



One Nation Under...Who?

Isaiah 33:22: (KJV) For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; he will save us.

Today is a day unique in America, for history tells us that it was 234 years ago on this day that a group of men gathered in Philadelphia and approved the final draft of a declaration that would dramatically change their lives and eventually change the world. That Declaration of Independence would mark America as a symbol of liberty and freedom across the globe to which people from the farthest corners of the world would line up to be a part of. We want to look at the value of freedom as well as the role that God has played in America.

Our only question for Consideration:

What role has God played in the American Story?

A selection of Pre-Declaration quotes from some of the founders:

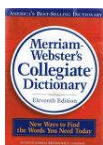
Patrick Henry: May 1765 Speech to the House of Burgesses It cannot be emphasized too clearly and too often that this nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religion, but on the gospel of Jesus Christ. For this very reason, peoples of other faiths have been afforded asylum, prosperity, and freedom of worship here.

James Madison: Letter by Madison to William Bradford, September 25, 1773 I have sometimes thought there could not be a stronger testimony in favor of religion or against temporal enjoyments, even the most rational and manly, than for men who occupy the most honorable and gainful departments and (who) are rising in reputation and wealth, publicly to declare the unsatisfactoriness (of temporal enjoyments) by becoming fervent advocates in the cause of Christ; and I wish you may give in your evidence in this way.

Thomas Jefferson: November 29, 1775 Believe me, dear Sir: there is not in the British empire a man who more cordially loves a union with Great Britain than I do. But, by the God that made me, I will cease to exist before I yield to a connection on such terms as the British Parliament proposes; and in this, I think I speak the sentiments of America.

John Hancock: "A Day of Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer, with a total abstinence from labor and recreation. Proclamation on Apr 15, 1775" In circumstances as dark as these, it becomes us, as Men and Christians, to reflect that whilst every prudent measure should be taken to ward off the impending judgments, ...at the same time all confidence must be withheld from the means we use; and reposed only on that God rules in the armies of Heaven, and without His whole blessing, the best human counsels are but foolishness... Resolved; ...Thursday the 11th of May...to humble themselves before God under the heavy judgments felt and feared, to confess the sins that have deserved them, to implore the Forgiveness of all our transgressions, and a spirit of repentance and reformation ...and a Blessing on the ... Union of the American Colonies in Defense of their Rights (for which hitherto we desire to thank Almighty God)...That the people of Great Britain and their rulers may have their eyes opened to discern the things that shall make for the peace of the nation...for the redress of America's many grievances, the restoration of all her invaded liberties, and their security to the latest generations.

So, what are the operative words here? Faith and trust! With a foundation of TRUE FAITH, trust abounds...



Trust *noun*

1a: assured reliance on the character, ability, strength, or truth of someone or something

b: one in which confidence is placed

trust *verb* 1a: to place confidence : depend <trust in God> b: to be confident : hope

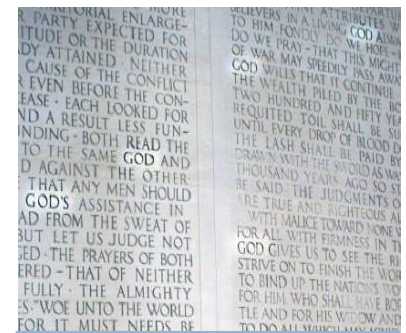


2 Samuel 22:1-7: (NKJV) ¹Then David spoke to the LORD the words of this song, on the day when the LORD had delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul. ²And he said: "The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; ³The God of my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge; my Savior, You save me from violence. ⁴I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised; So shall I be saved from my enemies. ⁵When the waves of death surrounded me, the floods of ungodliness made me afraid. ⁶The sorrows of Sheol surrounded me; the snares of death confronted me. ⁷In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried out to my God; He heard my voice from His temple, and my cry entered His ears.

Psalms 16:1-8: (NKJV) ¹Preserve me, O God, for in You I put my trust. ²O my soul, you have said to the LORD, "You are my Lord, my goodness is nothing apart from You." ³As for the saints who are on the earth, "They are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight." ⁴Their sorrows shall be multiplied who hasten after another god; Their drink offerings of blood I will not offer, nor take up their names on my lips. ⁵O LORD, You are the portion of my inheritance and my cup; You maintain my lot. ⁶The lines have fallen to me in pleasant places; yes, I have a good inheritance. ⁷I will bless the LORD who has given me counsel; My heart also instructs me in the night seasons. ⁸I have set the LORD always before me; because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved.

Proverbs 3:5-6: (NKJV) ⁵Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

Our founding fathers were looking for a sense of clarity as to how to develop a country that would reflect Godly principles.



An excerpt from Abraham Lincoln's second inaugural speech carved into the interior of the Lincoln Memorial.

1 Timothy 4:10: (NKJV) For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe.

Once, not so many years ago, here in America, there existed a heartfelt trust - a legitimate, sober life-directing trust in God. Over time that trust has lost its luster; it has not only gone by the wayside, but in the eyes of many has become something that should not only be ignored, but shunned, buried and even purged from memory.

Why? I don't claim to know why - we can give you some observations:

- God is forgotten due to a lack of perceived evidence; we readily see evil in the world.
- God is forgotten and has been replaced by science; but God created science! We replace the Creator with what he created.
- God is forgotten and has been replaced by philosophy; we've reasoned God right out of our lives.
- God is forgotten and has been replaced by ME. We are very dependent on things that take up our thinking and care.

Why would we doubt God's worthiness of trust?



The four potential views of God related to our world:

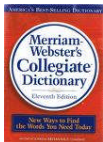
1. God is not worthy of our trust and doesn't want our trust.
2. God is not worthy of our trust and but he does want our trust.
3. God is worthy of our trust and but doesn't care to be trusted.
4. God is worthy of our trust and has proven his worthiness.

Isaiah 55:7-11: (NRSV) ⁷let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. ¹⁰For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

God is saying that what He says will happen. It is interesting that at the time the Bible was written, the science of the water cycle was not understood. The information came from God. God does know, God does care, and therefore God is worthy of our trust.

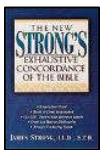
In early America, this trust in God was tangible. It could be felt, it could be seen, and it therefore could be emulated. Their cause was that of freedom - freedom to live, worship and thrive, without the heavy hand of tyranny beating them down.

So, what is freedom?



1. the quality or state of being free: as a: the absence of necessity, coercion, or constraint in choice or action b: liberation from slavery or restraint or from the power of another: c: the quality or state of being exempt or released usually from something onerous <freedom from care>

New Testament words for freedom:



Strong's #1658 eleutheros (el-yoo'-ther-os); unrestrained (to go at pleasure), i.e. (as a citizen) not a slave (whether freeborn or manumitted), or (genitive case) exempt (from obligation or liability): KJV-free (man, woman), at liberty.

Strong's #1659 eleutheroo (el-yoo'-ther-o'-o); to liberate, i.e. (figuratively) to exempt (from moral, ceremonial or mortal liability): KJV-deliver, make free.

Strong's #1657 eleutheria (el-yoo'-ther-ee'-ah); freedom (legitimate or licentious, chiefly moral or ceremonial): KJV- liberty.

The first word for freedom 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 for freedom 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 for freedom 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 cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God.



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.
- 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, etc., 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 "freedom with responsibility."



Chapel of the U.S. Capitol;
stained glass window of
George Washington
praying.

Even in a society where one can't be (socially) free, it doesn't mean one can't be free spiritually.

Why in our society, when the forefathers were not interested in a church-state union, is God mentioned over and over again? A church-state union by definition is where the government kowtows to the church. The founders wanted a state that ran itself and allowed churches to flourish. In allowing for freedom of religion, they looked to God as the source of their freedom.

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;
- There can never be freedom without contribution.

This has changed dramatically. When we look at freedom in America, God is our source of our ability to be free and supplies us the means to allow us to be free. Have we forgotten this?



"In God We Still Trust," sung by Diamond Rio

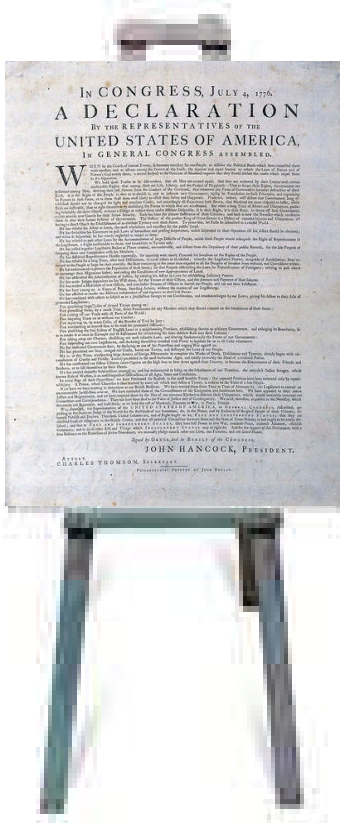
For some reason, our society seems to want to take God out of everything. By doing so, we reduce our ability to have a high moral and ethical standard, and live righteously.

Does God intend this freedom for the human race? (We believe yes!)

Genesis 22:15-18: (KJV) ¹⁵And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, ¹⁶And 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: ¹⁷That 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; ¹⁸And 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? No, which means that is in the future, because God promised it.

The Declaration of Independence was signed on July 4, 1776, and was read publicly four days later in the Philadelphia State House Yard. After its reading, the Liberty Bell rang out, announcing America's freedom.



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...

...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.

To make such a declaration as this requires the deepest dedication to its fulfillment. Were those who signed their names to this willing to live it?

(Source: Excerpts from "Death and Freedom," a sermon by Dr. Neil Chadwick found on 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 rags.

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.

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.

In addition, five signers were captured by the British as traitors and tortured before they died, and nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War.

What *kind* of Declaration of freedom did Jesus come to deliver?

John 8:23-37: (NIV) ²³But he continued, "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. ²⁴I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am the one I claim to be, you will indeed die in your sins." ²⁵"Who are you?" they asked. "Just what I have been claiming all along," Jesus replied. ²⁶"I have much to say in judgment of you. But he who sent me is reliable, and what I have heard from him I tell the world." ²⁷They did not understand that he was telling them about his Father. ²⁸So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am the one I claim to be and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me. ^{29} The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him." ³⁰Even as he spoke, many put their faith in him. ³¹To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³²Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." ³³They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?" ³⁴Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. ³⁵Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. ³⁶So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. ³⁷I know you are Abraham's descendants. Yet you are ready to kill me, because you have no room for my word."

Jesus said to believe in him in order to have a spiritual freedom that is deeper and more abiding. To make such a declaration as this requires the deepest dedication to its fulfillment.



Was Jesus willing to live what he said?

Isaiah 53:3-12: (NRSV) ³He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account. ⁴Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. ⁵But 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. ⁶All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. ⁷He 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. ⁸By 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. ⁹They 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. ¹⁰Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him



with pain. When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the LORD shall prosper. ¹¹Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. ¹²Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Back to the founders - now looking at them *after* the Declaration:

George Washington: May 2, 1778, at Valley Forge To the distinguished character of patriot, it should be our highest glory to add the more distinguished character of Christian."

James Madison: At the Constitutional Convention of 1787, www.eadshome.com 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 the model our government was built upon!



Moses on the rear facade of the Supreme Court.

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.

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."

Micah 6:6-8: (NKJV) ⁶With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before the High God? Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? ⁷Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? ⁸He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?

George Washington - the day of his swearing in as America's first President:

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.

George Washington - His farewell address in 1796: Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports... And let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion... Reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail to the exclusion of religious principle.

Mark 12:28-34: (NKJV) ²⁸Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, "Which is the first commandment of all?" ²⁹Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one. ³⁰And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment. ³¹And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." ³²So the scribe said to Him, "Well said,



Teacher. You have spoken the truth, for there is one God, and there is no other but He. ³³And to love Him with all the heart, with all the understanding, with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." ³⁴Now when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, He said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." But after that no one dared question him.

Freedom must always be fought for:

Ephesians 6:10-13: (NIV) ¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹²For 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. ¹³Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

Thank God that His son Jesus lived and died as a Declaration of Freedom to all men!

Acts 3:19-21: (NRSV) ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out, ²⁰so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Messiah appointed for you, that is, Jesus, ²¹who must remain in heaven until the time of universal restoration that God announced long ago through his holy prophets.

Daniel 7:13-14: (NRSV) ¹³As 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. ¹⁴To 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.

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.



"Our King is Marching On," as sung by SheDaisy

We as Christians look at the Godly principles this nation was founded upon and try to live our Christian lives living those principles.

**So it's one nation under...who?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions,
Think about it...!**



Moses with the Ten Commandments inside the Supreme Court's courtroom.



For Your Continued Study:

We ran out of time! Here are additional Scriptures for your consideration:

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.*

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.*

Micah 4:1-5: (KJV) ¹*But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. ²And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ³And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. ⁴But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken it. ⁵For all people will walk every one in the name of his god, and we will walk in the name of the LORD our God for ever and ever.*