

Foundational Declarations
Psalms 33:12

Slide 1

Many preachers and Christian leaders often use 2 Chronicles 7:14 as a rallying cry for their Independence Day message.

They want their congregation to believe that the "people" referred to in the passage are the American people, and the "land" is the American land

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 I will heal their land."

These ministers want people to believe that this passage is God's invitation for 21st century America to "return to God" and enjoy God's blessing once again.

In reality, 2 Chronicles 7 is about God reminding King Solomon of His previous agreement made to Moses in Deuteronomy 28, which is known as the "Blessing and Curse" chapter.

If Israel obeys, they'd be blessed. If they disobey, they'd be judged. The judgment was meant to bring Israel to repentance, and God assured Solomon that if the Israelites were humble; if they would pray and repent, God would deliver them from judgment.

So, according to the context, 2 Chronicles 7:14 promised ancient Israel (and perhaps even modern-day Israel) that if they'd repent and return to the Lord, He'd rescue them.

This verse shouldn't be used as God's covenant with Christians in the United States, and other countries.

The United States of America doesn't have the same covenant relationship with God that ancient Israel enjoyed!

God's covenant with Israel was unique and exclusive. Those promises apply only to Israel and not any other nation, therefore it's improper for this verse to be co-opted and applied to a different nation.

Now, some of you might object that Christians are still called by God's name and, in some ways, have inherited the covenant with Israel—and this may be true to some extent.

However, another issue that's often overlooked is that when ancient Israel repented and sought the Lord, they did so en masse—the nation as a whole repented.

Obviously, not every Israelite repented and prayed, but it was national repentance.

There was no indication that a small minority of the nation (a righteous remnant) could repent and pray, and that the entire nation's fate would change. God promised deliverance when the whole nation repented.

When we apply texts like this to our nation, we do precisely what prosperity gospel preachers do when they promise material and physical blessing for those who are obedient, and material and physical curses for those who are disobedient.

They misuse the Word of God by abstracting the promises of God from Jesus Christ. He is the one Who, obedient to God, received God's blessing and He is the One Who, bearing the sins of the people, received God's curse.

Now, it may be that God, in His grace, will bless our nation as a result of our prayers, but we must understand there's no guarantee of national deliverance.

Even if God did use our efforts to bring about national repentance and revival, there's no guarantee that our nation would be politically or economically saved.

Slide 2

That being said, let me get into my message. Today we're going to take a look at our Founding Fathers who developed the Declaration of Independence.

Many people don't have a clear understanding of the Biblical truths on which our Founding Fathers of this nation laid this country's foundation. This ignorance erodes the Christian values our Founding Fathers set for the United States of America.

If we don't know the foundation on which the Founding Fathers laid for this nation then we, as a nation, have no understanding of what we're to be today and no clear vision for tomorrow.

In regard to understanding how we should celebrate our 250th year of existence as a nation, I was praying that our current government would include some kind of information clarifying just what our flag and nation stand for.

Things like truths from the Founding Fathers who laid the foundation for this nation. Instead, we got an Ultimate Fighting Championship, a failed concert, and a disappointing State Fair.

This is why what our Founding Fathers believed is so important. The Biblical truths on which the Founding Fathers of this nation laid our foundation is critical for us to know.

Our ignorance has enabled this nation's values to drift off course. This ignorance has eroded the Christian values the Founding Fathers set for our nation.

To correct this ignorance, we, as God's elect, are to give testimony on how God raised up this nation. How He has blessed this country and how He will deal with us, depending on the choices we make.

So, what truths have been kept in the dark on what our founding Fathers believed? What facts found in history can correct the falsehood that most of our Founding Father's were not Christians, nor had a reverent fear of God?

It may surprise you that many of our foundational leaders were not ashamed of Jesus Christ. This is what has enabled us, as a nation, *"to be the longest on-going Constitutional Republic in the history of the world."*

Slide 3

There are many historical facts about the beliefs of the men who laid the foundation of this country. So many in fact that there's no way they can all be expounded upon in just one message.

This is why I want to examine the heartbeat of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, men like John Adams and John Hancock.

These men were bold signers of the Declaration of Independence, who publicly said, *"We Recognize No Sovereign but God and no King but Jesus!"*

They believed in Isaiah 44:6, *"This is what the Lord says, Israel's King and redeemer, the LORD Almighty: I am the First and the last; apart from Me there is no God."*

Other signers of the Declaration of Independence had firm convictions, too. Men who believed there was one God and Jesus was the King of kings.

In fact, not only did many of the signers of the Declaration of Independence know that there is only one God and Jesus is the King of kings, but they didn't presume on the grace of God, they sought His will in the decisions they made.

The University of Houston, Political Science Department did a ten-year study on the sources our Founding Fathers used most frequently in forming our present system of government.

From a pool of nearly 15,000 documents from our founding period, the researchers selected 3,154 documents they considered most significant to our Founding Fathers.

The research revealed that our Founding Fathers quoted heavily from three intellectuals, Montesquieu, Blackstone and Locke.

But the most interesting thing they learned from their research was that our Founding Fathers were more dependent upon the Bible than they were on these three intellectuals.

Ninety-four percent of the quotes of the Founding Fathers were based on the Word of God.

Thirty-four percent of those quotes were direct from Scripture and the remaining 60% were taken from quotes where they had used the Bible to arrive at their conclusions.

So explicit was the Word of God in the lives of men in this nation's early years, Charles Finney, the Billy Graham of the 1800's, came to Jesus Christ by reading "*Blackstone's Commentaries on Law.*"

Blackstone unashamedly used Scripture, referring to chapter and verse, for every principle of law he cited, which should be an example for our current judicial system.

Slide 4

The turmoil in other nations, their struggles and multiple revolutions, have yet to see the stability and blessings that we have here in America, even considering the unrest this nation's current administration has caused.

Regardless of some of the executive decisions that have been enacted, compared to many war-torn nations, we have independence, freedom and opportunity to pursue our dreams.

This is all due to the fact that our Founding Fathers had a reverent fear of the Lord. A truth God still honors today.

John Adams, recognizing God's hand in the creation of our nation, wrote, *"It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty."*

He also said, *"The general principles that the Fathers achieved in our independence were the general principles of Christianity."*

These were the only principles that could unite them in sufficient numbers to assert and maintain independence. This is why we should be honoring God today.

The Fourth of July should be a reminder of the price our Founding Fathers paid for the independence we enjoy today. They didn't just give lip service like so many of our politicians do today, they put their lives on the line.

When these brave individuals signed the Declaration of Independence, they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor. They didn't seek medical exemptions to get out of serving their nation, nor did they use war for profit.

For example: Five signers were captured by the British as traitors and tortured before they died. Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned.

Two lost their sons in the Revolutionary Army, another had two sons captured. Nine of the fifty-six signers fought and died from wounds or hardships in the Revolutionary War.

John Adams, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, wrote: *"Posterity! You will never know how much it cost the present generation to preserve your freedoms. I hope you will make good use of it."*

The men who signed the Declaration of Independence, were an elect group of ministers, businessmen, teachers, university professors, sailors, captains, and farmers.

These men were not crazy, troublemakers wanting to make a name for themselves, or like today, people who misuse power to get rich. Most lost nearly everything, some lost everything they owned and lived in poverty the rest of their lives.

These were soft spoken men, men of means and education, but they valued liberty more for this nation and liberty for the people who were to live in it.

Many of the signers of the Declaration of Independence knew the whole of Scripture which says in Ecclesiastes 3:11, there is *"a time for war, and a time for peace."*

On July 2, 1776, Congress voted to approve a complete separation from Great Britain. On July 4, the early draft of the Declaration of Independence was signed.

Four days later, July 8, 1776, members of Congress took that document and read it aloud from the steps of Independence Hall, proclaiming it to the city of Philadelphia.

Now, don't misinterpret what I'm saying about the signers of the Declaration of Independence. Not everyone who signed the were Christians.

John Adams tells us that the signers of the Declaration of Independence came from many religious backgrounds — Roman Catholics, Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Methodists, Lutherans, Calvinists, Universalists, Quakers, and even some Deists and atheists.

Yet they were all educated in the general principles of Christianity and the general principles of English and American liberty.

Regardless of their backgrounds, that doesn't change the fact that God used their courage and suffering to raise up a nation that has spread God's Word and love around the world.

Much has been said and written to bring question on some of the men's faith who signed the Declaration of Independence, but the men who signed The Declaration of Independence took their pledge seriously.

So... does our present government understand the full story of this important document? Do our youth take it seriously? Do we?

Slide 5

The lack of hunger for God's Word, the living for self, the influences of world views, the lack of knowledge of our Founding Father's efforts to please the Lord in governing this nation has caused many Americans to lose sight of the fact that *"God Rules Over Nations."*

This is why we need statesmen, not politicians. Men and women of prayer who passionately seek God's wisdom through the written Word of God.

This administration and past administrations have openly supported immorality and satanic movements that try to destroy our children's lives.

Many of our elected leaders despise the Biblical view on life, children, marriage, and sexuality. Therefore, they hate Christians who want to apply those values in their lives.

This is why we need to pray that they may know God and repent, so that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

Most of our Founding Fathers had great knowledge of God's Word. They knew what had to be done. God has always raised up possible rulers, both bad and good. Those who serve themselves, taking from the people of God, and rulers who rule in the true fear of the Lord.

This is why we need to learn about individuals who run for election. Study what their true beliefs are, not what they say. When I talk like this, people always seem to bring up the subject of separation of church and state.

Let me tell you something. The phrase, "Separation of Church and State" is not in the Constitution nor, according to the Congressional Record, was it ever mentioned during the framing of that document in 1789.

This phrase was wrenched out of context from a private letter written by Thomas Jefferson in 1802, 11 years after the First Amendment was ratified.

At that time, there was a widespread rumor going around that one particular denomination was to become the official national religion. This concerned the other denominations since some had fled religious persecution by the Church of England.

President Jefferson wrote to the Danbury Baptist Association of Connecticut assuring them that under the Constitution the federal government would not, and indeed could not, establish a national Christian denomination.

The courts, media and special interest groups have convinced the American people that we must have freedom from religion in the public square. Nothing is further from the truth.

As a nation, we have been increasing the judicial and public approval of the practice of shedding the innocent blood of the littlest human beings.

We flaunt all sorts of abominations and sexual sins, forsaking our marriage covenants, calling good evil and evil good, and pushing even the mention of God's Holy Name out of public life under the false guise of "Separation of Church and State."

It's wrong to keep Americans from the historical facts. As a whole, our nation's Founding Fathers never intended to keep God's truths from having an influence on the governing of a nation. Just look at our nation's motto, "*In God we trust.*"

Slide 6

Conclusion

Our nation and our Constitution are great because built into them is the basic value that all people are created equal, and everyone has a right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

This conviction about freedom is the unifying principle that makes an American an American. Anyone who feels certain people don't have an equal right to freedom is un-American.

They're also un-Christian in that it was Christian conviction that led to this kind of freedom being guaranteed by our Constitution.

Christian leaders made sure the Bill of Rights would forever prevent our government from interference in the religious liberty of its citizens. Nowhere does it say we cannot use godly principles in the governing of our nation.

We should celebrate the 4th of July as a sacred day of thanksgiving. It was the Declaration of Independence that led to our Constitution and the forming of the United States with all of its freedoms and religious liberty.

Every Christian who knows the way God providently led this nation needs to say often, *"Thank God for America."*

Americans need to become wise. They need to do the hard work of study and find out exactly what our Founding Fathers truly believed.

Take time this July Fourth weekend to thank God for His blessings and His chastisements upon the United States of America!

Psalms 33:12, *"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people he chose for his inheritance."*