

What Makes America Great?

Psalm 33:12

Since her early days, America has been the envy of the world. She has been blessed with one of the greatest political systems in the world. No other nation still operates under its founding government and policies as does America. She has been blessed with the greatest natural resources in the world. No other nation has such a diversity of terrain and a vastness of wealth. She has been blessed with some the greatest political minds who not only formed and fashioned a political structure that is sheer genius, but her founding fathers did so out of great courage. They not only carved their names to a liberty tree, but upon a Declaration of Independence, breaking away from the tyranny of England. Each did so knowing that there would be a terrible price to pay. Of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence, 12 had their homes destroyed; 9 died in battle; 5 were prisoners of war; 2 lost sons in the war; 2 had sons captured and tortured; all paid a high price.

Since her early days, the world has wanted to know what made America such a blessed nation. As you have witnessed in the video, we have forgotten the source of her greatness. In 1831, the French political philosopher, Alexis de Tocqueville, came to study America that he might find her secret to greatness. He left saying,

America is great because America is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great!

Her greatness is not because of her political system; her greatness is not because of her vast resources; her greatness is not because of the great minds and intellect of her people; her greatness is not because of her unwavering courage. Her greatness lies in her devotion to Almighty God. Now the revisionists of our day will tell you differently; the secular humanists of our day will tell you differently; the atheists of our day will tell you differently; the evolutionists of our day will tell you differently. But who would you rather believe, the one who attempts to rewrite history, redefine our purpose, and relegate us to nothing more than an advanced species of apes, or the One who was before history began; the One who formed and fashioned us in His likeness; the One who creates with a divine purpose? Open your Bibles to Psalm 33:12. In this one verse we will discover four reasons America is Great!

This psalm is a song of celebration for the God's incredible creation. The psalmist begins with thanksgiving and immediately moves into an account of creation. He speaks of the heavens, the stars, the waters, the land, and then the inhabitants. In the middle of this list of created entities, he comes to verse twelve.

“Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom He has chosen for His own inheritance.”

1. America Is Great Because Her Formation Was Built Upon A Calling.

“...the people whom He has chosen for His own inheritance.”

This verse speaks of a much deeper truth than that of a nation simply turning to God. While it is true that any nation that honors the Lord will certainly be blessed, this verse speaks specifically about the formation of a nation for God's intended purpose. There have been through the course of time only two nations that were specifically formed for God's glory. The first was the nation of Israel. God told Israel that it was not because of her numbers or her people, but because of his sovereign choice of her. Israel is God's chosen people. But what is interesting in this verse is the use of the word 'nation'. The word in the Hebrew refers specifically to a foreign nation, to a Gentile nation as opposed to a Jewish nation. Now that was a radical thought in that day – that a Gentile nation would be formed and fashioned by God's sovereignty to be used for His glory! That nation is America. No nation in history, since Israel herself, has been founded on such a noble purpose and such a godly intention.

Christopher Columbus – *It was the Lord who put into my mind the journey. I could feel his hand upon me. The fact that it would be possible to sail from here to the Indies ... all who heard of my project rejected it with laughter, ridiculing me...there is no question that inspiration was from the Holy Spirit, because He comforted me with rays of marvelous illumination from the Holy Bible for the execution of the journey. I did not make use of intelligence, math or maps (sounds just like a man on a journey, doesn't it). It is simply the fulfillment of what Isaiah had prophesied the fact that the gospel must still be preached in so many nations is what convinces me.*

Early Pilgrims – *Did we bring the Bible to these shores? Or did it not rather bring us? The breath of the ancient prophets was in the sails that drove the tiny Mayflower.*

George Washington – *For 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.*

Dwight D. Eisenhower – *Without God there could be no America, or American form of government, nor an American way of life. Recognition of the Supreme Being is the first, the most basic expression of Americanism.*

No other nation has *In God We Trust* written and engraved on her currency. No other nation has its legislative bodies open in prayer by a chaplain. No other nation has a National Day of Thanksgiving or a National Day of Prayer. Without a doubt, America is great because her formation was built upon a divine call by a Sovereign God.

2. America Is Great Because Her Foundation Was Built Upon Christ.

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

The revisionists and secular humanists fill our classrooms and are now telling us that America was never a Christian nation. They boldly assert that our Founding Fathers were deists, agnostics, atheists, and Unitarians. They boldly assert that our nation was not founded upon Judeo-Christian ethics or principles and boldly rewrite history from their pagan experiences without even considering the words of those whose convictions were firmly focused on Christ.

John Quincy Adams – *the highest glory of the American Revolution was this: that it connected, in one indissoluble bond, the principles of civil government with the principles of Christianity.*

John Adams – *We have a government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.*

George Washington – *Our laws and our institutions must necessarily be based upon and embody the teachings of the Redeemer of mankind...It is impossible that it should be otherwise; and in the sense and to this extent our civilization and our institutions are emphatically Christian.*

Patrick Henry – *It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded, not be religionists but by Christians, not on religions, but on the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

Benjamin Franklin – *He who shall introduce into public affairs the principles of Christianity will change the face of the world.*

Thomas Jefferson – *The reason that Christianity is the best friend of the government is because Christianity is the only religion in the world that deals with the heart.*

Rotunda in The Capital – The Exploratory Years (4 paintings)

Photo #1 Columbus in America praying with his men;

Photo #2 DeSoto after discovering the Mississippi River praying with his men;

Photo #3 Pilgrims on the Mayflower gathered in a circle in a Bible Study;

Photo #4 The baptism of Pocahontas.

The chronological history of America is framed in two prayer meetings, a bible study and a baptism.

Of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence over 1/3 had seminary degrees, several were pastors, authors of theological works, translations of the Bible; founder of Sunday School, and presidents of bible societies. Of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence only three were not involved in church.

Understand clearly, that no matter what our modern-day historical revisionists may say, America began with a firm foundation in Christ. She was not built on multiculturalism. She was not built on the tenets of Islam. She was founded on Jesus Christ. Not only is she great because her formation was built upon a divine call and her foundation was built upon Christ, but we must also remember that:

3. America Is Great Because Her Freedom Was Built Upon A Conviction.

God formed Israel to be His people, but also that they might be the representation of and mouthpieces for God. They were to reflect His glory and his purpose. America is great because her freedom began with a deep conviction to follow the command of Jesus to make disciples of all nations. The pilgrims who landed on Plymouth Rock in 1620 were known in England as Separatists. That is, they had removed themselves from the dead, hypocritical state-run church and sought to teach and study the Bible rather than government approved homilies. As a result, religious persecution began and the pilgrims had to flee to Holland and eventually to America where they could worship God freely. Three of the major leaders of the Pilgrims, William Brewster, William Bradford, and John Robinson, were all pastors who were instrumental in leading the pilgrims to America. Through their leadership and efforts, they led the Pilgrims into what is known as The Mayflower Compact. That agreement states two major convictions that led the people across the Atlantic: (1) to evangelize the new territory for the glory of God and the advancement of the Christian faith; (2) to develop a civil body of government and politics for the good of the Colony.

Not too long ago someone asked the President of South America why it did not enjoy the kind of prosperity that is found in North America. South America has in many cases greater natural resources, more consistent temperatures and some of the most pleasant regions in the world. The president made this simple, but profound statement:

Those who came to our shores came seeking gold; those who came to your shores came seeking God. That is the difference between North America and South America.

Our founding fathers also understood that freedom and prosperity was based upon godly convictions.

House Judiciary Committee Report, 1854 – *At the time of the adoption of the Constitution and the amendments, the universal sentiment was that Christianity should be encouraged...In this age there can be no substitute for Christianity...That was the religion of the founders of the Republic and they expected it to remain the religion of their descendants...The great vital and conservative element in our system is the belief of our people in the pure doctrines and divine truths of the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

The “Old Deluder Law” of 1647 – The legislature of Massachusetts enacted a law with the following preamble: *It being one chief purpose of that old deluder, Satan, to keep men from the knowledge of the Scriptures. It is therefore ordered that every township with fifty families should establish a school to teach children to read the Scriptures and prepare its sons for Harvard University.*

106 of the first 108 colleges were founded on the Christian faith and founded by clergy. All presidents were clergy until 1902.

Harvard – *To consider well, the main end of his life and studies is to know God and Jesus Christ which is eternal life.*

Yale – *To propagate in this wilderness, the blessed reformed Protestant Religion.*

Princeton – *Cursed be all the learning that is contrary to the cross of Christ. Under God’s Power She Flourishes.*

4. America Is Great Because Her Future Was Built Upon The Commandments.

Whenever God forms and fashions a nation for His glory, the blessing of that nation will be determined by its obedience to God’s word. Israel knew this well. As long as she walked according to the commands of God, she was blessed. God reminded Joshua,

“Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go.” Jos. 1:7

James Madison – *We have staked the future of all of our political institutions upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves according to the Ten Commandments.*

George Washington – *Do not let anyone claim the tribute of American patriotism if they ever attempt to remove religion from politics.*

Thomas Jefferson – *The First Amendment has erected a wall of separation between church and state, but that wall is a one directional wall; it keeps the government from running the church, but it makes sure that Christian principles will always stay in government.*

In 1947, for the first time since Jefferson wrote his famous letter to the Danbury Baptist Association, the Supreme Court used only eight words of Jefferson’s letter – a wall of separation between church and state. Since that time our government has removed biblical principles and anything religious from its proceedings. But they have wrongly applied what Jefferson wrote. He himself did not intend such a distinction to be made.

It was Thomas Jefferson who directed government buildings to be used for places of worship – the Rotunda in the Capital housed over a thousand people in worship on Sundays; the War Building and the Treasury Department were used. It was also under Jefferson who commissioned the congress to print the first Bible in America for the expressed purpose of getting it into the hands of children in the classroom. All of this was paid for by the U.S. government. In the Supreme Court building this day you will see Moses holding two tablets – the Ten Commandments. But the tour guides are instructed to tell anyone who ask the content of the tablets – He is holding our Bill of Rights.

Alexis de Tocqueville – *I sought for the greatness of the United States in her commodious harbors, her ample rivers, her fertile fields, and boundless forests – and it was not there. I sought for it in her rich mines, her vast world commerce, her public school system, and in her institutions of higher learning – and it was not there. I looked for it in*

her democratic Congress and her matchless Constitution – and it was not there. Not until I went into the churches of America and heard the pulpits flame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power.

Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people. Pro 14:34

George Washington – *Reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in the exclusion of religious principles.*

The marks that once made America Great are all but absent in our modern day lives. Adrian Rogers has said,

We must confess with a troubled heart that America has forgotten God. She is rolling in luxuries, reveling in excesses, rollicking in pleasure, reeling in drunkenness, revolting in morals and rotting in sin. Our nation is perfumed with an aroma of religion and culture, but it is only the spiritual formaldehyde disguising the deadly decay of a society on its last legs.

Thomas Jefferson – *Indeed, I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, and that His justice cannot sleep forever.*

Hear Us From Heaven

What Do We Need To Be Great Again?

- **We need to Remember.**
- **We need to Return.**
- **We need a Revival.**