



## How are America, Christianity and Freedom Connected?

**Leviticus 25:10:** *And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land\* unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a jubilee unto you; and ye shall return every man unto his possession, and ye shall return every man unto his family.*

*\*A portion of the Scripture is engraved on our Liberty Bell.*



In this past week America has celebrated her birth as a nation and the 230+ years of freedom that followed. How did this American experience get its start? What was on the minds of those singular men and women whose lives were put on the spot, tested and changed so many years ago? What role did faith - Christian faith - play in all of this? Stay with us as we look back and see...

### What is the price of freedom?

America's freedom came as a result of a hard choice and an utter commitment to that choice:

The first few lines of the Declaration of Independence:  
(Note capitalization shown throughout is in the original document.)

**IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776**

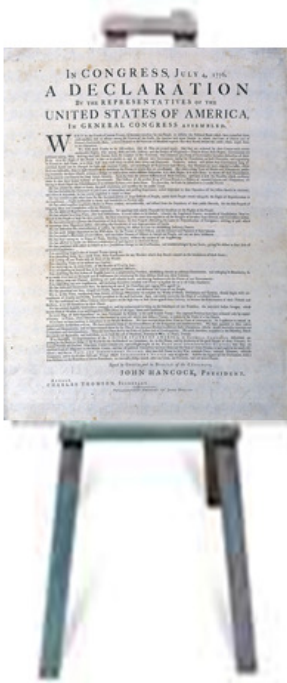
**The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen United States of America**

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, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

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.

Although the writer did not mention Christianity or Jesus, this acknowledges the Creator and nature's God. They understood the "bigness" of God and wanted to do something good in relation to that bigness of God. Like it or not, this is where our country got its

beginning.



### Introduction to Martin Treptow, *A Soldier's Pledge*, speech by Ronald Reagan

- *Under one such marker lies a young man, Martin Treptow, who left his job in a small town barber shop in 1917 to go to France with the famed Rainbow Division. There on the western front he was killed trying to carry a message between battalions under heavy artillery fire.*



*(Note: The 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division, also called Rainbow, is a division of the National Guard and United States Army. It has served in WW1, WW2 and the Global War on Terrorism. In 1945, the Rainbow Division liberated the Dachau Nazi Concentration Camp.) More recently, they provided security at Ground Zero after 9/11 during the rescue and recovery efforts.)*



**Christian freedom comes as a result of a hard choice and an utter commitment to that choice:**

**Romans 12:1-2:** (KJV) *1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

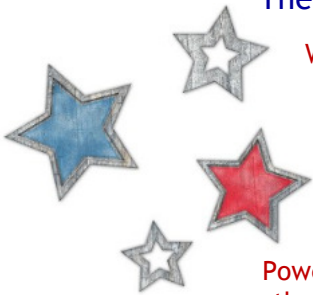
**1 Peter 4:12-13:** (NASB) *12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; 13 but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation.*

 **Martin's diary message, A Soldier's Pledge, speech by Ronald Reagan**

- We are told that on his body was found a diary. On the flyleaf under the heading "My Pledge," he had written these words: America must win this war. Therefore I will work, I will save, I will sacrifice, I will endure. I will fight cheerfully and do my utmost, as if the issue of the whole struggle depended on me alone...*

This is what our Christianity should look like! The cause of God must win against the flesh.

**The Last Paragraph of the Declaration of Independence:**



*We, therefore, the Representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these united Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States, that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. — And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.*

The United States of America was founded with "God first."

**What are the greatest weapons of freedom?**



American freedom was fought for with truth.

This Supreme Court case from 1892 challenged the hiring of a Christian preacher:

 **87 precedents, David Barton (historian and Christian), Supreme Court Case from 1892**

- ...Our civilization and our institutions are emphatically Christian. Now what would have led the court to such an emphatic declaration that our laws, our institutions, our society was emphatically Christian and that it must include*



*the teachings of the Redeemer of mankind? Well, the court said, "The reason we say this is because it is historically true. From the discovery of the continent to this present hour there is a single voice everywhere making the same affirmation. We find everywhere a clear recognition of this truth," and the court proceeded to go into a history lesson. It went through 87 instances of American history starting from the discovery of the continent in the time of Columbus, going all the way through their current day in 1892. After having gone through 87 precedents, the court said, "We can go like this for a long time. Eighty-seven is sufficient to say that Christ must be the center."*



**Christian** freedom is fought for with truth:

**John 8:31-32:** (NASB) <sup>31</sup>So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed him, If you continue in my word, then you are truly disciples of mine; <sup>32</sup>and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.



American Freedom was fought for with **humble** observance of a higher way:

(Source: eadshome.com) James Madison: At the Constitutional Convention of 1787, James Madison proposed the plan to divide the central government into three branches. He discovered this model of government from the Perfect Governor, as he read **Isaiah 33:22: For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; He will save us.**

This is how our three branches of government came to be!



**Christian** Freedom is fought for with humble observance of a higher way:

**2 Corinthians 10:3-5:** (NASB) <sup>3</sup>For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, <sup>4</sup>for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. <sup>5</sup>We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ...

Our warfare is not fleshly, so therefore our weapons are spiritual. It takes dedication to achieve Christian freedom.

America did not become free because just a few people decided it to be so. There was bloodshed, sorrow, hardship, tragedy and devastation. But they held true to what they believed was the right thing to do.



**The weapon of freedom, A Soldier's Pledge, speech by Ronald Reagan**

- We must realize that no arsenal or no weapon in the arsenals of the world is so formidable as the will and moral courage of free men and women. It is a weapon our adversaries in today's world do not have. It is a weapon that we as Americans do have. Let that be understood by those who practice terrorism and prey upon their neighbors.*



American Freedom was fought for with sacred honor.

...And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.



(Source: George Washington on the day of his swearing in as America's first President (4/30/1789 to 3/3/1797) www.eadshome.com ) "No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the invisible hand which conducts the affairs of men more than the people of the United States. Every step by which we have advanced to the character of an independent nation seems to have been distinguished by some token of providential agency."

During his inauguration, Washington took the oath as prescribed by the Constitution but added several religious components to that official ceremony. Before taking his oath of office, he summoned a Bible on which to take the oath, added the words "So help me God!" to the end of the oath, then leaned over and kissed the Bible.



The whole point of American government was to honor God first.



**Christian** Freedom is fought for with sacred honor - engaging in the battle by using God's armor:

Ephesians 6:10-13: (NIV) <sup>10</sup>Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup>Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. <sup>12</sup>For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Christianity is the will of God executed in our hearts in a humble way, relying on the power and overruling of God.



We do not want to forget the biblical principles that founded this country. Let's not take those principles and their source out of the conversation about where this country needs to go. We do, however, believe in the separation of Church and State. This means not having a state religion and not having government answer to religion. That was not what the founding fathers had in mind. It also does *not* mean that you cannot talk about religion in a political arena.

What is the goal of freedom?



American freedom looks to deliver "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" for its people:

That these united Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States, that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown...and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do.



**The fruit of a nation that forgets God, George Washington's farewell address**

- Before 1962-1963, the courts used biblical guidelines in all four areas. George Washington warned in his farewell address, "Let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds, reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle."





When you take the concept of "God" out of things, you then become like God in the sense of "our way is best; we make the rules."

## HAPPINESS SACRIFICE

**+** *Christian* freedom looks to deliver life, liberty and the pursuit of *sacrifice* for its people so it can relay life, liberty and happiness eventually to ALL people!

People try to make a Christian life the equivalent of an easy chair with fuzzy slippers and a glass of iced tea! Let's study the Apostles and Jesus, emulating what they said, what they did and how they lived. That is true Christianity!

There are several New Testament words for *freedom*: See Bonus Material for more detailed definitions.

- The first word carries a physical or civil sense of being free - not a slave, not being held under.

1 Corinthians 12:13: For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or *free <1658>*; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

- The second word carries a very full sense of being made free - not merely "not a slave," but rather being liberated.

Romans 8:2: For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath *made me free <1659>* from the law of sin and death.

- The third word carries the personal application of being liberated - the ability to make personal decisions.

Galatians 5:1: Stand fast therefore in the *liberty <1657>* wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

American freedom focuses on the first of these types of freedoms and Christianity on the other two.

 **Peace the highest goal, A Soldier's Pledge, speech by Ronald Reagan**

- *As for the enemies of freedom, those who are potential adversaries, they will be reminded that peace is the highest aspiration of the American people. We will negotiate for it, sacrifice for it, we will not surrender for it, now or ever. We are Americans!*



**Observations:** A marked difference between the founding of the United States and Jesus and the Apostles' teachings regarding freedom is this:

- The founders were very focused on the first definition, as their objective was a society that would be equitable and just. America would be a place where people would have the ability to live their lives having



freedom of thought, religion, etc., without being under the thumb of tyranny.

- Conversely, Christian freedom is not really freedom of thought, because we are supposed to be dedicated to giving up our own thinking and taking on the thinking of Christ. Jesus and the Apostles were very focused on the second and third words in our list. They were not nearly as concerned with physical freedom and the equity of society, as they understood servitude to be a temporary condition, contrasted with the deeper personal freedom to be gained in Christ on a spiritual level. Their primary concern seemed to be grasping spiritual "freedom with responsibility."

The point of Christianity was never to save the world through America. It is instead to look at the plan of God and execute it with our every thought, word and action. There is salvation in the plan of God for all mankind, not just one country.

**Genesis 22:18:** (KJV) *And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.*

This is a promise that reflects the goal of the dedication of Christianity - that eventually all nations of the world will be blessed. This prophecy has not yet come true, so we know it is going to happen in the future.

**Jeremiah 31:34:** (KJV) *And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.*

Here is another example of a worldwide freedom. Prophecy does not point to the United States of America as the beacon of freedom that will spread to and overtake the rest of the world. The beacon of freedom is Jesus Christ and his true followers. Those are the ones who personally take on the responsibility of giving their lives, fortunes and sacred honor, dedicating those things to Christ. This will allow the eternal blessings to come to all men.

### Who are the fighters for freedom?



America's "Freedom Fighters" were the men and women of the time, driven by their sacred honor.

(Source: Excerpts from "Death and Freedom," a sermon by Dr. Neil Chadwick found on [www.webedelic.com](http://www.webedelic.com)) On July 4 each year, Independence Day, we celebrate what for many has become the "Supremum Bonum" - the highest good, which of course in America is "freedom." Why is this? The foundation of our country was built on the sacrifices of men who were willing to lay down their lives for the sake of freedom. Let me give you a few examples from the little known histories of the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence.

Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British Navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts and died in poverty.

Thomas McKeam was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family almost constantly. He served in the Congress without pay, and his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken from him, and poverty was his reward.



**Paul Revere's Companion, America Founded Under God, David Barton**

- *And while we're on "things we don't study," you know we do know about Paul Revere. The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere - the famous poem of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow - Revere was not the only one riding. As a matter of fact, there was another guy riding at that time. His name was Wentworth Cheswell. Wentworth Cheswell was a black patriot. He was elected to office in New Hampshire in 1768. He was a leader in his church, he was re-elected in New Hampshire for the next 45 years and held about nine different political offices in New Hampshire. We didn't know that blacks and whites were both riding, giving the alarm that night.*



At the battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson, Jr., noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. He quietly urged General George Washington to open fire. The home was destroyed, and Nelson died bankrupt.

Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife, and she died within a few months.

John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields and his gristmill were laid to waste. For more than a year he lived in forests and caves, returning home to find his wife dead and his children vanished. A few weeks later he died from exhaustion and a broken heart. Norris and Livingston suffered similar fates.

**Many Black Heroes, America Founded Under God, David Barton**

- *You know the hero of Bunker Hill is right there in the painting. We just don't talk about it anymore, but his name is Peter Salem. Peter Salem...and right beside him is Thomas Grosvenor. Black and white fighting side by side in the American Revolution. Peter Salem is the one who got all the special honors, awards and commendations, more than a dozen different awards from the national congress, from the state congress, from his military leaders. He was the hero. He saved countless American lives that day, but we've never even heard of Peter Salem today. In the same way, we'll see George Washington*

*crossing the Delaware, but we wouldn't recognize folks like Prince Whipple and Oliver Cromwell, two black patriots who served throughout the American Revolution with the General and the General's staff, but we've never even heard of those guys.*



These black and white men were working for a cause greater than themselves. Christianity is about having a cause greater than ourselves. We draw others to



that cause - not to ourselves - but to that cause so that together we can be "more than overcomers," as the Bible describes.

**+** **Christianity's** Freedom Fighters are the men and women through the ages, driven by their sacred honor, Jesus first and his followers second.

Isaiah 53:4-12: (NRSV) <sup>4</sup>Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup>But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed... <sup>7</sup>He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. <sup>8</sup>By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people. <sup>9</sup>They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

John 16:1-2: (NASB) <sup>2</sup>They will make you outcasts from the synagogue, but an hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think that he is offering service to God. <sup>3</sup>These things they will do because they have not known the Father or me.

If you are going to be a "Christian Patriot" fighting for the principles of Christianity, even if it means your very life, then you can be truly free indeed.

### What are the dangers of freedom?



American freedom's dangers lie in ignoring where and what we came from and while in that state of ignorance, devising a future based upon our wants of the present without consulting the wisdom of the past. This makes us god!

**Benjamin Franklin: Constitutional Convention of 1787 original manuscript of this speech**  
"God governs in the affairs of man. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid? We have been assured in the Sacred Writings that except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it. I firmly believe this. I also believe that, without His concurring aid, we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel."



**No longer taught as history, David Barton, Supreme Court Case from 1892**

- *Had we attended school prior to WWII, we could have known about these 87 precedents and would have found most of them in our textbooks. But anyone who has attended high school since WWII has never seen even one of those instances the Supreme Court cited as the emphatic basis for their declaration that we are a Christian nation and Christian principles are to remain as a basis for this society.*

Micah 6:6-8: (NASB) <sup>6</sup>With what shall I come to the LORD and bow myself before the God on high? Shall I come to Him with burnt offerings, with yearling calves? <sup>7</sup>Does the LORD take delight in thousands of rams, in ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I present my firstborn for my rebellious acts, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? <sup>8</sup>He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

These are the principles America was founded upon.





**Supreme Court ruling against the Ten Commandments, *The Fruit of a Nation that Forgets God*, [www.YouTube.com](http://www.YouTube.com)**

- *Listen to what the Supreme Court said in the United States concerning the Ten Commandments: "If the posted copies of the Ten Commandments are to have any effect at all, it will be to induce the school children to read, meditate upon, perhaps to venerate and obey the commandments. This is not a permissible state objective."*
- *James Wilson, a signer of the Constitution and original Justice of the United State Supreme Court and co-author of America's first legal commentaries on the Constitution, said: "Human law must rest its authority ultimately upon the authority of that law which is divine. Far from being rivals or enemies, religion and law are twin sisters."*



**Christianity's** freedom's dangers lie in ignoring where and what we came from and while in that state of ignorance, devising a future based upon our wants of the present without consulting the wisdom of the past. This makes us God!

Christianity has fallen into a Prosperity Gospel, teaching that Christianity is here for you to have a bunch of stuff and a life of comfort. God wants you to *sacrifice*. We forget about the life led by the Apostle Paul. We forget about the lives led by the Apostle John, Peter, and Jesus and how they lived. They did not ask for things so that they could be more comfortable.

It is a danger to allow time to go by without visiting the origin of where you came from. Christianity was born in the account of Holy Scripture. Study and absorb the lives of sacrifice as our examples.

This is why God instituted the Passover for the Jews, *lest ye forget*. They were to stop and recreate what happened so they would know the deliverance provided. Jesus built the Memorial service around the true Passover so we would also stop and remember him and his sacrifice.

**Galatians 5:13-15:** (NASB) <sup>13</sup>*For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.* <sup>14</sup>*For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.* <sup>15</sup>*But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.*

**Remember who the battle is against!**

**Ephesians 6:10-12:** (NASB) <sup>10</sup>*Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.* <sup>11</sup>*Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.* <sup>12</sup>*For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.*



To have an equitable and successful society:

- There can never be freedom from consequence;
- There can never be freedom from laws;
- There can never be freedom from responsibility; and
- There can never be freedom without contribution!

Does God intend this freedom for the human race?

John 12:31-32: (NASB) <sup>31</sup>Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. <sup>32</sup>And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself.

The world will be free! Jesus prophetically told us that he will have control and will cast Satan out.

### What is the fuel of freedom?



America's freedom was fueled by prayerful and careful focus on those things which were understood as God-given human rights:

**Patrick Henry: May 1765 Speech to the House of Burgesses**

It cannot be emphasized too clearly and too often that this nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religion, but on the gospel of Jesus Christ. For this very reason, people of other faiths have been afforded asylum, prosperity, and freedom of worship here.



**27 clauses, America Founded Under God, David Barton**

- *We are often told that the founding fathers made the Declaration of Independence because of "taxation without representation." ...They didn't like what was going on economically, so "taxation without representation," and here we are today. That's okay as far as it goes, but the problem is the Declaration of Independence listed 27 reasons (why) they separated from Great Britain. Taxation without representation was issue #17 out of the 27 - it didn't even make the top half of what concerned them, and that's the only one that we focus on.*
- *We have so bored into economics being everything that a nation is that we've missed so many of the moral and religious aspects that have been out there really for centuries. So when you look at the Declaration of Independence, you look at those 27 clauses, rights, that are set forth, historians have documented that every right set forth in the Declaration of Independence had been preached from the American pulpit prior to 1763...*

**Alexander Hamilton: 1787 after the Constitutional Convention**

"For my own part, I sincerely esteem it (the Constitution) a system which without the finger of God, never could have been suggested and agreed upon by such a diversity of interests."



🔊 **First Congress three hour prayer, *America Founded Under God, David Barton***

- *If you'll go to any public library or go online, you can read the records of Congress - of everything that ever happened in Congress. If you go back to page one, you'll see the very first time the founding fathers got together - the very first session of the very first Congress, Sept. 6, 1774. And if you read in the records of Congress, you'll say, Oh look! They opened with prayer. And you keep reading and you'll say, that wasn't a dinky little prayer! No, it wasn't. Some historical records indicate that the opening prayer session of Congress ran up to three hours long. Now with such a significant time and so many delegates wrote about it that you take someone like Silas Deane who said, "After that time of prayer in Congress, even the stern old Quakers had tears running down their cheeks."*



**Christianity's** freedom is fueled by **prayerful** and **careful** focus on those things which are understood as God-given human privilege to **sacrifice**, for the purpose of restoring the original God given plan for the eternal life of mankind.

Romans 6:18-22: (NIV) <sup>18</sup>You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness. <sup>19</sup>I put this in human terms because you are weak in your natural selves. Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness.

Christian freedom is “slavery” to the will of God! Have we truly dedicated our lives, fortunes and sacred honor to the cause of freedom in Christ?





Isaiah 2:2: (NRSV) *In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.*

Clearly this prophecy has yet to come true!

Zephaniah 3:9: (KJV) *For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one consent.*

Daniel 7:13-14: (NRSV) <sup>13</sup>*As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like a human being coming with the clouds of heaven. And he came to the Ancient One and was presented before him. <sup>14</sup>To him was given dominion and glory and kingship, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed.*

This is an amazing prophecy! It talks about the kingdom of Jesus with all peoples! Christian sacrifice is for the purpose of being faithful to bring this world and these governments - America included - to an end, so that the government of Jesus Christ can overrule everything.

Isaiah 61:1: *The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;*

Jesus paid the price and then handed off the baton to us. We are to follow his steps.

We thank God for the opportunity of being able to live in a country that gives us freedoms. But remember the history of Christianity just like we remember our American history. When you go back to the founding fathers of Christianity, their lives were lives of giving, sacrifice, spreading the Gospel, and laying down their lives to the cause of Christ so that all nations can be blessed. If God said it, we know it will come true!

*So, how are America, Christianity and freedom connected?  
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!*







If you listened to the program, you will hear the story of Matt, our backup sound board person, thinking he was being asked on Saturday to substitute for Rick this week as host! Gulp! Here he is pretending to be “in Rick’s shoes...”

“I predict future happiness for Americans, if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them.” – *Thomas Jefferson*

“The secret of happiness is freedom; the secret of freedom is courage.” – *Carrie Jones*

“Whenever I hear anyone arguing for slavery, I feel a strong impulse to see it tried on him personally.” – *Abraham Lincoln*

Three New Testament words for *freedom*, as discussed in the program and expanded here:

**Freedom:** Strongs #1658 eleutheros (el-yoo'-ther-os); unrestrained (to go at pleasure), i.e. (as a citizen) not a slave....

**Freedom:** Strongs #1659 eleutheroo; from 1658; to liberate, i.e. (figuratively) to exempt (from moral, ceremonial or mortal liability):

**Freedom:** Strongs #1657 eleutheria; from 1658; freedom (legitimate or licentious, chiefly moral or ceremonial):

- The first word carries a physical or civil sense of being free - not a slave, not being held under.

1 Corinthians 12:13: For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or **free <1658>**; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

Galatians 3:28: There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor **free <1658>**, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

- The second word carries a very full sense of being made free - not merely “not a slave,” but rather being liberated.

Romans 8:2: For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath **made me free <1659>** from the law of sin and death.



Galatians 5:1: Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath **made us free** <1659>, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

- The third word carries the personal application of being liberated - the ability to make personal decisions.

Galatians 5:1: Stand fast therefore in the **liberty** <1657> wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

1 Peter 2:16: As **free** <1658>, and not using your **liberty** <1657> for a cloak of maliciousness, but as the servants of God.

### Does God intend this freedom for the human race?

Genesis 22:15-18: KJV) <sup>15</sup>And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, <sup>16</sup>And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: <sup>17</sup>That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; <sup>18</sup>And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

Have ALL nations of the earth been blessed? Has “the seed of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob” (the lineage to which this promise was restated) blessed everyone?

A look at the Pledge of Allegiance and the changes it has undergone:

Official versions  
(changes in *bold italics*)

1892

"I pledge allegiance to my Flag and the republic for which it stands, one nation indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

1892 to 1922

"I pledge allegiance to my Flag and *to* the republic for which it stands: one nation indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

1923

"I pledge allegiance to *the* Flag *of the United States*, and to the republic for which it stands; one Nation indivisible with liberty and justice for all."

1924 to 1954

"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States *of America*, and to the republic for which it stands; one Nation indivisible with liberty and justice for all."

1954 to Present

"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one Nation *under God*, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Have you ever wondered why, if this has been such an important “pledge” for America, it didn’t include the “under God” phrase from the beginning?

Perhaps - and this is speculation, perhaps “under God” was such a given back in 1892, that it wasn’t deemed necessary? Perhaps in 1954 the trend towards godlessness was such, that there was a need to state what was once obvious?



## THE U.S. NATIONAL ARCHIVES & RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

### The Declaration of Independence: A Transcription

IN CONGRESS, July 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America,

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, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

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.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to affect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.--Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them. He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only. He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.



He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harrass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies:

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.





He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.