thanks:

Psalms 107:21-22: (KJV) ²¹Oh that men would praise the LORD for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men! ²²And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare His works with rejoicing.

The 53 Pilgrims at the First Thanksgiving:

4 MARRIED WOMEN: Eleanor Billington, Mary Brewster, Elizabeth Hopkins, Susanna White Winslow.

5 ADOLESCENT GIRLS: Mary Chilton (14 years old), Constance Hopkins (13 or 14), Priscilla Mullins (19), Elizabeth Tilley (14 or 15) and Dorothy, the Carver's unnamed maidservant, (perhaps 18 or 19).

9 ADOLESCENT BOYS: Francis & John Billington, John Cooke, John Crackston, Samuel Fuller, Giles Hopkins, William Latham, Joseph Rogers, Henry Samson.

13 YOUNG CHILDREN: Bartholomew, Mary & Remember Allerton, Love & Wrestling Brewster, Humility Cooper, Samuel Eaton, Damaris & Oceanus Hopkins, Desire Minter, Richard More, Resolved & Peregrine White.

22 MEN: John Alden, Isaac Allerton, John Billington, William Bradford, William Brewster, Peter Brown, Francis Cooke, Edward Doty, Francis Eaton, [first name unknown] Ely, Samuel Fuller, Richard Gardiner, John Goodman, Stephen Hopkins, John Howland, Edward Lester, George Soule, Myles Standish, William Trevor, Richard Warren, Edward Winslow, Gilbert Winslow.

Realize that God doesn't need our “things” or our lip service - He wants our sincerity!

Psalms 50:7-14: (NRSV) ⁷Hear, O my people, and I will speak, O Israel, I will testify against you. I am God, your God. ⁸Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you; your burnt offerings are continually before Me. ⁹I will not accept a bull from your house, or goats from your folds. ¹⁰For every wild animal of the forest is Mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. ¹¹I know all the birds of the air, and all that moves in the field is Mine. ¹²If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world and all that is in it is Mine. ¹³Do I eat the flesh of bulls, or drink the blood of goats? ¹⁴Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving and pay your vows to the Most High.



Once we give our heart in gratitude to God,
our life changes for the better!



"Blessings," (Verse 1) Laura Story

We pray for blessings, we pray for peace
Comfort for family, protection while we sleep
We pray for healing, for prosperity
We pray for Your mighty hand to ease our suffering

All the while You hear each spoken need
Yet love us way too much to give us lesser things

'Cause what if Your blessings come through raindrops
What if Your healing comes through tears?
What if a thousand sleepless nights
Are what it takes to know You're near?

What if trials of this life
Are Your mercies in disguise?



Even long before there was the Proclamation of the Continental Congress, there was this in 1623...three years after the pilgrims landed! Inasmuch as the great Father has given us this year an abundant harvest of Indian corn, wheat, peas, beans, squashes, and garden vegetables, and has made the forests to abound with game and the sea with fish and clams, and inasmuch as He has protected us from the ravages of the savages, has spared us from pestilence and disease, has granted us freedom to worship God according to the dictates of our own conscience. Now I, your magistrate, do proclaim that all ye Pilgrims, with your wives and ye little ones, do gather at ye meeting house, on ye hill, between the hours of 9 and 12 in the day time, on Thursday, November 29th, of the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred and twenty-three and the third year since ye Pilgrims landed on ye Pilgrim Rock, there to listen to ye pastor and render thanksgiving to ye Almighty God for all His blessings.

--William Bradford, Ye Governor of Ye Colony

The government set aside a Thursday for three hours to stop and focus on God Almighty for the blessing He gave them.



Psalms 100:1-5: (NKJV) ¹Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands! ²Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before His presence with singing. ³Know that the LORD, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. ⁴Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. ⁵For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations.



(Source: www.pilgrimhall.org) The Very First Thanksgiving Proclamation made by the Continental Congress:

IN CONGRESS November 1, 1777: FORASMUCH as it is the indispensable Duty of all Men to adore the superintending Providence of Almighty God; to acknowledge with Gratitude their Obligation to him for Benefits received, and to implore such farther Blessings as they stand in Need of: And it having pleased Him in His abundant Mercy, not only to continue to us the innumerable Bounties of his common Providence; but also to smile upon us in the Prosecution of a just and necessary War, for the Defense and Establishment of our unalienable Rights and Liberties; particularly in that He hath been pleased, in so great a Measure, to prosper the Means used for the Support of our Troops, and to crown our Arms with most signal success:

(It's ALL about God!)

It is therefore recommended to the legislative or executive Powers of these UNITED STATES to set apart THURSDAY, the eighteenth Day of December next, for SOLEMN THANKSGIVING and PRAISE: That at one Time and with one Voice, the good People may express the grateful Feelings of their Hearts, and consecrate themselves to the Service of their Divine Benefactor; and that, together with their sincere Acknowledgments and Offerings, they may join the penitent Confession of their manifold Sins, whereby they had forfeited every Favor; and their humble and earnest Supplication that it may please GOD through the Merits of JESUS CHRIST, mercifully to forgive and blot them out of Remembrance...

The last paragraph states:

And it is further recommended, That servile Labor, and such Recreation, as, though at other Times innocent, may be unbecoming the Purpose of this Appointment, be omitted on so solemn an Occasion.



Thanksgiving (Part 2), I Thank You, Johnny Cash

• *"Thank you for the muscle. I understand the ache. Just let me have your blessing on all I undertake. And I thank you for this country, too. We've troubles now and pain, but with Your help, Lord, we'll get back to where the road is smooth again. And thanks for all the love we've got and the strength to work my land. For there's nothing, Lord, I can't do if You lend a helping hand. Thank you for my good wife, Lord, and the children that I've got. They love me for the things that I am and they forget the things I'm not. And if somebody's down and out, Lord, and they're praying You with heed, just send them over to see me, Lord, I've got more than I need."*

True thanksgiving is a result of action on our part in doing those things that we are obligated to do:

Psalms 116:12-16: (KJV) ¹²What shall I render unto the LORD for all His benefits toward me? ¹³I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the LORD. ¹⁴I will pay my vows unto the LORD now in the presence of all His people. ¹⁵Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints. ¹⁶O LORD, truly I am thy servant; I am thy servant, and the son of thine handmaid: thou hast loosed my bonds.

What shall I render to God for all His benefits towards me? What is our answer? Should this lead us to action? Should we be living thankfully?

This gives substance to our sacrifices of Thanksgiving:

Psalms 116:17-18: (KJV) ¹⁷I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the LORD. ¹⁸I will pay my vows unto the LORD now in the presence of all His people, ¹⁹In the courts of the LORD'S house, in the midst of thee, O Jerusalem. Praise ye the LORD.



Psalms 92:1-4: (NASB) ¹*It is good to give thanks to the LORD and to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;* ²*To declare Your lovingkindness in the morning and Your faithfulness by night,* ³*With the ten-stringed lute and with the harp, with resounding music upon the lyre.* ⁴*For You, O LORD, have made me glad by what You have done, I will sing for joy at the works of Your hands.*

Gratitude can be day and night, creatively expressed through instruments, sung or spoken out loud, and meditated upon. We have to rewire our life to be focused on gratitude.

How did Thanksgiving turn into a perpetual American holiday?

 **History of Thanksgiving Day, studiesweekly.com**



- *Thanksgiving, as we know it today, was made possible largely by the efforts of a nineteenth century writer named Sarah Josepha Hale. She was America's first female magazine editor and author of the famous nursery rhyme, Mary Had A Little Lamb. During the Civil War, Hale was convinced that a national Thanksgiving Day would awaken in American hearts the love of home and country, of thankfulness to God, and peace between brethren. She wrote letters to governors and even to President Abraham Lincoln. A few days after receiving her letter on October 3rd, 1863, President Lincoln issued a proclamation declaring the last Thursday of November to be Thanksgiving Day.*

THE FIRST IN AN UNBROKEN SERIES OF AUTUMN PROCLAMATIONS:

THANKSGIVING DAY 1863 ABRAHAM LINCOLN, THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA – A PROCLAMATION

The year that is drawing toward its close has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added which are of so extraordinary a nature that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever-watchful providence of Almighty God...No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy... It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently, and gratefully acknowledged, as with one heart and one voice, by the whole American people. I do therefore invite my fellow-citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next as a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens...And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners, or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore if, as soon as may be consistent with the divine purpose, to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility, and union. -- *Abraham Lincoln's Proclamation of Thanksgiving*





A caller suggests: [Philippians 4:6](#) and [Psalms 69:30-31](#) Never ask God for anything without thanking Him for what we already have. Be thankful for other people, especially the ones who annoy us; they are the ones that give us the opportunity to be patient in Christ. And what bothers us most about them may be something we need to fix in us. [2 Corinthians 4:15](#)



Gratitude is a choice of perspective and creates value in a difficult experience.



"Blessings," (Verse 2) Laura Story

We pray for wisdom, Your voice to hear
We cry in anger when we cannot feel You near
We doubt Your goodness, we doubt Your love
As if every promise from Your Word is not enough

And all the while You hear each desperate plea
And long that we'd have faith to believe

'Cause what if Your blessings come through raindrops
What if Your healing comes through tears?
And what if a thousand sleepless nights
Are what it takes to know You're near?

And what if trials of this life
Are Your mercies in disguise?

Psalms 116:12-18: (KJV) ¹²What shall I render unto the LORD for all his benefits toward me? ¹³I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the LORD. ¹⁴I will pay my vows unto the LORD now in the presence of all his people. ¹⁵Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints. ¹⁶O LORD, truly I am thy servant; I am thy servant, and the son of thine handmaid: thou hast loosed my bonds. ¹⁷I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the LORD. ¹⁸I will pay my vows unto the LORD now in the presence of all his people,

We owe God! We ought to be willing to live our thankfulness outwardly and consistently! All God really wants is our heart. We can live and die in gratitude.



Rewiring takes time, [Gratitude Rewires Your Brain, dickrauscher.com](#)

- *The spiritual practice of intentional gratitude allows us to move beyond the agitation of our incessantly thinking mind. Our mind is always thinking about something. Always feeling something. One emotion right after the other. As soon as we begin to practice gratitude, we begin to see more deeply and to see the amazing reality of the world around us. It opens our heart and it allows us to embrace the awe, the joy, the amazement, of simply being alive. At those moments of intentional gratitude as they increase and slowly rewire our brain for happiness, it will change what you see in your world.*



**BARACK OBAMA, THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
– A PROCLAMATION THANKSGIVING DAY, 2013**

Thanksgiving offers each of us the chance to count our many blessings - the freedoms we enjoy, the time we spend with loved ones, the brave men and women who defend our Nation at home and abroad. This tradition reminds us that no matter what our background or beliefs, no matter who we are or who we love, at our core we are first and foremost Americans.

Our annual celebration has roots in centuries-old colonial customs. When we gather around the table, we follow the example of the Pilgrims and Wampanoags, who shared the fruits of a successful harvest nearly 400 years ago. When we offer our thanks, we mirror those who set aside a day of prayer. And when we join with friends and neighbors to alleviate suffering and make our communities whole, we honor the spirit of President Abraham Lincoln, who called on his fellow citizens to "ferently implore the interposition of the Almighty hand to heal the wounds of the nation, and to restore it, as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes, to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility, and union."...

This Thanksgiving Day, let us forge deeper connections with our loved ones. Let us extend our gratitude and our compassion. And let us lift each other up and recognize, in the oldest spirit of this tradition, that we rise or fall as one Nation, under God. ...

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-sixth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand thirteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-eighth. **BARACK OBAMA**

There was no direct thanking of God.



"Blessings," (Verse 3) Laura Story

'Cause what if Your blessings come through raindrops
What if Your healing comes through tears?
And what if a thousand sleepless nights
Are what it takes to know You're near?

What if my greatest disappointments
Or the aching of this life
Is the revealing of a greater thirst
This world can't satisfy?

And what if trials of this life
The rain, the storms, the hardest nights
Are Your mercies in disguise?

How can we make thankfulness more relevant in our lives?

1. Be aware of your surroundings and choose the environment that you want your mind to flourish in:

Psalms 1:1-3: (NKJV) ¹Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; ²But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he *meditates* day and night. ³He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.



2. Make a conscious effort to focus on Thanksgiving at a time when giving thanks can be high priority:

Psalms 4:3-8: (NASB) ³But know that the LORD has set apart the godly man for Himself; The LORD hears when I call to Him. ⁴Tremble, and do not sin; Meditate in your heart upon your bed, and be still. Selah. ⁵Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and trust in the LORD. ⁶Many are saying, "Who will show us any good? Lift up the light of Your countenance upon us, O LORD!" ⁷You have put gladness in my heart, more than when their grain and new wine abound. ⁸In peace I will both lie down and sleep, for You alone, O LORD, make me to dwell in safety.

3. Live firmly in the present - not with one foot in the past or the future:

Exodus 16:1-3: (NASB) ¹Then they set out from Elim, and all the congregation of the sons of Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after their departure from the land of Egypt. ²The whole congregation of the sons of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³The sons of Israel said to them, Would that we had died by the LORD'S hand in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat, when we ate bread to the full; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.

How small did they think God was? Did they think he would miraculously deliver them only to starve them later? Interesting how their "selective memory" only focused on one thing: food! This warns us that we have a tendency to think this way, too.

Psalm 136:1: (ESV) Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever.

Stop, look, listen and thank our Heavenly Father for what He has done for us. Let's give Him our hearts every day.



*So, is your life a thankful life?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*

*And now even more to think about...
only in the **Full Edition** of CQ Rewind!*





(Source: www.pilgrimhall.org The Pilgrims safe arrival at Cape Cod aboard the Mayflower) [Entire quote with Olde English spelling](#)

"Being thus arived in a good harbor and brought safe to land, they fell upon their knees & blessed ye God of heaven, who had brought them over ye vast & furious ocean, and delivered them from all ye periles & miseries therof, againe to set their feete on ye firme and stable earth, their proper elemente. And no marvell if they were thus joyefull, seeing wise Seneca was so affected with sailing a few miles on ye coast of his owne Italy; as he affirmed, that he had rather remaine twentie years on his way by land, then pass by sea to any place in a short time; so tedious & dreadfull was ye same unto him.

But hear I cannot but stay and make a pause, and stand half amased at this poore peoples presente condition; and so I thinke will the reader too, when he well considered ye same. Being thus passed ye vast ocean, and a sea of troubles before in their preparation (as may be remembred by yt which wente before), they had now no friends to wellcome them, nor inns to entertaine or refresh their weatherbeaten bodys, no houses or much less townes to reparaire too, to seeke for succoure. . .

Let it also be considred what weake hopes of supply & succoure they left behinde them, yt might bear up their minds in this sade condition and trialls they were under; and they could not but be very smale. It is true, indeed, ye affections & love of their brethren at Leyden was cordiall & entire towards them, but they had litle power to help them, or them selves; and how ye case stode betweene them & ye marchants at their coming away, hath already been declared. What could not sustaine them but ye spirite of God & his grace? May not & ought not the children of these fathers rightly say: Our faithers were Englishmen which came over this great ocean, and were ready to perish in this willdernes; but they cried unto ye Lord, and he heard their voyce, and looked on their adversitie..." --William Bradford, Of Plymouth Plantation



(Source: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~netlapm/Page31X.htm> (Entire article))

The Pilgrim story is an adventure that has become the best known part of the American-Dutch heritage. The Pilgrims, fleeing from religious persecution in England, found refuge in Leiden in The Netherlands before they emigrated in 1620 on the "Mayflower" to America, where they established Plymouth Colony, the first sustained English settlement in New England. The stirring story of their migration, their years of exile in Holland, and the early years of their colony is told by Governor William Bradford in his memoirs, "Of Plymouth Plantation," which many consider the first monument of American literature. The well-known "Mayflower Compact," drawn up by the Pilgrims onboard ship to serve as the basis of their future legal and social organization is an early example of a social contract; it was heralded by John Quincy Adams as a fore-runner of ideas developed in the Constitution of the United States of America.

Exalted in the nineteenth century as virtuous examples of a proud pioneering spirit, the Pilgrims have entered the American imagination as have no other colonists, and their place in the national consciousness endures, reinforced annually in the specifically American holiday, Thanksgiving Day. This commemorates the Pilgrims' harvest feast of 1621, when colonists sat down peacefully with their Native American neighbors to give thanks for a bounteous creation and for continued preservation through times of hardship. While in Leiden, the Pilgrims were active in a wide range of manufacturing occupations. William Brewster, the leading layman of their congregation, operated a clandestine press to publish books forbidden in England. Their



minister John Robinson was a participant in Leiden University's theological disputes, whose political implications were to split the nation and contribute to Prince Maurits' military coup in 1618. The Pilgrims were also in close contact with French-speaking Calvinist refugees, some of whom, including Philip Delano, ancestor of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, joined the Pilgrim migration to America. Having spent a dozen formative years in The Netherlands, the Pilgrims are recognized as the source through which several innovations derived from Dutch legal and social precedent entered American culture.

The Pilgrims were Calvinist dissenters from the state Church of England (the Anglican Church). Many of them lived in England near Scrooby, a farming village in northern Nottinghamshire, where they organized a congregation under Rev. Richard Clyfton (former Anglican rector of Babworth near Scrooby), Rev. John Robinson (formerly Anglican assistant pastor in Norwich), and leading layman Elder William Brewster (postmaster at Scrooby, residing in Scrooby manor). Known as "Separatists," they withdrew from the church which they believed was tainted by continuation of traditional but non-biblical ceremonies. In this the Pilgrims differed from other Calvinists who remained in the Church of England to purify it, who are known as "Puritans." The idea of separation from the state church was launched in England by Rev. Robert Browne of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. Later Separatists were called "Brownists" by their opponents (as is seen in Leiden's refusal to extradite the Pilgrims' pastor John Robinson in 1609).

Browne had preached anti-establishment sermons as early as 1578, and soon he and his followers fled to Middelburg in The Netherlands. In 1582, under the influence of Dutch Mennonites (whose congregations had already existed separately before the Dutch Reformed Church became dominant), Browne published two tracts arguing for separation and for congregations with freely-entered mutual covenants allowing all members to select the pastor and lay leaders democratically. In 1593 Rev. John Penry, a friend of William Brewster's, was executed for publishing anti-Anglican pamphlets; Separatists who refused to conform with the state church were threatened with banishment, while at the same time leaving the country peacefully was prohibited. Since 1595 escaped Separatists had formed a refugee congregation in Amsterdam led by Rev. Francis Johnson, another friend of Brewster's, and by Rev. Henry Ainsworth, a man esteemed by the Pilgrims for his theological writings.

The Separatists of Scrooby attempted to flee to Amsterdam in 1607, but the English ship captain who had agreed to carry them across betrayed them and they were imprisoned. A second attempt in 1608 succeeded, with difficulties. When most of the men were already taken on board, the Dutch captain fled out to sea on spying the approach of troops. Abandoned to the soldiers were the women and children who had stranded in a small boat with a few of the men. After severe storms the ship eventually reached Amsterdam, while the group captured in England was sent from one jail to the next. Having sold their property before attempting the escape, the prisoners owned nothing the courts could confiscate, and they were finally allowed to leave for Holland. Among the last to arrive in Amsterdam were John Robinson and William Brewster. With William Bradford, they would play leading roles in Pilgrim history.

[Current President's proclamation - read through it and compare it to the Thanksgiving Proclamation by George Washington in 1789.](#)

THANKSGIVING DAY (2013) Barack Obama Thanksgiving offers each of us the chance to count our many blessings-the freedoms we enjoy, the time we spend with loved ones, the brave men and women who defend our Nation at home and abroad. This tradition reminds us that no matter what our background or beliefs, no matter who we are or who we love, at our core we are first and foremost Americans.

Our annual celebration has roots in centuries-old colonial customs. When we gather around the table, we follow the example of the Pilgrims and Wampanoags, who shared the fruits of a successful harvest nearly 400 years ago. When we offer our thanks, we mirror those who set aside a day of prayer. And when we join with friends and neighbors to alleviate suffering and make our communities whole, we honor the spirit of President Abraham Lincoln, who called on his fellow citizens to "ferently implore the interposition of the Almighty hand to heal the



wounds of the nation, and to restore it, as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes, to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility, and union."

Our country has always been home to Americans who recognize the importance of giving back. Today, we honor all those serving our Nation far from home. We also thank the first responders and medical professionals who work through the holiday to keep us safe, and we acknowledge the volunteers who dedicate this day to those less fortunate.

This Thanksgiving Day, let us forge deeper connections with our loved ones. Let us extend our gratitude and our compassion.

And let us lift each other up and recognize, in the oldest spirit of this tradition, that we rise or fall as one Nation, under God.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim Thursday, November 28, 2013, as a National Day of Thanksgiving. I encourage the people of the United States to join together--whether in our homes, places of worship, community centers, or any place of fellowship for friends and neighbors--and give thanks for all we have received in the past year, express appreciation to those whose lives enrich our own, and share our bounty with others.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-sixth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand thirteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-eighth. BARACK OBAMA

THANKSGIVING DAY (1789) George Washington Whereas 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 - and Whereas both Houses of Congress have by their joint Committee requested me "to recommend to the People of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness. Now therefore I do recommend and assign Thursday the 26th day of November next to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be - That we may then all unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble thanks - for his kind care and protection of the People of this country previous to their becoming a Nation - for the signal and manifold mercies, and the favorable interpositions of his providence, which we experienced in the course and conclusion of the late war -for the great degree of tranquillity, union, and plenty, which we have since enjoyed - for the peaceable and rational manner in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national One now lately instituted, for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed, and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and in general for all the great and various favors which He hath been pleased to confer upon us.

And also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech him to pardon our national and other transgressions - to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually - to render our national government a blessing to all the People, by constantly being a government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed - to protect and guide all Sovereigns and Nations (especially such as have shewn kindness unto us) and to bless them with good government, peace, and concord - To promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the increase of science among them and Us - and generally to grant unto all mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as He alone knows to be best. Given under my hand at the City of New York the third day of October in the year of our Lord 1789. George WASHINGTON.



Old Testament:

Thanksgiving: Strongs #8426. *hdwt towdah* properly, an extension of the hand, i.e. (by implication) avowal, or (usually) adoration; specifically, a choir of worshippers:—confession, (sacrifice of) praise, thanks(-giving, offering).

Psalms 26:7: *That I may publish with the voice of **thanksgiving <8426>**, and tell of all Thy wondrous works.*

Psalms 42:4: *When I remember these things, I pour out my soul in me: for I had gone with the multitude, I went with them to the house of God, with the voice of joy and **praise <8426>**, with a multitude that kept holyday.*

Psalms 50:14: *Offer unto God **thanksgiving <8426>**; and pay thy vows unto the most High:*

Thanks: Strongs #3034 *hdy yadah yaw-daw'*; a primitive root - literally, to use (i.e. hold out) the hand; physically, to throw (a stone, an arrow) at or away; especially to revere or worship with extended hands); intensively, to bemoan (by wringing the hands)

Psalms 28:7: *The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I **praise <3034>** Him.*

Psalms 30:4: *Sing unto the LORD, O ye saints of his, and give **thanks <3034>** at the remembrance of His holiness.*

Some New Testament words and examples:

Strongs #2169 *eucharistia (yoo-khar-is-tee'-ah)*; gratitude; actively, grateful language (to God, as an act of worship): KJV-- thankfulness, (giving of) thanks (-giving).

Philippians 4:6: (KJV) *Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with **thanksgiving <2169>** let your requests be made known unto God.*

Giving Thanks: Strongs #3670 *homologeō (hom-ol-og-eh'-o)*; to assent, i.e. covenant, acknowledge:

KJV-- con- (pro-) fess, confession is made, give thanks, promise.

Hebrews 13:15: (KJV) *By Him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips **giving thanks <3670>** to His name.*

Grace: Strongs #5485 *charis (khar'-ece)*; graciousness (as gratifying), of manner or act (abstract or concrete; literal, figurative or spiritual; especially the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life; including gratitude): KJV-- acceptable, benefit, favour, gift, grace (-ious), joy, liberality, pleasure, thank (-s, -worthy).

Luke 2:40: (KJV) *And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the **grace <5485>** of God was upon him.*

Romans 7:25: (KJV) *I **thank <5485>** God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.*

Hebrews 13:25: (KJV) ***Grace <5485>** be with you all. Amen.*