

Twelve Lessons

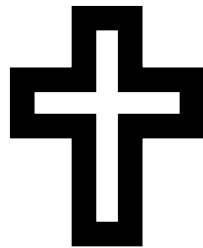
on

Early American History

Compiled and Written

by

The Staff of Macedonia Baptist College



Macedonia Baptist College

9722 Hwy 601

Midland, NC 28107

(704) 784-4200

\$6.00

CONTENTS

1. AMERICA—ONE NATION UNDER GOD3

2. THE PILGRIMS—THE BEGINNING OF FREEDOM6

3. THE PILGRIMS—PART 29

4. THE PURITANS—PEOPLE OF PRINCIPLE & PERSECUTION12

5. BAPTIST INFLUENCE—LIBERTY OF CONSCIENCE15

6. THE GREAT AWAKENING18

7. THE PERSECUTION OF BAPTISTS21

8. THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION—PART 124

9. THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION—PART 227

10. THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION—PART 330

11. GEORGE WASHINGTON—THE FATHER OF AMERICA33

12. THE BIRTH OF A NATION36

**No part of this book may be reproduced in any form without
written permission from Macedonia Baptist College and Xaris, Inc.**

The image shows a handwritten signature or logo in black ink, consisting of the Greek letters 'ΧΑΡΙΣ' (Charis) with a stylized flourish underneath.

AMERICA: ONE NATION UNDER GOD – LESSON 1

Introduction: One would expect that every intelligent and patriotic citizen of this great nation has an interest in the past, present, and future of its existence. We all can pledge allegiance to the flag of America with great reverence and ardent passion based upon the accomplishments of its past. No nation in the history of the world has risen to such heights of prominence in as little time as the United States of America. We have truly been blessed through the providence of Almighty God. Certainly Daniel 5:21 may be applied to the source of our incredible success. It reads, "...the most high God ruled in the kingdom of men, and that he appointeth over it whomsoever he will." One might ask, "What is the importance of understanding the history of our nation?" This question was best answered by President Woodrow Wilson. He stated, "**A nation that does not remember what it was yesterday, does not know what it is today, nor what it is trying to do. We are trying to do a futile thing if we do not know where we came from or what we have been about.**" If we expect the generations of tomorrow to "Trust in God", we must declare to them the vital connection of America's success with the providence of God.

We have only twelve weeks to discuss the history of the United States. Understanding the tremendous volume of information available for discussion, we must limit ourselves to a study of the Christian influence upon the founding and structure of our nation.

Lesson Goals:

1. Create an understanding of how important knowing the Christian influence upon our nation's history.
2. Show how the founding fathers looked to the Word of God as a resource of principles on which to build a nation.
3. Examine quotes from prominent players in our history which reveal acknowledgement of God and the Bible.
4. Review interesting facts concerning America which reveal the providence of God in its founding and growth.

Definitions of Important Terms/Phrases:

1. Liberty – The individual right to choose; the freedom to think or act without being constrained by necessity of force; freedom from captivity or slavery; basic right; a political, social, and economic right that belongs to the citizens of a state or to all people.
2. Freedom of Religion – One's right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance without governmental restriction or influence.
3. Manifest Destiny – The doctrine or belief that the United States had the God-given right to expand into and possess the whole of the North American continent. The belief that the success of America is directly related to the providence of God and His desire to establish a nation of righteousness and religious liberty.
4. Unalienable Rights – Rights given that are impossible to take away: not able to be transferred or taken away.

I. FOUNDED UPON BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES

A. The Origin and Structure of America

1. The origin and structure of our nation is based upon the time honored principles of the Word of God.
2. The liberty of all citizens has been granted by the Creator of heaven and earth. The citizen's life is to be governed by God and the U.S. government was established to protect this relationship.
3. America was based upon **Freedom of Religion** not **Freedom from Religion**. Every step down the historical highway of American history reveals more reliance upon God for the nation's success.
4. The founders of our country realized men are only free if they have been freed by the redemptive work of Jesus Christ. John 8:36 – "*If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.*"

B. The Constitution of America

1. Our Constitution was designed to protect, preserve, and promote the ideas of Christianity in its citizens. R.J. Rushdooney stated, "*The constitution was designed to perpetuate a Christian order.*"
2. The framers of the constitution all had great faith in the stability of Christian values and the success this ideology promised. Read the following Supreme Court Decision in 1982, Church of the Holy Trinity vs. United States. "*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 this sense and to this extent our civilization and our institutions are emphatically Christian... This is a religious people. This is historically true. From the discovery of this continent to the present hour, there is a single voice making this affirmation... we find everywhere a clear recognition of the same truth... These, and many other matters which might be noticed, add a volume of unofficial declarations to the mass of organic*

utterances that this is a Christian nation.”

C. The Declaration of Independence

1. The Declaration of Independence, the very document that represents the beginning of our freedom, contains these words. *“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.”*
2. America has been blessed because our forefathers saw the importance of placing this nation under the watchful eye of God Almighty. America “the Great” did not happen by accident or chance. The success may be traced back to the decision of early American leaders to submit themselves first to God and then by the light of His guidance govern the people.

II. IMPORTANT QUOTES REVEALING OUR CHRISTIAN HERITAGE

A. The Pilgrim’s Purpose – 1620 – According to The New England Charter, the purpose of the pilgrims was *“to advance the enlargement of Christian religion, to the glory of God Almighty...”* This document was signed by the hand of King James I.

B. The Rhode Island Charter – 1683 – *“We submit our persons, lives, and estates unto our Lord Jesus Christ, the King of kings and Lord of lords and to all those perfect and most absolute laws of His given us in His Holy Word.”* They consider the Bible “perfect” and “absolute.”

C. The Institution Of Prayer in Congress – 1787 – When the representatives met to form the Constitution of the United States the first month was marked by division and much debate. After much arguing and very little accomplishments, an elderly man(81 years), Benjamin Franklin, stood and spoke to the entire audience of discouraged men. These are his words. *“In the beginning of the contest with Britain, when we were sensible of danger, we had daily prayers in this room for divine protection. Our prayers, Sirs, were heard and they were graciously answered. All of us who were engaged in the struggle must have observed frequent instances of a superintending providence in our favor... Have we now forgotten this power Friend? Or do we imagine that we no longer need his assistance? I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth: that 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, Sir, in the Sacred Writings that except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it. I firmly believe this... I therefore beg leave to move that, henceforth, prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven and its blessing on our deliberation be held in this assembly every morning.”*

D. The First Presidential Inauguration – When George Washington stood to give the first inaugural speech, he made clear the vital role God’s hand had played in the formation of this nation. *“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 they have advanced to the character of an independent nation seems to have been distinguished by some token of providential agency... We ought to be no less persuaded that the propitious smiles of heaven cannot be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right, which heaven itself has ordained.”*

III. QUOTES REGARDING THE IMPORTANCE OF SCRIPTURE

A. Noah Webster – *“The moral principles and precepts contained in the Scriptures ought to form the basis of all our civil constitutions and laws. All the miseries and evils which men suffer from vice, crime, ambition, injustice, oppression, slavery, and war, proceed from them despising or neglecting the precepts contained in the Bible.”*

B. Noah Webster – *“The religion which has introduced civil liberty is the religion of Christ and his apostles... to this we owe our free constitutions of government.”*

C. John Quincy Adams – *“The first and almost the only Book deserving of universal attention is the Bible.”*

D. Andrew Jackson – *“Go to the Scriptures... the joyful promises it contains will be a balsam to all your troubles.”*

E. Abraham Lincoln – *“All the good from the Saviour of the world is communicated through this Book; but for the Book we could not know right from wrong. All the things desirable to man are contained in it.”*

F. Abraham Lincoln – *“It is the duty of nations, as well as of men, to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God and to recognize the sublime truth announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord.”*

G. Calvin Coolidge – *“The foundations of our society and our government rest so much on the teachings of the*

Bible that it would be difficult to support them if faith in these teachings would cease to be practically universal in our country.”

H. Woodrow Wilson – “...the Bible... is the one supreme source of revelation of the meaning of life, the nature of God and spiritual nature and need of men. It is the only guide of life which really leads the spirit in the way of peace and salvation.”

IV. TEN INTERESTING FACTS CONCERNING AMERICA

Written in *The Marvel Of Nations* – by Uriah Smith, 1887

1. No nation ever acquired so vast a territory in so quiet a manner.
2. No nation ever rose to such greatness by means so peaceable.
3. No nation ever advanced so rapidly in all that constitutes national strength and capital.
4. No nation ever rose to such a pinnacle of power in a space of time so incredibly short.
5. No nation in so limited time has developed such unlimited resources.
6. No nation has ever existed, the foundations of whose government were laid so broad and deep in the principles of justice, righteousness, and truth.
7. No nation has ever existed in which men have been so free to worship God according to the dictates of their own consciences.
8. In no nation and in no age of the world have the arts and sciences so flourished, so many improvements made, and so great successes been achieved in the arts both of peace and war, as in our own country.
9. In no nation and in no age has the gospel found such freedom, and the churches of Christ had such liberty to enlarge their borders and develop their strength.
10. No age of the world has seen such an immigration as that which is now pouring into our borders from all lands the millions who have longed groaned under despotic governments, and who now turn to this broad territory of freedom as an avenue of hope, the Utopia of the nations.

These ten facts mentioned by Uriah Smith can only be explained by the power of God and His providence in the birth and life of our nation. He made these comments when the nation was just over 100 years old. Imagine his thoughts if he could see the incredible accomplishments of the 20th century.

V. MISCONCEPTION CONCERNING OUR “CHRISTIAN” HERITAGE

Christopher Columbus is often revered as the “Christ-bearer to Foreign Lands.” Many well intending Baptists have idolized him as being a hero of the faith. This is because of the misconception that Columbus was a righteous man. This mistake stems from the fact that Columbus recognized the Bible as being his inspiration for seeking a new world. In the introduction of his book the *Book of Prophecies*, he writes concerning his commitment to the furtherance of the Gospel and quotes Isaiah as the source of his inspiration. Isaiah 66:19 – “*And I will set a sign among them and will send survivors from them to the nations: Tarshish, Put, Lud, Meshech, Rosh, Tubal and Javan, to the distant coastlands that have neither heard of my fame nor seen my glory. And they will declare my glory among the nations.*”

While his motivation seems right, we cannot dismiss the fact that he sailed for Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain who were devout Catholics and greatly persecuted those Christians who held Baptist doctrines during the Spanish Inquisition. Columbus was nothing more than a gold-seeking pawn of the Roman Catholic church. He along with other historic figures, such as the Jesuit missionaries to North America, have been heralded by Christians as God loving and fearing believers. I guess this is why he left a trail of harassment, murder, robbery, and other atrocities behind him when he headed home. There is plenty of historical documentation that finds Columbus guilty of exploiting the coasts on which he landed. The results of his sailing across the Atlantic was the rape of the New World. Please do not desecrate the sacredness of America’s history by associating its founding with Columbus. He came to the new world in search of gold, while the Pilgrims came in search of God.