

Reflecting on America's *Greatness* this Independence Day

A. America's *Greatness* comes **not** from her **Independence**, but from her **"Dependence."**

1. Her "Dependence" upon God's gracious **Provision**

Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD my God, You are very **great**;

He (the LORD) **sends** forth *springs* in the valleys;
they flow **between** the mountains;..
He causes the *grass* to grow for the **cattle**,
and *vegetation* for the **labor of man**,

So that **he** may bring forth **food** from the **earth**,
and **wine** which makes man's **heart glad**, so that he may make *his face*
glisten with oil, and **food** which **sustains man's heart**...

The eyes of **all** look to **You**, and **You give** them their **food** in due time.
You open Your hand and **satisfy** the desire of **every living thing**.
(Psalm 104:1, 10, 14-15, 145:15-16)

2. Her "Dependence" upon God's divine **Protection**

Unless the LORD **builds** the **house**, they labor **in vain** who build it;
unless the LORD **guards** the **city**,
the **watchman** keeps awake ***in vain***. (Psalm 127:1)

Behold, the **eye** of the LORD is on **those** who **fear** Him,
on **those** who **hope** for ***His lovingkindness***,
to **deliver** their **soul** from **death**
and to **keep** them **alive** in **famine**. (Psalm 33:18-19)

There is no **wisdom** and no **understanding**
and no **counsel *against* the LORD**.
The **horse** is ***prepared*** for the **day of battle**,
but **victory** belongs to **the LORD**. (Proverbs 21:30-31)

"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, Sir, were **heard**, and they were **graciously answered**...
do we **imagine** we **no longer need His assistance?**"
[Constitutional Convention, Thursday June 28, 1787]

3. Her "Dependence" upon God's guiding **Precepts**

“You (Israel) shall remember all *the way* which the LORD your God has *led you*...

He humbled you...that He might make you understand that man does not *live* by **bread alone, but man *lives* by everything that proceeds out of **the mouth of the LORD**...**

Therefore you shall **keep** the **commandments** of the LORD your God, to **walk** in **His ways** and to **fear Him**.
(Deuteronomy 8:2a, 3, 6)

"The only **assurance** of our nation's **safety** is to lay our foundation in **morality and religion**." (Abraham Lincoln).

At the **Constitutional Convention of 1787**, James Madison proposed the plan to **divide** the central government into **three branches**.
He discovered this **model of government** from the **Perfect Governor**, as he read **Isaiah 33:22**;

**“For the LORD is our judge, (Judicial Branch)
the LORD is our lawgiver, (Legislative Branch)
the LORD is our king; (Executive Branch)
He will save us.”**

B. America’s *Greatness* rests in the **Righteousness of her **People****

1. A People *guided* by “Rights**” believed to be granted them by a **divine Creator****

“...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*...”**
(Declaration of Independence, adopted by Congress, July 4 1776)

2. A People *governed* by **Laws and **Ethics** that are based on **Biblical truths** and **principles****

When **Moses** had finished speaking **all these words** to all Israel, **He said** to them, “Take to **your heart** all the **words** which I am **warning you today**, which you shall **command** your **sons** to **observe** carefully, **even all the words of this law**.”

For it is **not** an **idle word** for you; indeed it is **your life**. and by **this word** you shall **prolong your days** in the land,..”
(Deuteronomy 32:45-47)

All Scripture is *inspired by God* and profitable for **teaching**,
for **reproof**, for **correction**, for **training in righteousness**;
so that the **man of God** may be **adequate, equipped** for every **good work**.
(II Timothy 3:16-17)

"All the **miseries and evils** which **men suffer** from
vice, crime, ambition, injustice, oppression, slavery, and war,
proceed from their **despising or neglecting the precepts**
contained in **the Bible**...." (Noah Webster)

3. A **People *undergirded*** by a **basic Morality** that **reflects**
the **righteousness and goodness of God**

Righteousness exalts a nation, but **sin** is a **disgrace** to **any people**.
(Proverbs 14:34)

Hear the **word of the LORD**, you **rulers of Sodom**;
give ear to the **instruction of our God**, you **people of Gomorrah**...

"**Wash yourselves**, make yourselves **clean**;
remove the evil of your **deeds** from **My sight**.
Cease to do **evil**, **learn to do good**; seek **justice**, **reprove** the **ruthless**,
defend the orphan, **plead** for the **widow**...

"If you **consent** and **obey**,
you will eat the **best** of the **land**; (Isaiah 1:10, 16-17, 19)

He (the LORD) has told you, **O man**, what is **good**;
and what does **the LORD** **require of you**
but to **do justice**, to **love kindness**,
and to **walk humbly** with **your God**? (Micah 6:8)

"Of all the **dispositions** and **habits** which lead to **political prosperity**,
religion and **morality** are **indispensable supports** . . .

"And let us indulge with **caution** the supposition that **morality** can be
maintained **without religion** . . . *Reason* and *experience* both **forbid us** to
expect that **national morality** can **prevail** to the
exclusion of religious principle." (President George Washington)

"The **highest glory** of the **American Revolution** was this:
it connected in one **indissoluble bond** the *principles* of **civil government**
with the *principles* of **Christianity**."
(John Quincy Adams 6th US President and son of John Adams)

"Without a humble *imitation* of the **characteristics** of the **Divine Author**
of our **blessed religion**, we can **never** hope to be a **happy nation**."
(George Washington)

C. **America's *Greatness*** began, and continues to be
sustained through the **Power** and **Purposes** of the
Sovereign God

1. **Who “raises up” all nations according to His Sovereign Purposes**

“Let the **name of God** be **blessed** forever and ever,
for **wisdom** and **power** belong to **Him**.

It is **He** who **changes** the **times** and the **epochs**;
He removes kings and **establishes kings**;
He gives wisdom to **wise men**
and **knowledge** to **men of understanding**. (Daniel 2:21-22)

"I have **lived**, Sir, a long time, and the **longer I live**,
the more convincing proofs I see of **this truth--**
that **God Governs the affairs of men**.
And if a **sparrow** cannot fall to the ground **without His notice**,
is it probable that an **empire** can **rise without His aid?**"
(Benjamin Franklin)

2. **Who, historically, has greatly used America to reach the world with His gospel message of love and salvation through faith in Messiah.** (Acts 1:8)

"It may come as **no surprise** to you that **US churches** send the **most missionaries**. According to an article on the **Gospel Coalition website**, **churches** in the **US** support around **127,000** of the **400,000 missionaries** serving **worldwide**...Nov 17, 2022"
(internet quote)

An Exhortation to America

"We have been the **recipients** of the **choicest bounties** of **heaven**.
We have been **preserved**, these many years, in **peace** and **prosperity**.
We have grown in **numbers, wealth and power**, as **no other nation**
has **ever grown**. But we have **forgotten God**.

We have **forgotten** the **gracious hand** which preserved us in **peace**,
and **multiplied** and **enriched** and **strengthened us**; and we have
vainly imagined, in the **deceitfulness** of our hearts, that **all these blessings**
were produced by some **superior wisdom** and **virtue** of **our own**.

Intoxicated with **unbroken success**, we have become too **self-sufficient**
to feel the **necessity** of **redeeming** and **preserving grace**,
too proud to pray to the **God that made us!**

It behooves us, then to **humble ourselves** before the **offended Power**,
to **confess** our **national sins**, and to **pray for clemency** and **forgiveness**."
(Abraham Lincoln - Proclamation for a National Day of Fasting)