

Two Questions Regarding the Fig Tree (Part 2): An Independence Day Intermission

(2 Chronicles 7:14)

“If my people, who are called by my name, humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

On this first day of the two hundred and fiftieth year of our nation’s history, we come before God in the religious freedom to worship Him according to Scripture and our conscience. God has endowed this particular nation and its denizens with a freedom to worship within the bounds of the regulative principle of worship; this nation is unique in that it avoided the issue of sectarianism in our government (meaning, we do not have a theocratic rule that imposes one particular religion upon people; every Christian desires to win souls to Christ through the proclamation of the Word and not by threat of the sword; there is a time to wield the sword, but evangelism is not that time). The point is this; our founding has brought us the peace, prosperity, and freedom to worship the Triune God free from persecution!

As we pass through this very topical sermon, I want you to consider this question first; whose people are we? As the passage plainly teaches, God says, “if MY people” - contextually of course, we are dealing in that passage with the Hebrew people under Solomon, but with the advent of the church through the union of the bodies of Jew and Gentile in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we are now of Abraham who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and His finished work. I ask the question then again, but more specific this time; whose people are Americans? Who do we belong to? Are we covenant with God or are we meant to be a secular nation void of allegiance to God? It is of tremendous value to us today to see the covenant established between us and God

by looking through a bit of our history and particularly our founding on this, the day after the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

We have, at best, been lied to, but at worst, purposely deceived, regarding the founders of this nation. I cannot tell you how many times growing up that I have been told that all the founders were “deists” which held a general monotheism and a belief that God did not intervene in the plight of mortals. This directly contradicts what we find in the writings of the founders who reference Jesus often by Name, calling Him God. We are also told that the “separation of church and state” - which is not seen in the Constitution - means that our founding was secular and void of religious purposes. These are lies from darwinists, marxists, pagans and so on who hate God and who hate the foundations of this nation; they hate this nation, because this nation is like many before that have accomplished much for the glory of God.

A quick glance at our history, beginning with one of society's biggest enemies, Christopher Columbus, will reveal the skewed opinion of our nation's haters. If all you have heard about Columbus is how he thought he was in the East Indies and therefore named the people Indians, how he was cruel and enslaved the Indians, and so on, you have been told a flat lie and countless half truths. Even the purpose for which he was sent was not as simple as “go find a new route to India” - no, it was much more than this. Hear the words of Columbus from his own journal¹:

¹<https://pressbooks.nvcc.edu/eng255/chapter/the-journals-of-christopher-columbus-during-his-first-voyage-1492-1493/>

“BECAUSE, O most Christian, and very high, very excellent, and puissant Princes, King and Queen of the Spains and of the islands of the Sea, our Lords, in this present year of 1492, after your Highnesses had given an end to the war with the Moors who reigned in Europe, and had finished it in the very great city of Granada, where in this present year, on the second day of the month of January, by force of arms, I saw the royal banners of your Highnesses placed on the towers of Alfambra, which is the fortress of that city, and I saw the Moorish King come forth from the gates of the city and kiss the royal hands of your Highnesses, and of the Prince my Lord, and presently in that same month, acting on the information that I had given to your Highnesses touching the lands of India, and respecting a Prince who is called Gran Can, which means in our language King of Kings, how **he and his ancestors had sent to Rome many times to ask for learned men of our holy faith to teach him, and how the Holy Father had never complied, insomuch that many people believing in idolatries were lost by receiving doctrine of perdition: YOUR Highnesses, as Catholic Christians and Princes who love the holy Christian faith, and the propagation of it, and who are enemies to the sect of Mahoma and to all idolatries and heresies, resolved to send me, Cristobal Colon, to the said parts of India to see the said princes, and the cities and lands, and their disposition, with a view that they might be converted to our holy faith; and** ordered that I should not go by land to the eastward, as had been customary, but that I should go by way of the west, whither up to this day, we do not know for certain that any one has gone.”

There you have, from the horse's mouth, the purpose of Christopher Columbus sailing to (what he thought was) India. He desired to share the Gospel with men that were hungry for the Word of God and in desperate need of it (notice he even recognized that their present idolatry and beliefs were causing them to be led to perdition, which is Hell).

Now, several years later, in 1620, we have perhaps the most important document written in the history of the New World. When the Pilgrims came (remember that old Thanksgiving story), they landed at Plymouth Rock and composed a precise document as to what their intentions were in the New World. They were not merely settling for settling's sake, nor were they gold rush miners. They had a particular purpose in settling in the New World²:

“Having undertaken for the glory of God, and advancement of the Christian Faith, and honor of our King and Country, a Voyage to plant the first Colony in the Northern parts of Virginia; do by these presents solemnly and mutually, in the presence of God and one another, covenant, and combine ourselves together into a civil body politick, for our better ordering and preservation and furtherance of the ends aforesaid; and by virtue hereof do enact, constitute, and frame such just and equal Laws, Ordinances, acts, constitutions, and offices from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the general good of the Colony; unto which we promise all due submission and obedience.”

As with Columbus, we see the people of New Plymouth telling with their own mouths what the purpose of their voyage was; the desired to plant a colony in Northern Virginia for the “glory of God” and the “advancement of the Christian faith” and in honor of “King and Country”

² <https://www.gilderlehrman.org/sites/default/files/inline-pdfs/The%20Mayflower%20Compact.pdf>

(keep in mind, the Declaration of Independence is not written for 156 more years). As with Columbus, the people of New Plymouth sought to spread Christianity; Columbus desired to spread Christianity to India and ended up in the West Indies while the Plymouth settlers sought to share Christianity with the indigenous people in Northern Virginia!

If we were to pause here, just with these two samples, we could ask this question; what was the purpose of the men that came to the New World? Was it simply to colonize and devastate the indigenous people or was it something more? Was it to genocide nations or was it to proclaim the Gospel? At this point, who were the settlers of this nation covenanted with? Who did we belong to as a nation? Remember, God says, “If MY people” - if we are His, then there is an obligation of duty on our part and a wonderful promise to come on His part!

Let us continue:

On July 4th, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was signed by delegates from the thirteen colonies. These signatories signed their names to a document addressing the grievances of the King of England against the colonies. Included in this document are phrases, some familiar and some less so, that invariably declare allegiance to a particular God. They may not list Jesus by Name as some may protest, but the character and context of the words used tell us which God they signatories follow. Below is a list of quotes regarding the God of the Declaration of Independence³:

“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

³ <https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/declaration-transcript>

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.”

“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.”

Again, though the Declaration of Independence does not directly cite Jesus by Name, nor does the Constitution, these documents are composed by apparently religious people; many would even say that these people followed “Judeo-Christian” worldviews and law, but this is still an attempt to usurp the purpose of this New World. The founders were at times implicitly Christian, as with the Constitution which follows common law and the Biblical law and case laws and with the Declaration which cites God at the least, but then attributes to that God particularly Christian doctrines.

At other times, however, the founders were explicitly Christian. Not just Christian for the sake of Christian tradition, but so Christian that service in government positions required a statement of faith similar to what a Pastor might give before taking on a pastorate. Nine of the original thirteen colonies required a statement of faith or a religious oath in order to take part in politics. Here is a reading of them⁴:

Delaware, 1776

Every person who shall be chosen a member of either house, or appointed to any office or place of trust, before taking his seat, or entering upon the execution of his office, shall take the following oath, or affirmation, if conscientiously scrupulous of taking an oath, to wit: “I, do profess faith in God the Father, and in Jesus Christ His only Son, and in the Holy Ghost, one God, blessed for evermore; and I do acknowledge the holy scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be given by divine inspiration.”

Maryland, 1776

That no other test or qualification ought to be required, on admission to any office of trust or profit, than such oath of support and fidelity to this State, and such oath of office, as shall be directed by this Convention or the Legislature of this State, and a declaration of a belief in the Christian religion.

⁴<https://csac.history.wisc.edu/religion-and-the-ratification/religious-test-clause/religious-tests-and-oaths-in-state-constitutions-1776-1784/>

New Jersey, 1776

No Protestant inhabitant of this Colony shall be denied the enjoyment of any civil right, merely on account of his religious principles; but that all persons, professing a belief in the faith of any Protestant sect. who shall demean themselves peaceably under the government, as hereby established, shall be capable of being elected into any office of profit or trust, or being a member of either branch of the Legislature. . . .

Pennsylvania, 1776

I do believe in one God, the creator and governor of the universe, the rewarder of the good and the punisher of the wicked. And I do acknowledge the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be given by Divine inspiration.

North Carolina, 1776

That no person, who shall deny the being of God or the truth of the Protestant religion, or the divine authority either of the Old or New Testaments, or who shall hold religious principles incompatible with the freedom and safety of the State, shall be capable of holding any office or place of trust or profit in the civil department within this State.

Georgia, 1777

The representatives shall be . . . of the Protestant religion. . . .

Vermont, 1777

And each member, before he takes his seat, shall make and subscribe the following declaration, ”

I ____ do believe in one God, the Creator and Governor of the Diverse, the rewarder of the good and punisher of the wicked. And I do acknowledge the scriptures of the old and new testament to be given by divine inspiration, and own and profess the protestant religion.”

Massachusetts, 1780

Any person chosen governor, lieutenant-governor, councillor, senator, or representative, and accepting the trust, shall, before he proceed to execute the duties of his place or office, make and subscribe the following declaration: “I . . . do declare that I believe the Christian religion, and have a firm persuasion of its truth; and that I am seized and possessed, in my own right, of the property required by the constitution, as one qualification for the office or place to which I am elected.”

New Hampshire, 1784

Every member of the house of representatives shall be of the Protestant religion. . . . That no person shall be capable of being elected a senator who is not of the Protestant religion. . . . The President shall be chosen annually; and no person shall be eligible to this office, unless at the time of his election, he . . . shall be of the protestant religion.

We can very easily interpret the Constitution in a vacuum and pretend that there was no context to what was written therein. This is unimaginably easy to do, especially with eternal matters on the line; if the Enemy wants to deceive this particular nation, then he needs to begin to erode the foundation with a little trickle of water that over time becomes a second great Deluge. He has certainly done as much; we now pretend that the Constitution is the god of the Land, but we ignore the foundation and the founders and their personal beliefs; the people that drafted the Declaration and ratified the Constitution were not godless heathens nor were they secular atheists and deists; the majority were believers in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The writers of our constitution would have had purposes that would have plainly followed the purposes given by Columbus, which was to spread the Gospel, the pilgrims, which was to spread the Gospel, the declaration, which was to defend Christians against a tyrant, and the individual states who thought that the most basic requirement for unity and public service was through personal belief in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

To conclude this thought, I would pose this question: what is the foundation of this nation? Whose people are we? If we were honest, we would openly declare Scripture as the nation's foundation; if Scripture is the foundation, then what should be the result? God's people would accomplish God's will! After 250 years, I would submit to you that no nation has ever produced as much good as this nation has; the Gospel has been proclaimed on every street corner and countless multitudes have been and are being saved.

Nevertheless, the foundations are certainly being eroded. Proclaiming the Gospel is cause for mockery and exclusion, Scripture is censored and distorted, churches are persecuted and the men and women who profess the Name of Christ flee from battle for the sake of inclusivity and love falsely called. We are a nation built upon the rock of Christ; we erected a glorious temple

for His honor, but instead of worshipping God in that temple, we have brought in foreign gods and worshipped them instead; we have brought upon ourselves a just judgement! The blood of countless multitudes screams up to God from our soil; will God hear their voices? Do we suppose that God cannot see what we have done to the Lands He has won for Himself? Will He remain in glory or will He step down from on high and render a just judgement upon a nation that forsook Him?

If God were to step down and examine this fig tree of America that He planted, what do you suppose He would find? I would say, at a simple glance, God would find worse than mere leaves. Seeing only leaves was enough for Christ to cause the fig tree to wither at once, but this nation is doing far worse right now than producing “no” fruit. We are a diseased tree producing diseased fruit; if our fruit is diseased, what is our tree good for? We began this nation’s history by producing shockingly tasty fruit, but what changed? Our roots were given to the streams of wormwood and our nutrients came from Darwin and Marx instead of Christ and Scripture. We gave ourselves over to serve the creature, rather than the creator who is blessed forever!

We are certainly a land needing judgement and a people in need of condemnation, but God is a God of grace. Though we have offered our children on the altars of Molech and our bodies on the altars of Ashtoreth and our very identities on the altar of Self, He has to this point relented, though time is short. Warnings are falling upon this nation with women in leadership positions, child-like personalities given kingdoms, natural disasters galore and so on; as Joshua said so long ago to the nation of Israel, “Choose this day whom you will follow!” Now is the time to choose; you can go on about as you have always done and quietly watch as the nation you love is given to judgement; you can watch as multitudes of serpents and carrion birds descend upon the remnant of a previously covenanted people, or you can repent. You can choose

this day whom to follow; you can turn from your sins both of omission and commission, and turn to Christ and fight for Him as our ancestors did.

You can live this day in peace and give the fight to your children and their children after them; you can ignore your calling to this present day and forsake the war God has called you to; you can say you follow Christ while abandoning the orders of the King of Glory! You can ascend the walls knowing victory is assured or you can go and die in your sin and shame quietly in your bed knowing full well that you abandoned the plight of men like the Plymouth settlers who came here for this purpose: the advancement of the Christian faith to the glory of God!

We do not fight with the weapons of this world (though there is certainly a time to wield a sword). We fight by proclaiming the Word of God. We stand on His truth and proclaim His truth to all of Creation, knowing that the Sheep of God's pasture will hear His voice and turn and be healed. We fight by preaching the Gospel to sinners who yet cling to their old gods of self and satan; we fight by proclaiming that Jesus Christ died on the cross for sinners and that three days later, He rose again. May we now pick up the sword of God's Word and fight!