

**Will God Bless America?  
Psalm 33:12**

**Big Idea – God will bless those people who obey Him.**

**1. God blessed America because it was founded on biblical principles aka Judeo-Christian values.**

*Psalms 33:12 "Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD... "*

Note these quotations from great Americans of the past:

**George Washington**, "It is impossible to rightly govern without God and the Bible."

**Patrick Henry**, "It cannot be emphasized too strongly that this nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religion, but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

**Andrew Jackson**, "The Bible is the Rock upon which our republic rests."

**John Adams**, "The Bible is the best Book in the world. The earlier my children begin to read it, the more confident will be my hopes that they will prove useful citizens."

**Benjamin Harrison**, "It is out of the Word of God that a system has come to make life sweet. If you blot out from your statute books, your Constitution, and your family life, all that is taken from the sacred Book, what would be left to bind this great society together?"

**Horace Greeley**, "It is impossible to mentally or socially enslave a Bible-reading people. Its principles are the groundwork of human freedom."

**Ulysses S. Grant**, "To the influence of the Bible we are indebted for the progress made in true civilization. It is the anchor of our liberties."

**Woodrow Wilson**, "America was born a Christian nation. America was born to exemplify that devotion to the elements of righteousness which are derived from the revelations of Holy Scripture. There are a good many problems before the American people today ... but I expect to find the solution to those problems just in the proportion that I am faithful in the study of the Word of God."

**Daniel Webster**, "If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible, our country will go on prospering. But if we and our prosperity neglect its instructions and authority, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us and bury all our glory in profound obscurity." "If religious books are not widely circulated among the masses in this country, I do not know what is going to become of us as a nation. If truth be not diffused, error will be. If God and His Word are not known and received, the devil and his works will gain the ascendancy ... If the power of the Gospel is not felt throughout the length and breadth of the land, anarchy and misrule, degradation and misery, corruption and darkness will reign without mitigation and without end."

America has been blessed because it was founded on biblical principles. True freedom can never be enjoyed by people who refuse to fear God. We need to pray for our nation and recommit ourselves to living as God's people should. Let's heed these famous voices of the past which underscore the truth of Psalm 33:12, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD ..."

## 2. God blessed America in the past because America honored Him and upheld His standard of righteousness.

*Proverbs 14:34 "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people."*

*"Doing what is right makes a nation great, but sin will bring disgrace to any people."*

This nation was forged out by people who recognized their dependence upon Almighty God.

They knew that neither they, nor this nation could make it without the assistance of God.

**Our founding fathers were men of CONVICTION** who stood for what they believed no matter what the cost and were **COMMITTED to God**, to His authority, and to the foundational principles of His Word. They did not hesitate to legislate morality.

For the first 160 years of our history, most laws were based on the laws of God.

**John Quincy Adams** on July 4, 1821 said, "From the day of the Declaration...they (the American people) were bound by the laws of God, which they all, and by the laws of the Gospel, which they nearly all, acknowledged as the rules of conduct."

**James Madison** the fourth President of the United States said, "We have staked the whole of all our political institutions upon the capacity of mankind for self-government, upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves, to control ourselves, to sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God."

It is interesting that all 50 states acknowledge God in their state Constitution: For example,

The charter of Rhode Island in 1638 states, "We submit our persons, lives, and estates, unto our Lord Jesus Christ, the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords and to all those perfect absolute laws He has given us in His Holy Word."

In the 1776 Preamble of Maryland's Constitution, it states, "We, the people of the state of Maryland, grateful to Almighty God for our civil and religious liberty..."

In the 1776 Preamble of Pennsylvania's Constitution, it states, "We, the people of Pennsylvania, grateful to Almighty God for the blessings of civil and religious liberty, and humbly invoking His guidance..."

In the 1818 Preamble of Connecticut's Constitution it states, "The people of Connecticut, acknowledge with gratitude the good Providence of God in permitting them to enjoy."

In the 1844 Preamble of New Jersey's Constitution we find, "We, the people of the state of New Jersey, grateful to Almighty God for civil and religious liberty which He hath so long permitted us to enjoy, and looking to Him for a blessing on our endeavors."

In the 1868 Preamble of North Carolina's Constitution we find, "We the people of the State of North Carolina, are grateful to Almighty God, the Sovereign Ruler of Nations, for our civil, political, and religious liberties, and we are acknowledging our dependence upon Him for the continuance of those."

In the Pledge of Allegiance as adopted by Congress on June 14, 1954, are the words we repeated earlier, "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."

You will discover, upon investigation, statements indelibly etched on many of our national monuments in Washington D.C. All bear unmistakable testimony to the fact America is one nation under God,

founded for the furtherance of the gospel and the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ. Next time you travel to Washington D.C. remember to look for these:

Inside the Capitol building you will see in the rotunda a **picture of the Pilgrims about to embark from Holland on the sister Ship of the Mayflower, the Speedwell. The great chaplain, Brewster, has open on his lap the Bible, and there very clearly are the words, 'The New Testament according to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.' On the sail is the motto of the Pilgrims, 'In God We Trust, God with Us.'**

As you walk up the steps to the building which houses the U.S Supreme Court you can see near the top of the building a row of the world's law givers and each one is facing one in the middle who is facing forward with a full frontal view ... it is Moses and he is holding the Ten Commandments!

As you enter the Supreme Court courtroom, the 2 huge oak doors have the Ten Commandments engraved on each lower portion of each door.

**In the Supreme Court courtroom above the head of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court are the Ten Commandments.**

**In the Senate across from the eyes of the President of the Senate, who is the Vice President of the United States, are the words, "In God We Trust." Above the American flag that is behind the Speaker of the House of Representatives you will find large words inscribed in the marble, "In God We Trust."**

There is no doubt that our forefathers paid a great price so that their posterity could live in freedom. Dare we be willing to pay any less a price for the same ends, today?

One who dared to stand for the price of freedom was **Francis Scott Key the author of our nation anthem, The "Star Spangled Banner."**

Here's the story of our national anthem and the "Star Spangled Banner" that inspired it. When Major Armistead took command of Fort McHenry in 1813, he commissioned **Mary Pickersgill**, a Baltimore flag maker, to make two flags. One was a large garrison flag for which she was paid \$405.90 and a smaller one, a storm flag, for which she was paid \$168.54. Mary Pickersgill had her daughter, two nieces, and an indentured African-American girl help her. The **large garrison flag was sewn from common wool and cotton. It measured 30x42 feet with stars about two feet in diameter** and stripes two feet wide. This was the flag that would inspire Francis Scott Key's poem that would become our national anthem.

Prior to the battle for Baltimore that took General Ross' life, friends of Dr. William Beanes, who was being held on a British ship eight miles away down the river as a prisoner of war, had asked Georgetown lawyer Francis Scott Key to join John S. Skinner, the American prisoner-exchange agent, on a humanitarian mission to seek the doctor's release. Boarding the British ship under a truce flag on September 3, Admiral Cochrane and General Ross, who was aboard at the time, refused, believing Dr. Beanes to be an informant for the enemy. Having been shown letters from British soldiers who testified to the kindness and care of the doctor, they then consented to his release, but detained them for some days until the battle was over, fearing they might divulge their plans to the Americans if they let them go.

During the assault on the fort, the British, landing a direct hit, threw aside caution and moved their ships closer as the battle raged through the stormy night. With the vessels finally coming within range of Fort

McHenry's guns, the determined defenders trained all their cannons on the British ships and managed to so damage them that they were forced to withdraw. Admiral Cochrane ordered a land attack against the rear of the fort in an attempt to scale its walls, but it also failed when the guns of nearby Fort Covington drove the attackers off. By dawn the British could see that all hope of taking the fort and the city were gone.

At 7:30 a.m. on September 14, 1814, British Admiral Cochrane called off the assault. Because of a heavy rainstorm, Major Armistead had flown the smaller storm flag through most of the battle, but at dawn, with the British retreating, he ordered the large garrison flag raised as the troops in the fort, no doubt with loud cheers, fired their guns and played "Yankee Doodle." Three months later, the war ended. It is widely believed that the successful defense of Baltimore and Fort McHenry played a large part in the British decision to sign a truce. Francis Scott Key and the others had been permitted to return to the truce ship but under heavy guard so they could not leave or signal the shore. He had been on deck all through the night anxiously watching the battle unfold. When the bombardment ended and he saw the British withdrawing, he could see through the morning mist on that September 14 morning the large garrison flag flying over the American fort. Deeply moved, he wrote, on the back of a letter he had in his pocket, the poem that would become our national anthem. Originally entitled "The Defense of Fort McHenry," it had four stanzas.

The middle two were eventually dropped from the anthem, probably because they contained some language unfavorable to the British who became our friends. (Their blood has washed out their foul footsteps' pollution.) The last verse became the second and it was set to a popular tune of the day and was renamed "The Star Spangled Banner" in 1815.

In 1890, the military adopted it and ordered it played at the raising and lowering of the flag. Both the Army and Navy designated it the national anthem in 1917 for ceremonial purposes and Congress and President Hoover made it official on March 3, 1931.

Today, there are those who would change our national anthem to something else. With forces around the world plotting to destroy this country and deprive us of, in Jefferson's words, "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," "The Star Spangled Banner" has no equal and should not be replaced. We should insist it be sung properly, as written, with all standing, hats off, hands over hearts. We should insist schools teach it to our children and insist it be sung regularly in a patriotic opening. (California law provides for this even though some schools ignore the law.)

For many the first verse of "The Star Spangled Banner" is very familiar:

O say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,  
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?  
Whose broad strips and bright stars, thru the perilous fight,  
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?  
And the rocket's red glare, The bombs bursting in air,  
Gave proof thru the night that our flag was still there.  
O say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

The second verse of "The Star Spangled Banner" is rarely sung. Many probably do not even know it exists.

**Here is the 4th verse of "The Star-Spangled Banner":**

O! thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand  
Between their loved home and the war's desolation!  
Blest with victory and peace, may the heav'n rescued land  
Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation.  
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,  
And this be our motto: 'In God is our trust.'  
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

Christians should remember that many of those who fought and died for our country in the Revolutionary War and again in 1812 were devout Christians who did not believe that faith in God should keep them out of politics and the defense of America. Neither did they believe that the name of God has no place in national life. They were unashamed in their belief that America is a "heaven-rescued land" and that it is imperative that we proclaim "In God is our trust" to our nation.

The need for this caliber of Christian is as great as ever. May the words of our national anthem remain true as long as God allows our great nation to exist!

*Jeremiah 4:2, "The Lord lives in truth, in judgment or justice and in RIGHTEOUSNESS..."*

You will notice the key word in these passages is the word RIGHTEOUS or RIGHTEOUSNESS. It comes from the Hebrew word meaning to "BE or TO MAKE RIGHT" in a moral sense. We are at an hour in our nation where we must do something about this verse. The issue we are faced with today is a MORAL issue, an issue of "RIGHTEOUSNESS." We must continually remind our elected officials that "RIGHTEOUSNESS elevates a nation to greatness."

It was the French Statesman Alexis de Tocqueville in the early 19th century who wrote this about America. "Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits aflame with RIGHTEOUSNESS did I understand the secret of her genius and power."

What made America great were the flaming PULPITS of God's men proclaiming the righteousness of the Word of God, and God's people living RIGHTEOUS lives from the MORAL ABSOLUTES of this book.

It is no accident that our nation has enjoyed fantastic freedom. In Proverbs 14:34 again we read, "Righteousness exalts a nation...." Our nation was steeped in RIGHTEOUSNESS, and as a result enjoyed Freedom. Today we must maintain that freedom by continually being the moral conscience of the nation. Please listen:

When we lose our freedoms we lose the platform for the preaching of the Word of God.

When we lose our freedoms we lose the context for the establishment, and the development and the expansion of the church, through the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Where in all the world has the gospel made its greatest impact - France, India, Africa, or Russia? The gospel has made its greatest impact, unparalleled in human history, in these United States. Why? Because of the freedom we have as a result of obedience to the Word of God and its MORAL ABSOLUTES. But

When we lose our concern for MORAL RIGHTEOUSNESS,

When we don't speak out for MORAL RIGHTEOUSNESS,

But are silent on MORAL RIGHTEOUSNESS due to political correctness,

If we say that it is not our responsibility before long we will find that our freedoms have disappeared! Our freedoms to rejoice will be turned to slavery and mourning. And as a result, it will not be long before the impact the gospel has made on this nation will not only be denied but eventually gone.

Edmund Burke said, "The only thing necessary for evil to triumph is that good men do nothing." That's exactly what too many of us have done, absolutely nothing. We are too busy making money, watching TV, fixing our yard and doing things that don't have eternal consequences to save this nation.

You and I live in a democratic republic, a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. That makes us the ultimate decision-makers, and before God, we are ultimately responsible for what takes place in this nation.

### **3. God blessed America in the past because America blessed Israel.**

*Genesis 12:2 "God said to Abram... I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing.*

*3 I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."*

### **4. If America deserts Israel and continues to "forget God" she will lose the blessing of God, much like England did.**

*Genesis 12:3b "...and I will curse him who curses you..."*

It once was true that the sun never set on the British empire, but no longer. When did this happen? Shortly after Britain deserted Israel in 1948.

### **5. If America repents and returns to God He will heal our land.**

*II Chronicles 7:14 "If my people which are called by my name shall humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."*

The only hope for returning this nation back to God is for those of us who name the name of God to turn back to God and become once again the moral consciousness of this nation

*II Chronicles 7:14 reads, "If my people which are called by my name shall humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."* Remember this:

Nations do not repent, individuals repent.

Nations don't turn from their sins, individuals turn from their sins.

Nations do not get right with God, individuals get right with God.

Remember also that God would have spared Sodom and Gomorrah from His judgment if there had been found only 10 righteous people! How many righteous will it take for God to bless America once again?

America is but a reflection of our heart and lives. May we do all we can to stand for **RIGHTEOUSNESS**, so that the next generation can still have "One nation under God."