

## Statesmen on God and the Bible (#8)

**Sir Isaac Newton** (1643-1727, English Polymath): There are more sure marks of authenticity in the Bible than in any profane history.

**Benjamin Franklin** (1706-1790, Founding Father, Polymath): I have lived a long time, and the longer I live the more convincing proofs I see of this truth: God governs the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His knowing, it is impossible to reason that an empire will arise without His aid.

**Patrick Henry** (1736-1799, Gov of Virginia, “Give me liberty, or give me death”): The Bible is worth all other books which have ever been printed.

**George Washington** (1732-1799, 1P, Cmdr of the Continental Army): It is impossible to reason without arriving at a Supreme Being.

It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible.

**Sir Frederick William Herschel** (1738-1822, Germ born Brit Astronomer and composer): All human discoveries seem to be made only for the purpose of confirming more and more strongly the truths contained in the Sacred Scriptures.

**John Adams** (1735-1826, 2P, Geo. Washington’s V.P., signer of the Declaration of Independence, became a Unitarian): I have examined all religions, as well as my narrow sphere, my straightened means, and my busy life, would allow; and the result is that the Bible is the best Book in the world. It contains more philosophy than all the libraries I have seen.

The principles upon which the Fathers achieved independence were the general principles of Christianity...I will avow that I believed and now believe that those general principles of Christianity are as eternal and immutable as the existence and the attributes of God.  
[Letter to Thomas Jefferson]

We recognize no Sovereign but God, and no King but Jesus! [This was said when ordered to disperse by a British major.]

We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. Avarice, ambition, revenge, or gallantry, would break the strongest cords of our Constitution as a whale goes through a net. Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other. [11 October 1798]

[The 4<sup>th</sup> of July] ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. [Letter to Abigail]

**Abigail Adams née Smith** (1744-1818, wife of John Adams): A patriot without religion, in my estimation, is as great a paradox as an honest man without the fear of God, for the Scriptures tell us that righteousness exalts a nation. [Proverbs 14:34]

**Thomas Jefferson** (1743-1826, 3P, Author of the Declaration of Independence, made the Louisiana Purchase): I have always said and will always say that the studious perusal of the Sacred Volume, the Bible, will make us better citizens.

**John Wolfgang von Goethe** (1749-1832, Germany's greatest man of letters, Polymath): Let mental culture go on advancing; let the natural sciences progress in ever greater extent and depth, and the human mind widen itself as much as it desires; beyond the elevation and moral culture of Christianity, as it shines forth in the gospels, it will not go. {Goethe's IQ has been estimated at 220.}

**James Madison** (1751-1836, 4P, The Father of Our Constitution): We have staked the whole of our political institutions upon the capacity of mankind for self-government, upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves, to control ourselves, to sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God.

**James Monroe** (1758-1831, 5P, The Last Founding Father and Deist): In his first inaugural address he entered his office with "fervent prayers to the Almighty that He will be graciously pleased to continue giving us that protection which he has already so conspicuously displayed in our favor." In his second inaugural address he spoke of his "firm reliance on the protection of Almighty God."

**John Quincy Adams** (1767-1848, 6P, America's greatest Sec of State and called "The Last Puritan"): So great is my veneration for the Bible that the earlier my children begin to read it the more confident will be my hope that they will prove useful citizens of their country and respectable members of society. I have for many years made it a practice to read through the Bible once every year.

It is essential, my son, that you should form and adopt certain rules and principles. It is in the Bible you must learn them and from the Bible how to practice them.

**Andrew Jackson** (1767-1845, 7P): That book, Sir, is the Rock on which our republic rests.

**Noah Webster** (1758-1843, Lexicographer called The Father of American Scholarship and Education): When you become entitled with the exercise of the right of voting for public officers, let it be impressed upon your mind that God commands us to choose for yourselves rulers who are just men who rule in the fear of God. The preservation of this republican form of government depends upon the faithful discharge of this duty and if the citizens neglect this duty, and place unprincipled men in the office of government, it will soon be corrupted. Laws will be made, not for the public good as much as for selfish local purposes.

**Daniel Webster** (1782-1852, Sec of State, 3-time presidential candidate, Lexicographer): If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible, our country will go on prospering and to prosper. But if we and our posterity neglect its instruction and authority, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us and bury all our glory in profound obscurity.

Whatever makes good Christians makes them good citizens.

**William Henry Seward** (1801-1872, Anti-Slavery Activist, “Seward’s Folly”): The whole hope of human progress is suspended on the ever-growing influence of the Bible.

**Abraham Lincoln** (1809-1865, 16P): In regard to the Great Book, I have this to say: It is the best gift God has given to man. All the good the Savior gave to the world was communicated through this Book. Except for it, we would not know right from wrong. All things most desirable for man’s welfare, here and hereafter, are to be found in it.

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, enriched, and strengthened us. 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 clemency and forgiveness upon us. [30 April 1863]

**Alfred Lord Tennyson** (1809-1892, English Poet Laureate): Bible reading is an education in itself.

Best Book ever written: The Book of Job

Best Hymn ever written: Holy, Holy, Holy

**Charles Dickens** (1812-1870, English Novelist): The New Testament is the very best book that ever was or ever will be known to the world.

**Horace Greeley** (1811-1872, Ed of NY Tribune): It is impossible to enslave mentally or socially a Bible-reading people. The principles of the Bible are the groundwork of human freedom.

**Robert E. Lee** (1807-1870, Gov of Virginia, Cmdr of Confed Army of North Virginia): In all my perplexities and distresses, the Bible has never failed to give me light and strength.

**Ulysses S. Grant** (1822-1885, 18P, Gen-in-Chief of Union Army): Hold fast to the Bible as the sheet anchor of your liberty. Write its precepts on you heart and practice them in your life. To the influence of this Book, we are indebted for all the progress made in true civilization, and to this we must look as our Guide in the future.

**Thomas Huxley** (1825-1895, English Biologist, “Darwin’s Bulldog”): The Bible has been the Magna Charta of the poor and oppressed. The human race is not in a position to dispense with it.

**D. L. Moody** (1837-1899, Am Evangelist and Publisher): I prayed for faith and thought that someday faith would come down and strike me like lightning. But faith did not seem to come. One day I read in the tenth chapter of Romans, “Now faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.” I had closed my Bible and prayed for faith. I now opened my Bible, and began to study, and faith has been growing ever since.

**Dwight D. Eisenhower** (1890-1969, 34P, Supreme Cmdr. of Allied Forces WW2): The Bible is endorsed by the ages. Our civilization is built upon its words. In no other book is there such a collection of inspired wisdom, reality and hope.

Recognition of the Supreme Being is the first, the most basic expression of Americanism. Without God there could be no American form of government, nor an American way of life.

**Ronald Reagan** (1911-2004, 40P, Gov Calif): Inside the Bible’s pages lie all the answers to the problems man has ever known. I hope Americans will read and study the Bible...It is my firm belief that the enduring values presented in its pages have a great meaning for each of us and for our nation. The Bible can touch our hearts, order our minds and refresh our souls.

**John Ashcroft** (1942—Senator from Missouri, 79<sup>th</sup> US Attorney Gen): What is the difference between Bible-based Christianity and Islam? In Islam their god demands that they give their sons to him. In Christianity our God gave His Son to us.

**George W. Bush** (1946-- , 43P, Gov Tex): We have been assured that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height, nor depth can separate us from God’s love. May He bless the souls of the departed; may He comfort our own, and May He always guide our country. God bless America!

**General George Patton** (1885-1945, US Third Army in WWII, Outspoken, relieved the siege of the Battle of the Bulge): On 8 December, 1944 (after issuing the order to print 250,000 copies of The Patton Prayer), Patton said to his Chaplain (Msgr. James H. O’Neill): I am a strong believer in prayer. There are three ways that men get what they want: by planning, by working, and by praying. Any great military operation takes careful planning, or thinking. Then you must have well-trained troops to carry it out: that’s working. But between the plan and the operation there is always an unknown. That unknown spells defeat or victory, success or failure. Some people call that getting the breaks; I call it God. God has his part, or margin in everything. That’s where prayer comes in. Up to now, in the Third Army, God has been very good to us. We have never retreated; we have suffered no defeats, no famine, and no epidemics. This is because a lot of people back home are praying for us. We were lucky in Africa, in Sicily, and in Italy, simply because people prayed. But we have to pray for ourselves too. A good soldier is not made merely by making him think and work. There is something in every soldier that goes deeper than thinking or working—it’s in his guts. It is something that he has built in there. It is a world of truth and power that is higher than himself. Great living is not just the output of thought and work. A man has



## Miscellaneous

**Preamble to CA Constitution** (1850, 31S, Golden State): We, the people of the State of California, grateful to Almighty God for our freedom, in order to secure and perpetuate its blessings, do establish this Constitution.

**Preamble to NY Constitution** (1788, 11S, Empire State): We, the people of the State of New York, grateful to Almighty God for our freedom, in order to secure its blessings...

**Preamble to MA Constitution** (1788, 6S, Bay State): We the people of Massachusetts acknowledging with grateful hearts the goodness of the Great Legislator of the Universe in the course of His providence, an opportunity and devoutly imploring His direction...

For any other state see [http://www.usconstitution.net/states\\_god.html](http://www.usconstitution.net/states_god.html).

### **U. S. Congress, 1782**

In that year, the U.S. Congress approved and recommended to the people the Holy Bible for use in the school.

### **Supreme Court: Runkles vs Weinmiller, 1796**

By our form of government, the Christian religion is the established religion of all sects and denominations of Christians where we are all placed on the same and equal footing.

### **Vida vs Gerard, 1844**

In response to a schoolteacher giving instructions on morals without using the Bible, the court recommended that she use the Bible especially the New Testament. The Bible was to be read and taught as divine revelation in our schools.

### **House Judiciary Committee, 1854**

This body said that Christianity should be encouraged, just not any one sect.

### **Supreme Court: Church of the Holy Trinity vs the United States, 1892**

Our laws and institutions must necessarily be based upon and embody the teachings of the Redeemer of Mankind. It is impossible for it to be otherwise, and in this sense and to this extent, our civilization, our institutions are emphatically Christian. [The Supreme Court then quoted 87 precedents showing that our nation was established as a Christian nation by believing Christians.]

### **Blackstone's Commentary on Law**

This commentary listed all verses of Scripture used to justify court decisions.

### **University of Houston, 1970s**

Political science professors at the U. of Houston, intent on discovering what it was that made the U.S. Constitution so durable spent 10 years researching 15,000 references. Their conclusion was that the founding fathers quoted the Bible directly 34% of the time and indirectly by quoting men who quoted the Bible 60% of the time. The top four most quotable sources had this frequency of occurrence: Blackstone 5.6%, John Locke 11.1%, Montesque 16.6%, the Bible 66.7%.

### **Important Rulings against Christianity**

1947, Everson vs Board of Education: Wall of Separation between Church and State

1962, Engel vs Vitale: Public Prayer Banned from Public Schools

1963, Avington vs Shemp: Bible reading was outlawed in the U.S. Public school system.

1980, Stone vs Graham: Outlawed the 10 Commandments in School

**The New England Primer**, 1777 Edition for Primary Grades, 1690-1900

The ABCs were learned with verses:

- A) A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish son makes heaviness to his mother.
- B) Better is little with the fear of the Lord than abundance apart from Him.
- C) Come unto Christ all you who are weary and heavy laden.
- D) Do not do the abominable thing which I hate sayeth the Lord.
- E) Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.
- F) Etc.

See <http://www.sacred-texts.com/chr/nep/1777/>

**Colonel Joshua Chamberlain**, (from a report filed with the War Department in 1865 as narrated by Pastor Ken Wilde, *Restoring the Lampstand to America*, CT348/26159)

Our lines began to break before the overwhelming number of rebel soldiers. Our guns let loose but the enemy kept coming. We had to defend that hill. To lose Little Round Top would have been to lose everything. Then a terrible thing happened. We ran out of ammunition. I thought we would have to pull back. Then out of nowhere rode a tall figure on a shiny white horse. Now I know this is incredible, but the rider was dressed as a revolutionary general, and the face, I would swear, was the face of George Washington. He raised his arm high and gave the signal to advance. My men began to shout and cheer. The rebels saw it too and began to shoot at it. The figure rode back and forth, and the Confederate guns followed it. He should have been shot a thousand times over. No human being could have survived that fire. The rider urged our men on and raising their bayonets, they charged down the hill on top of the rebels. Their bayonet charge must have taken them by surprise for they turned and fled. We almost lost Little Round Top, and if we had, we could have lost Gettysburg and the war.

[This probably coincided with General Longstreet's 4 PM attack on Little Round Top during the second day of battle (2 July 1863). He subsequently withdrew and took Peach Orchard. When the 4<sup>th</sup> of July dawned, the battle had been won.]

**George Washington Protected from Musket Fire**, 9 July, 1755

The Battle of Gettysburg was not the first time George Washington was protected from point blank musket fire. The following account is equally "incredible". During the Battle of Monongahela, General Edward Braddock was killed by the Indians. British forces were decimated. George Washington, a 23-year-old colonel from the Virginia militia had two horses shot from under him. Four musket balls went through the outer fabric of his coat, but did not penetrate his skin or even cause a bruise. [Ref: Kistler, *This Nation*, p 54 (from Washington's personal diary)] George wrote to his brother Jack: "Death was leveling my companions on every side of me, but by the all-powerful dispensations of Providence, I have been protected. [Ref: Bancroft, *History*, IV, p 190]

"Fifteen years later, Washington and his long-time friend, Dr. Craik, were exploring the wilderness territory in the Western Reserve. Near the junction of the Kanawha and Ohio Rivers, a band of Indians came to them with an interpreter. The leader of the band was an old and venerable chief, who wished to have words with Washington. A council fire was kindled, and this is what the chief said: 'I am a chief and ruler over my tribes. My influence extends to the waters of the Great Lakes, and to the far blue mountains. I have traveled a long and weary path, that I might see the young warrior of the great battle. It was on the day when the white man's blood mixed with the streams of our forest, that I first beheld this chief. I called to my young men and said, "Mark yon tall and daring warrior. He is not of the red-coat tribe—he hath an Indian's wisdom, and his warriors fight as we do—himself alone is exposed. Quick let your aim be certain, and he dies." Our rifles were leveled, rifles which, but for him, knew not how to miss...Twas all in vain; a power mightier far than we shielded him from harm. He cannot die in battle. I am old, and soon shall be gathered to the great council fire of my fathers in the land of shades, but ere I go, there is something that bids me speak in the voice of prophecy: Listen! The Great Spirit protects that man and guides his destinies. He will become the chief of nations, and a people yet unborn will hail him as the founder of a mighty empire.'" [Ref: William Johnson, *George Washington, the Christian*, pp 23-28 and Peter Marshall and David Manuel, *The Light and the Glory* pp 285-286]

**George Washington, 1752**

As a 20-year-old, George Washington filled 24 pages of a manuscript with personal prayers written in his own hand. These prayers were recorded in *George Washington, the Christian* written by William Johnson and rediscovered as an out-of-print book in the library of Yale Divinity Law School Library circa 1975. On "Sunday Evening", the following was recorded: O most glorious God...I acknowledge and confess my faults in the weak and imperfect performance of the duties of this day. I have called on Thee for pardon and forgiveness of sins, but so coldly and carelessly that my prayers are become my sin and stand in need of pardon. I have heard Thy holy word, but with such deadness of spirit that I have been an unprofitable and forgetful hearer...But, O God, who art rich in mercy and plenteous in redemption, mark not, I beseech Thee, what I have done amiss; remember that I am but dust, and remit my transgressions, negligences and ignorances, and cover them all with the absolute obedience of Thy dear Son, that those sacrifices (of sin, praise and thanksgiving) which I have offered may be accepted by Thee, in and for the sacrifice of Jesus Christ offered upon the Cross for me.

**Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War**

When asked if God was on our side in the war, he replied: "Sir, my concern is not whether God is on our side, my great concern is to be on God's side."

**Abraham Lincoln, 1863**

I do not doubt that our country will finally come through safe and undivided, but do not misunderstand me. I do not rely on the patriotism of our people, the bravery and devotion of our boys in blue, or the loyalty and skill of our generals, but the God of our father who raised up this country to be a refuge and asylum of the oppressed and downtrodden of all nations. We will not let it perish now.

**Abraham Lincoln, Late June 1863**

I went to my room one day and I locked the door and I got down on my knees to pray before Almighty God. I prayed to him mightily for victory at Gettysburg. I then and there made a solemn vow to Almighty God that if he would stand by our boys at Gettysburg, I would stand by him. Soon a sweet comfort crept into my soul that God Almighty had taken the whole business into his own hands and that things would go all right at Gettysburg.

Quotations come from Halley's Bible Handbooks 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> Editions, Sword of the Lord newspaper 27 July 2009, "The Awakening of America--America, You're Too Young to Die" by David T. Moore 800-715-1444 P.O. Box 14-444 Palm Desert, CA 92255), and many other sources.