

The Making of America – Part 1

Psalm 11:3

If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?

Over the next couple of weeks, we're going to go on a historical journey to uncover our nation's foundation. We're going to be reminded that **the foundation of our nation is the Word of God.**

Andrew Jackson, the 7th president of the United States, said, "The Bible is the Rock on which our republic rests."

One of our founding fathers, Benjamin Franklin, at the age of 81, stood before a room full of officials and said, "God governs in the affairs of men. If a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it possible for an empire to rise without His aid?"

I want you to consider the following:

The words *"In God We trust"* are engraved in the wall above the platform of the Speaker of the House.

Each President at their inauguration says, *"So help me God."*

Christmas, the birth of Christ, is a national holiday.

Our national anthem mentions God.

The Declaration of Independence mentions our Creator four times.

The foundation of our nation is built upon the biblical principles of God's Word.

The reason why the Liberty Bell is called the LB is because there's a verse engraved around the top of it.

The verse is **Lev 25:10**, *"Proclaim LIBERTY throughout all the Land..."*

The foundation of our nation is the Word of God.

Think about the courtroom.

When someone takes an oath they say, "I swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but.."

On our currency are the words "In God we trust."

The Ten Commandments are carved into the walls of The Supreme Court building.

The foundation of our nation is the Word of God.

In the Capital Building large paintings depict the faith of our nation.

One painting is of the pilgrims huddled around an open Bible.

Another painting is of Pocahontas being baptized after giving her heart to Christ.

In the Capital Building we find large statues donated by various states.

One statue is of a missionary who played an important role in the development of California.

He founded Christ-centered-missions throughout the state.

The names of those missions were: San Diego, Sana Cruz, Los Angeles, Monterey, and San Francisco.

Those cities began as Christ-Centered Missions.

The foundation of our nation is the Word of God.

Then there's the Washington Monument.

There's an aluminum cap that rests on top of the Washington Monument.

On that cap are the words, in Latin, "Praise be to God."

You cannot separate the birth of American from the Christian faith.

We are a nation built on the foundation of the God's Word.

And if the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?

Our foundation is in jeopardy!

2 Kings 13:1-2, 7

Jehoahaz son of Jehu began to rule over Israel... He reigned in Samaria seventeen years. ² But he did what was evil in the LORD's sight... ⁷ Finally, Jehoahaz's army was reduced to 50 horsemen, 10 chariots, and 10,000 foot soldiers. The king of Aram had killed the others, trampling them like dust under his feet.

After reading the passage, I went back to look at where Israel was when its military was at its best.

David	Solomon	Jehoahaz
1.5 million soldiers		10,000 soldiers
	12,000 horsemen	50 horsemen
	1,400 chariots	10 chariots

How do you go from 1.5 million soldiers to 10,000 soldiers?

How do you go from 12,000 horsemen to 50 horsemen?

How do you go from 1,400 chariots to 10 chariots?

How do you go from subduing all the surrounding nations to being trampled like dust?

I'll tell you how; you lose the blessing of God. It's the difference of having God's favor and not having His favor. It's the difference of having God on your side and not having Him on your side. Jehoahaz did evil in the sight of the Lord.

Joyce Myers said it best, "God can tear down in five minutes what took you 50 years to build."

-

Over the next few weeks we're going to look at events that sparked the Revolution and ultimately gave birth to America. One of those events happened on January 30, 1750.

The colonies were in a state of revival. The first Great Awakening saw tens of thousands saved. Churches were built. Cities were transformed by the Gospel. The sermons being preached during this time had a focus on liberty and freedom.

One of the most influential preachers during that time was Jonathan Mayhew.

On January 30, 1750, he stood in the pulpit of the Old West Church in Boston and preached from **Romans 13:1**. That's where Paul says that everyone should be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except through God.

In his message he said that Paul's command did not imply, what Mayhew called "unlimited submission." In other words Mayhew preached that we should be silent if our governing authorities are tyrants. He said that even though we are under authority, if our authority rebels against God's authority, we have an obligation to resist.

His sermon was published, and it spread like wildfire. It became the most famous sermon preached prior to the Revolution. John Adams was only fourteen at the time, but Adams read the sermon over and over. Later Adams said that sermon became the spark of the American Revolution.

The foundation of our nation is the Word of God.

One other event I want to point out is something I'm sure we've all heard of. It's referred to as *"The Shot Heard Around the World."*

It happened on April 19, 1775. It was the first shot of the American Revolution.

Do you know who the shot was aimed at?

It was aimed at a pastor by the name of Jonas Clark.

Clark pastored in Lexington, Massachusetts.

He preached the Bible, and he preached on liberty and freedom.

He taught his congregation the importance of their personal, civil, and religious liberty.

One historian said, “He had so indoctrinated his people with these great truths that no better spot on the continent could have been found for the Revolution to begin.”

On the night of April 18, Paul Revere rode through town warning “The British are coming.” The next morning, Pastor Clark and seventy men from his congregation were posted inside and outside the church. Out of the morning fog, hundreds of scarlet uniforms appeared, and a British Soldier fired upon Pastor Clark and his men. Seven men from his congregation died that day.

The pulpits of American gave birth to the country our founding fathers built.

These stories have been long lost in our public schools.

America was born out of revival and only through revival can it be saved.

Governments can’t redeem a nation, because corrupt hearts corrupt governments, and only God can change the heart.

Politics can’t redeem a nation, only God can do that.

The foundation of our nation is the Word of God.

The Making of America – Part 2

Psalm 11:3

If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?

Over the next couple of weeks, we're going on a historical journey to uncover our nation's foundation. We're going to be reminded that **the foundation of our nation is the Word of God.**

For centuries our nation has been described as a Christian nation.

Signers of the declaration of independence, stated that our nation was built on biblical principles.

John Jay, was our original Supreme Court Chief Justice, and he said that America was built on principles found in the Bible.

Noah Webster said the same.

Daniel Webster said the same.

Signers of the Constitution also said that our nation was built on principles found in the Word of God.

Nearly every U.S. President has referred to our nation as a Christian nation.

Think about the first line in our Pledge of Allegiance.

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, **and to the republic** for which it stands, one nation under God...

Do you know where the idea of a republic form of government came from?

A republic form of government is where the ultimate power rests on the citizens and their vote.

The idea for that form of government came from the Bible.

Exodus 18:19-22 NLT

Now listen to me, and let me give you a word of advice, and may God be with you. You should continue to be the people's representative before God, bringing their disputes to Him. ²⁰Teach them God's decrees,

and give them His instructions. Show them how to conduct their lives. ²¹ But select from all the people some capable, honest men who fear God and hate bribes.

Appoint them as leaders over groups of one thousand, one hundred, fifty, and ten. ²² They should always be available to solve the people's common disputes, but have them bring the major cases to you. Let the leaders decide the smaller matters themselves. They will help you carry the load, making the task easier for you.

Our nation's form of Government was birthed from this passage.

As a matter of fact, the birth of democracy can be traced back to a mid-week sermon in Hartford, Connecticut.

Thomas Hooker was a prominent English colonial leader.

He was born in England and studied at Cambridge.

He became one of the most powerful and popular preachers in England.

In 1633 he became the pastor of a small church in Massachusetts.

Three years later, he and his wife moved south and started the town of Harford, Connecticut.

Today, Thomas Hooker is known as the founding father of Connecticut.

He preached Jesus. He preached freedom, and he preached liberty.

On May 31, 1638, he preached a message that historians call "The Most Important Sermon Preached in the New World."

The verse he preached from is Deuteronomy 1:13. The context of the verse is where Moses is recalling how God instructed him on how to develop a political structure to govern the new nation of Israel. It's a recap of the passage we read a moment ago.

Deuteronomy 1:13

Choose wise, understanding, and knowledgeable men from among your tribes, and I will make them heads over you.

In his message he said, “[The choosing of public officials belongs to the people by God’s own allowance... The people should have to power to elect officials and set their boundaries and limitations....](#)”

Most historians say that Democracy was born the night he preached that sermon.

Many refer to Rev. Thomas Hooker as the Father of Democracy.

One man, 52 years old, preached one sermon and Democracy was born.

That one sermon helped produce what is known as the *Fundamental Orders of Connecticut*, and that document helped shape the [Constitution](#) of the United States.

My point is, the pulpits of America produced the nation we love.

The foundation of our nation is the Word of God.

You cannot separate America from its Christian Heritage.

Let me give you one more example of our nation’s Christian Heritage?

Indiana is referred to as “The Hoosier State,” and people from Indiana are called Hoosiers.

Do you know where that term comes from?

Some say the term traces back to Harry Hoosier.

Harry Hoosier was a black slave born in North Carolina.

He was released from slavery and became the first black Methodist preacher in America.

He preached to both blacks and whites.

He influenced people like Benjamin Rush, who was a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Those who followed his preaching and those he baptized were called Hoosiers.

The foundation of our nation is the Word of God.

But there's an assault on our foundation.

Our heritage is under attack.

Just saying that America is a Christian nation is offensive in many circles.

There's even a term used for people who believe that; they're called Christian Nationalists.

Now I'm not suggesting, nor did our founding fathers suggest, that we should have a state-endorsed, state-enforced religion.

Joshua said, "Choose you this day who you will serve..."

You have a choice.

That's what freedom is all about.

"But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

And that was the heart and intent of those who shaped America.

Psalm 33:12

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord...

Proverbs 14:34 AMP

Righteousness [moral and spiritual integrity and virtuous character] exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people.

My intent for this series is two-fold.

1. To remind us of our nation was built upon principals found in the Bible.
And that is the reason we have been so blessed.
2. To stir our hearts to seek God again.

America was born out of revival and only through revival can it be saved.

Governments can't redeem a nation, because corrupt hearts corrupt governments, and only God can change the heart.

Politics can't redeem a nation, only God can do that.

The foundation of our nation is the Word of God.

2 Chronicles 7:14

If My people who are called by My name will 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.

In 1940, Wheaton College professor, Doctor J. Edwin Orr, took a group of students to England. While visiting John Wesley's old home place, they noticed two worn places on the floor by the bed where Wesley slept. It is believed that those places were where John Wesley knelt day after day in prayer. For hours, he would cry out to God for revival.

If you're not familiar with the name John Wesley than let me explain. Wesley traveled over 250,000 miles during the 1700s, carrying a spirit of revival wherever he went. He preached over 42,000 sermons, wrote over 200 pieces of material, and he is considered the spiritual father of more than thirty-five denominations, including the Methodist, Wesleyan, Pentecostal, Nazarene, Holiness, and modern charismatic movements.

As Doctor Orr's students were getting on the bus, he noticed one student was missing. He went back to search the house. There in John Wesley's bedroom, the missing student was kneeling in the same place where Wesley knelt years before. That young student was weeping as he prayed, "Do it again, God. Do it again." That student was Billy Graham. God did it again!

The Making of America – Part 3

Psalm 11:3

If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?

For the past few weeks, we have been on a historical journey to uncover our nation's foundation. We have been reminded that **the foundation of our nation is the Word of God.**

America's Christian Heritage can be seen over of our nation's capital.

The Jefferson Memorial is a good example.

It is a beautiful circular building with marble columns.

In the center stands a large statue of Thomas Jefferson.

On the walls behind the statue are some of Jefferson's writings.

When you read those writings, you realize that his biblical foundation guided the decisions he made.

For instance, engraved on the wall to the right of the statue, are the words, "God Who gave us life gave us liberty. Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are the gift of God?"

Jefferson understood that our freedom is a gift from God, and if we forget that God gave us this gift, we will lose our freedom.

Not far from the Jefferson Memorial stands the Lincoln Memorial.

This monument is one of D.C.'s most visited attractions.

On either side of Lincoln's statue, statements he made are engraved on the walls.

Statements like this one, "As was said three thousand years ago, so still it must be said 'The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.'" Lincoln was quoting Psalm 19:9.

He wanted his listeners to understand that God's ways are right, regardless of what people think.

The foundation of our nation is the Word of God.

You cannot separate America from its Christian Heritage.

In the Capital Building's South Wing you have the House Chamber.

All legislative activities take place in the House Chamber.

Bills are introduced and decided upon in the House Chamber.

Above the doors inside the House Chamber are 23 relief portraits etched in marble.

Each portrait represents a historical figure noted for their work in establishing the principles that underline American law.

These 23 individuals are watching over everything that happens in the House.

The 11 individuals are facing left and 11 are facing right.

Only one is facing straight ahead and that one is "Moses."

And the reason Moses is highlighted is because he was the one God gave the 10 commandments to.

Moses in the center of the north wall.

When the Speaker of the House takes the podium, Moses is looking directly at them.

The foundation of our nation is the Word of God.

You cannot separate America from its Christian Heritage.

Let's talk about public education.

Abraham Lincoln said, "The philosophy of the schoolroom in one generation will be the philosophy of government in the next."

What was taught in the classroom four generations ago, shaped the foundation of our nation today.

So what was the classroom like four generations ago?

Take Universities like Harvard, Yale and Princeton, for example.

Each of those Universities were started as a places to train ministers of the Gospel.

Most of the signers of the Declaration of Independence & the Constitution were educated at those Universities.

The official seal found on Harvard diplomas, has the university's original motto.

That motto defines the university's original philosophy on education.

That motto is written in Latin and it says, "Truth for Christ and Church."

In 1642 America's first public school law was passed.

It's contained in the book entitled "The Code of Laws of 1650."

The first law stated that "public schools be started in each community to ensure sound education based on God's Word."

The foundation of our nation is the Word of God.

You cannot separate America from its Christian Heritage.

The title of our series is "*The Moments that Made America*" so let me share a defining moment. Sixteen times during the Revolutionary War, Congress called for a time of prayer and fasting. America was born through prayer and fasting.

In the winter of 1777, Washington and his men were losing the war.

His men were dying.

It was winter and his men didn't have proper clothing.

They slept on the cold snow-covered ground with little or no cover.

2,500 soldiers died that winter from freezing to death or disease.

Washington asked, what was then, the Continental Congress for \$50,000 to purchase supplies.

Congress said, "No."

Politics have never been the answer to America's problems.

So, on New Years Eve, 1777, Saint George Methodist Church in Philadelphia held an all-night prayer meeting. ***More problems are solved in prayer meetings than in business meetings.***

They gathered to pray specifically for George Washington and his men and the fight for independence.

A man by the name of Robert Morris was there that night.

Robert was a successful business man in Philadelphia.

While he and the church prayed, God spoke to his heart to finance Washington's needs.

That night Robert left that pray meeting and the next day he and some of his associates gave Washington the funds he needed.

Even in our nation's infancy, the government was not our answer.

Praying people was the answer.

Robert Morris is one of only two people who signed all three of the nation's basic documents: the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and the Constitution.

America was born out of prayer and fasting.

America was born out of revival and only through revival can it be saved.

Governments can't redeem a nation, because corrupt hearts corrupt governments, and only God can change the heart.

Politics can't redeem a nation, only God can do that.

The foundation of our nation is the Word of God.

2 Chronicles 7:14

If My people who are called by My name will 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.

I want you to notice that the condition of the land is not determined by it's political leaders; the condition of the land is determined by the condition of the church.

If we repent and pray, God hears and God responds.

If we do nothing, God does nothing.

America was born out of revival and only through revival can it be saved.

Governments can't redeem a nation, because corrupt hearts corrupt governments, and only God can change the heart.

2 Corinthians 5:20 NLT

We are Christ's ambassadors; God is making His appeal through us...

What are ambassadors? An ambassador is someone sent forth in an official capacity by a nation's government to represent that government in a foreign land.

An ambassador's authority is not measured by his or her own personal abilities but is in direct proportion to the authority of the government he or she represents.

Additional Notes

Psalm 11:3

If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?

Over the next couple of weeks, we're going to go on a historical journey to uncover our nation's foundation. We're going to be reminded that **the foundation of our nation is the Word of God.**

America is now in its fifth century of educating students. From the 16th century to the 21st century, a good education has always been a priority in our country.

One of our founding fathers, Benjamin Franklin, at the age of 81, stood before a room full of officials and said, "God governs in the affairs of men. If a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it possible for an empire to rise without His aid?"

I want you to consider the following:

The words *"In God We trust"* are engraved in the wall above the platform of the Speaker of the House.

Each President at their inauguration says, *"So help me God."*

Christmas, the birth of Christ, is a national holiday.

Our national anthem mentions God.

The Declaration of Independence mentions our Creator four times.

The foundation of our nation is built upon the biblical principles of God's Word.

The reason why the Liberty Bell is called the LB is because there's a verse engraved around the top of it.

The verse is **Lev 25:10**, *"Proclaim LIBERTY throughout all the Land..."*

The foundation of our nation is the Word of God.

Think about the courtroom.

When someone takes an oath they say, "I swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but.."

On our currency are the words "In God we trust."

The Ten Commandments are carved into the walls of The Supreme Court building.

The foundation of our nation is the Word of God.

In the Capital Building large paintings depict the faith of our nation.

One painting is of the pilgrims huddled around an open Bible.

Another painting is of Pocahontas being baptized after giving her heart to Christ.

In the Capital Building we find large statues donated by various states.

One statue is of a missionary who played an important role in the development of California.

He founded Christ-centered-missions throughout the state.

The names of those missions were: San Diego, Sana Cruz, Los Angeles, Monterey, and San Francisco.

Those cities began as Christ-Centered Missions.

The foundation of our nation is the Word of God.

Then there's the Washington Monument.

There's an aluminum cap that rests on top of the Washington Monument.

On that cap are the words, in Latin, "Praise be to God."

You cannot separate the birth of American from the Christian faith.

We are a nation built on the foundation of the God's Word.

And if the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?

Our foundation is in jeopardy!

2 Kings 13:1-2, 7

Jehoahaz son of Jehu began to rule over Israel... He reigned in Samaria seventeen years. ² But he did what was evil in the LORD's sight... ⁷ Finally, Jehoahaz's army was reduced to 50 horsemen, 10 chariots, and 10,000 foot soldiers. The king of Aram had killed the others, trampling them like dust under his feet.

After reading the passage, I went back to look at where Israel was when its military was at its best.

David	Solomon	Jehoahaz
1.5 million soldiers		10,000 soldiers
	12,000 horsemen	50 horsemen
	1,400 chariots	10 chariots

How do you go from 1.5 million soldiers to 10,000 soldiers?

How do you go from 12,000 horsemen to 50 horsemen?

How do you go from 1,400 chariots to 10 chariots?

How do you go from subduing all the surrounding nations to being trampled like dust?

I'll tell you how; you lose the blessing of God. It's the difference of having God's favor and not having His favor. It's the difference of having God on your side and not having Him on your side. Jehoahaz did evil in the sight of the Lord.

Joyce Myers said it best, "God can tear down in five minutes what took you 50 years to build."

Over the next few weeks we're going to look at events that sparked the Revolution and ultimately gave birth to America. One of those events happened on January 30, 1750.

The colonies were in a state of revival. The first Great Awakening saw tens of thousands saved. Churches were built. Cities were transformed by the Gospel. The sermons being preached during this time had a focus on liberty and freedom.

One of the most influential preachers during that time was Jonathan Mayhew.

On January 30, 1750, he stood in the pulpit of the Old West Church in Boston and preached from **Romans 13:1**. That's where Paul says that everyone should be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except through God.

In his message he said that Paul's command did not imply, what Mayhew called "unlimited submission." In other words Mayhew preached that we should be silent if our governing authorities are tyrants. He said that even though we are under authority, if our authority rebels against God's authority, we have an obligation to resist.

His sermon was published, and it spread like wildfire. It became the most famous sermon preached prior to the Revolution. John Adams was only fourteen at the time, but Adams read the sermon over and over. Later Adams said that sermon became the spark of the American Revolution.

The foundation of our nation is the Word of God.

One other event I want to point out is something I'm sure we've all heard of. It's referred to as *"The Shot Heard Around the World."*

It happened on April 19, 1775. It was the first shot of the American Revolution.

Do you know who the shot was aimed at?

It was aimed at a pastor by the name of Jonas Clark.

Clark pastored in Lexington, Massachusetts.

He preached the Bible, and he preached on liberty and freedom.

He taught his congregation the importance of their personal, civil, and religious liberty.

One historian said, "He had so indoctrinated his people with these great truths that no better spot on the continent could have been found for the Revolution to begin."

On the night of April 18, Paul Revere rode through town warning “The British are coming.” The next morning, Pastor Clark and seventy men from his congregation were posted inside and outside the church. Out of the morning fog, hundreds of scarlet uniforms appeared, and a British Soldier fired upon Pastor Clark and his men. Seven men from his congregation died that day.

The pulpits of America gave birth to the country our founding fathers built.

These stories have been long lost in our public schools.

America was born out of revival and only through revival can it be saved.

Governments can't redeem a nation, because corrupt hearts corrupt governments, and only God can change the heart.

Politics can't redeem a nation, only God can do that.

The foundation of our nation is the Word of God.