

## “The Coping Christian in One Nation Under Satan”

by Doug Hamilton

### II) The First Leaders Sought to be “One Nation Under God”.

In the first lesson of the series, we covered the original intent of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. All fifty-six of the Founding Fathers who signed the document agreed that there is a Creator of the universe and this Creator is the one who gives us our rights. They signed it knowing that it would likely result in the loss of their lives and fortunes. As Ben Franklin said while signing the declaration, *“We must all hang together, or assuredly we shall all hang separately.”*

In lesson two, it is necessary to see that this principle was intended to be carried out through the Founding Fathers through the establishment of the nation. An examination of the leaders of the new nation will more than confirm that the early fathers of the nation were in agreement with this principle.

George Washington -1st President of the United States, signer of the constitution, General in US Army

Even while he was alive he was called the “Father of the Country”. He was easily the most obvious choice of the nation for national leadership, being unanimously elected twice. He believed, *“It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible.”* (Halley’s Bible Handbook, Zondervan, Grand Rapids MI, 1962, page 18-19)

He was the Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army which eventually defeated Britain. Upon defeat of Britain, he immediately resigned his command lest he be perceived as a dictator. He was respected by all in America.

### The Battle of Fort Duquesne

The French and Indian War occurred twenty years before the American Revolution. The British fought the French and the Americans sided with England. Most of the Indians sided with the French which led to some interesting scenarios. Great Britain and France disputed each other’s claims of territorial ownership along the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. Unable to settle the dispute diplomatically, Great Britain sent 2300 hand-picked, veteran British troops to America under General Edward Braddock to rout the French.

The British troops arrived in Virginia, where George Washington (colonel of the Virginia militia) and 100 Virginia buckskins joined General Braddock. They divided their force; and General Braddock, George Washington, and 1300 troops marched north to expel the French from Fort Duquesne -now the city of Pittsburgh. On July 9, 1755, only seven miles from the fort while marching through a wooded ravine, they walked right into an ambush; the French and Indians opened fire on them from both sides. At the end of two hours, 714 of the 1300 British and American troops had been shot down; only 30 of the French and Indians had been shot. There were 86 British and American officers involved in that battle; at the end of the battle, George Washington was the only officer who had not been shot down off his horse -he was the only officer left on horseback.

Following this resounding defeat, Washington gathered the remaining troops and retreated back to Fort Cumberland in western Maryland, arriving there on July 17, 1755. The next day, he wrote home to his family and explained that he had several bullet holes in his

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uniform, but none penetrated. He had shrapnel in his hair, but not a single scratch. He had several horses shot out from underneath him, but he was not hurt. He concluded the letter by saying, “By the all-powerful dispensations of Providence, I have been protected beyond all human probability or expectation.”

Fifteen years later, 1770, Washington and a close friend, Doctor Craik, rode out to the site of this battle. An old Indian chief heard that Washington was coming and rode out to meet him. The chief said to Washington “You don’t know me, but I know you. Fifteen years ago, I was the chief that fought against you on that day. I told my braves to shoot at you because you were one of the leaders. They shot and shot at you with no avail. I personally shot at you eleven times and the bullets would not penetrate. “I have traveled a long and weary path that I might see the young warrior of the great battle....I am come to pay homage to the man who is the particular favorite of Heaven, and who can never die in battle.” (*America’s Godly Heritage*. David Barton)

### The First Inaugural Day

During his inauguration on April 30, 1789, Washington was sworn into office on the upper balcony of Federal Hall in New York City. He took the oath of office on the front steps of Federal Hall, being sworn in with his left hand on a Bible held by the Chancellor of New York Robert Livingston. With tears running down his cheeks, he took the Bible out of Livingston’s hand and kissed it, saying “So help me God”. That is where we get the statement to this day.



He spoke in his inaugural address the need to depend on God for the success of the new nation. The National Archives copy of his inaugural speech contain the following statements.

“...it would be peculiarly improper to omit in this first official Act, my fervent supplications to that Almighty Being who rules over the Universe, who presides in the Councils of Nations, and whose providential aids can supply every human defect, that his benediction may consecrate to the liberties and happiness of the People of the United States...”

“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.”

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“...the propitious smiles of Heaven, can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right, which Heaven itself has ordained...”

“...so his divine blessing may be equally conspicuous in the enlarged views, the temperate consultations, and the wise measures on which the success of this Government must depend.”

According to the Senate record, *“That after the oath shall have been administered to the President, he – attended by the Vice-President and members of the Senate and House of Representatives – proceed to St. Paul’s Chapel to hear Divine service.”* (*The Debates and Proceedings in the Congress of the United States*, Vol. I, p. 25, April 27, 1789.)

At the close of his address, the church bells throughout the city rang and all the people went to their assemblies to pray for the new President. They knew it was an incredible undertaking, being utterly dependent on God for the success of the nation.

The early leaders of this new nation were often known for using scriptures in their quotes. In a letter from General George Washington to General Thomas Nelson in 1778, he said, *“The hand of providence (the hand of God) has been so conspicuous in all this (the forming of America) that he must be worse than an infidel that lacks faith, and more than wicked, that has not gratitude enough to acknowledge his obligations”* (David Barton, *Original Intent*, 1996, page 105). He was using a term from *1 Timothy 5:8*, *“But if any provide not for his own, and especially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.”*

At his farewell address in 1797, he lived by a principle found in *Proverbs 28:26*, *“He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, but he who walks wisely will be delivered.”* He knew a nation cannot survive without a national morality. *“Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are inseparable supports, indispensable. Reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in the exclusion of religious principle.”*

John Adams - 2nd President of the United States, drafter and signer of the Declaration of Independence. He is quoted as saying, *“It is religion and morality alone which can establish upon which freedom can securely stand. A patriot must be a religious man.”* He said of the Constitution that, *“Our constitution was made for a moral and religious people.”* (Federer page 10). He understood what Jesus taught in *John 8:31-32*, *“If you abide in My word, {then} you are truly disciples of Mine; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”* Adams well understood *John 8:36*, *“If therefore the Son shall make you free, you shall be free indeed.”*

Thomas Jefferson - 3rd President of the United States, writer and signer of the Declaration of Independence. Even though he was a Deist, he knew there was a Creator and was very familiar with the Christian faith and the Bible. He came to the understanding that *“Christianity is best friend to government because it is the only religion in the world that deals with the heart.”* He

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knew that a people who were freed through God were also set free on many levels. *Galatians 5:1*  
“It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.”

### James Madison -4th President of the United States

He summed it up well when he said, “*We have staked the whole future of our American civilization, not on the power of government, but far from that, but on the capacity of each and every one of us to govern ourselves by the Ten Commandments.*” Without that inner-guidance from God and His word, everyone would do “what was right in his own eyes” (Judges 21:25), leading to a national disaster.

### James Monroe -5<sup>th</sup> President of the United States

He is quoted as saying, “*The liberty, prosperity, and the happiness of our country will always be the object of my most fervent prayers to the Supreme Author of All Good.*” He knew “*the effectual fervent prayers of a righteous man avails much*” (James 5:16).

### JOHN QUINCY ADAMS -6th President of the United States

Being the son of John Adams, he knew well the source of the national freedom. He said concerning the young nation, “*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.*” To him, “*The United States of America were no longer colonies. They were an independent nation of Christians.*” (<http://www.christianparents.com/jdewey.htm>).

### Abraham Lincoln -16th President of the United States

He is likely the most faithful Christian of all the Presidents. He was baptized by a church of Christ preacher before taking office. “*Lincoln slipped away from the house with proper garments for baptism, met O’Kane and was immersed in the waters of the Sangamon River.*” ([http://www.acu.edu/sponsored/restoration\\_quarterly/archives/1990s/vol\\_38\\_no\\_2\\_contents/martin.html](http://www.acu.edu/sponsored/restoration_quarterly/archives/1990s/vol_38_no_2_contents/martin.html)) His quotes concerning God and the Bible are numerous!

- “*All the good from the saved of this world is communicated through His book, the Bible. All things desirable to man are contained within.*”
- “*I can understand how man can look to the earth and not see a God but how can he look to the heavens and not acknowledge Him?*”
- “*My great concern is not whether God is on our side; my great concern is to be on God's side.*”
- “*I believe the Bible is the best gift God has ever given to man. All the good from the Savior (Jesus) of the world is communicated to us through this book.*”
- “*If it is God's will that I must die at the hand of an assassin, I must be resigned. I must do my duty as I see it, and leave the rest with God.*”

A brief look at the Bible society leaders yields a list nearly identical to the founding fathers. There were at least fifty-five of the founding fathers that headed these Bible societies (Barton, David. Original Intent, pages 139-143). We began as “One Nation Under God” and the majority of the early leaders reflected this.

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Samuel Adams - Signer of the Declaration of Independence and was one of the writers of the Federalist Papers, cousin to John Adams. He once remarked in reflection to our rights as Americans, “*If you want to know what your rights are and how they have been violated, read the New Testament.*” He knew well that “*The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*” (Jeremiah 17:9)

Benjamin Franklin –Drafter and signer of the Declaration of Independence.

He reminded his fellow delegates that “*History will also afford frequent opportunities of showing the necessity of a public religion... and the excellency of the Christian religion above all others, ancient or modern.*”

When he was 81 years old at the Constitutional Convention and the talks were breaking down, he reminded the delegates through reference of scripture, “*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 men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without his aid?*” He would go on to say, “*We have been assured in the sacred scriptures that except the Lord build the house they labor in vain that build it; And I also believe without His concurring aid, we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel.*” (James Madison, *The Papers of James Madison*, Henry D. Gilpen, Langtree and O’Sullivan, Washington DC, 1840, Vol II, pg 985, June 28th, 1787). They listened, went to their local congregations, prayed and came back to put our Constitution together.

Patrick Henry - Member of the first and second Continental Congress

He is famously quoted, “*I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!*” The quote which the secular revisionist media like to ignore is, “*This nation was not founded by religionist, but by Christians. It was not founded by religion, but by the gospel of Jesus Christ.*” Later on at the reading of his will and testament, it said, “*This is all the inheritance I can give to my dear family. The religion of Christ can give them one which will make them rich indeed*” (Original Intent, David Barton, 1996, pg 135)

John Witherspoon -signed the Declaration of Independence and served on over 100 congressional committees, American clergyman, educator, statesman and a member of the Continental Congress (1776-79, 1780-82). He was also a delegate to the New Jersey convention of 1787 that ratified the U.S. Constitution.

He famously quoted, “*The best friend of liberty is the one most sincere in promoting religion. Whoever is an avowed enemy of God I don’t hesitate to call him an enemy of America.*”

Daniel Boone -Revolutionary Officer and legislator. He is quoted, “*The religion I have is to love and fear God, believe in Jesus Christ, do all the good to my neighbor, and myself that I can, do as little harm as I can help, and trust on God’s mercy for rest.*”

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### Benjamin Rush -Signer of the Constitution

He said in his autobiography, “*My only hope of salvation is in the infinite transcendent love of God manifested to the world by the death of His Son upon the cross. Nothing but His blood will wash away my sins. I rely exclusively upon it. Come, Lord Jesus! Come quickly!*” (Benjamin Rush. *The Autobiography of Benjamin Rush*. George C. Corner. Princeton University Press for the American Philosophical Society. 1948. Pg 166)

### John Jay -Original Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

He is quoted, “*Unto Him who is the author and giver of good, I render sincere and humble thanks for His manifold and unmerited blessings, and especially for our redemption and salvation by His beloved Son....Blessed be His holy name.*”

The politicians of the young nation would have to take an oath of faith to demonstrate their belief in Jesus Christ. The following are a couple of examples.

- Massachusetts Constitution- Any person chosen governor, or lieutenant-governor, counselor, senator, or representative, and accepting the trust, shall before proceed to execute the duties of his place or office, take, make and subscribe the following declaration, viz. “I, \_\_\_\_\_, do declare, that I believe the Christian religion, and have a firm persuasion to its truth.” (Constitution of Massachusetts Bay. Pg. 44. Chapter 6, Article 1)
- Delaware Constitution - “I, \_\_\_\_\_, do profess faith in God the Father, and in Jesus Christ His only Son, and the Holy Ghost, one God, blessed forever; and I do acknowledge the holy scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be given by divine inspiration.” (Constitutions. 1785. Pgs. 99-100. Delaware. 1776. Article 22)

We could spend days pouring over the evidence of a Christian influence in early American culture and it would only scratch the surface. The secularist media and educational elite of today are in control of the present and are attempting to rewrite the history. They are saying we had a secular beginning in their attempts to erase our history. They do this because it will be much easier to direct their efforts to fundamentally change our path for the future.

### Application:

Take back your history! Do not let them erase your Christian past! Further educate yourself and prepare to defend the truth. If we choose the path of laziness and ignorance, we will fall for anything. If we educate ourselves, we will be able to defend what we know to be true. The Bible tells us that God’s people perish due to lack of knowledge (Hosea 4:6). We must dedicate our life to knowing the scriptures, knowing the history and most of all, knowing our Lord.