

David Phelps – First tenor

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Let Freedom Ring

Our scripture for today comes from 2 Kings chapter 8. The setting is about 845 BC. King Joram of the Northern 10 Tribes of Israel ruled about 150 years after King David during the time of King Jehoshaphat who was king of the Southern two tribes referred to as Judah.

I am reading 2 Kings 8:16-19 **16** *In the fifth year of Joram son of Ahab king of Israel, when Jehoshaphat was king of Judah, Jehoram son of Jehoshaphat began his reign as king of Judah. 17 He was thirty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem eight years. 18 He followed the ways of the kings of Israel, as the house of Ahab had done, for he married a daughter of Ahab. He did evil in the eyes of the LORD. 19 Nevertheless, for the sake of his servant David, the LORD was not willing to destroy Judah. He had promised to maintain a lamp for David and his descendants forever.*

For a time GOD protected the Jewish nation because of the greatness of their forefather, but when the people abandoned GOD, and became traitors to His righteousness - GOD gave them what satan inspired them to believe they wanted. And they were therefore abandoned by GOD to their own evil inspired perverted passions. We saw this over and over throughout history as noted last week. Why haven't we learned the lessons of history to Let Freedom Ring?

The promised lamp for David in the last part of verse 19 He had promised to maintain a lamp for David and his descendants forever. That promise continues in us today as the remnant of faith followers. Your physical presence today is evidence of that long ago promised lamp. That promised lamp is the light of the spiritual hope through JESUS CHRIST and is the manifest destiny of those faith followers of 2022 as it has always been and will always will be until the return of our Lord Jesus for us to be taken home with Him. /// Believers, - hang your hat and habits on this promise of *John 14:1-3 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*

It is noteworthy to be reminded that the physical people and chosen nation of Israel suffered and continue to this day to suffer the consequence of the dereliction of their duty under GOD for the freedoms He promised them. They were traitors to the principles that would have resulted in their freedom. ///

Have you ever noticed how often those who inherit great wealth squander it in the first generation or two or worse yet who squander potentially productive lives because they existed off the estate of their ancestors? That is the fate of Israel and the great inheritance of faith that could have/should have been theirs. It is the application for we as citizens of the USA today to carefully consider that in our own lives and experience we do not squander the freedoms we have inherited though the promises of God and become traitors to principles that are essential for true freedom..

We are privileged and blessed to live in the greatest nation in the history of the world. It did not happen accidentally... AND we cannot continue to live off the blessings GOD has given to our father's, grandfather's and the founders of this nation because of their attaining and maintaining freedom. We do have a scriptural mandates by which to sustain that freedom: It is found in Psalms 33:12 *Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people He chose for His inheritance.*

And Psalms 144:15 Blessed are the people of whom this is true; blessed are the people whose God is the LORD.

We have been given a mandate from GOD - we have a duty to GOD - in this country it was first made apparent by our founding fathers. But now that responsibility has been passed on to us. LET FREEDOM RING!

At this 4th of July celebration 2022, it behooves us to review our past and apply that knowledge to the present and our duties and responsibilities to the future which the Apostle Paul summarized for us in *1 Tim 4:16 Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself And your hearers.*

From Bradford's history of the Plymouth Plantation - when they arrived in Dec 20, 1620 they clearly outlined why this became a great nation. First of all they constructed the birth certificate of this nation in the hull of the Mayflower by saying: "In the name of GOD Amen- We do plant this colony for the glory of GOD and the advancement of the Christian faith."

Never in the history of the world had a nation been established for the glory of GOD and the advancement of the Christian faith. But our founding fathers did precisely that and they had a purpose. They knew GOD did not permit believers to investigate or practice other religions. They came here to practice the dictates of their Christian conscience. And they laid a foundation for us. In fact they said, "for the propagating of the gospel of JESUS CHRIST to the remotest parts of the world. Yea we be but stepping stones unto others for the performing of so great a task." Our pilgrim forefathers considered themselves to be stepping stones for you and I to establish a platform of liberty in this nation for the preaching of the gospel around the world. **That's why we have been blessed. That's why we have been such a great nation.** LET FREEDOM RING!

Even years after the pilgrims were here, our founding father's of the colonial generation understood clearly that GOD'S word applies to all of life and living. They had a Biblical world view, they understood that if you wanted to be successful in business you look it up in GOD'S word, if you want to have good relationships with family and friends you find the principles in GOD'S word. Whatever we want to do in life, there are principles in GOD'S word that dictate and guide us. They implemented GOD'S principles in every area of their lives. The result was there was conflict between them and England, their mother country./// Of course, England tried to oppress this nation. But what they found was a strange kind of resistance, what they found were men and women who were considered the most literate people on the face of the earth in the American colonies. They found a strange kind of resistance, a resistance based on character and principal. When England levied the stamp act tax, the colonists did not take up muskets and try to fight. They sent emissaries to England, they tried to reason with local magistrates, they sent letters, they appealed, they paid the tax. They were not rebellious. When the Stamp Act was no longer in affect and the Townsend Act was implemented, they paid the tax. Again they sent emissaries and reasoned with local magistrates and they tried to be good Englishmen. But they saw that the day was coming. The day had to come when their standing up for the principles they believed in would lead them to a place of division. And finally it came on the green of Lexington when 27 patriots stood on the steps of their church with their pastor Jonas Clarke and 800 British Marines marched down the road to Lexington. --- 200 years of Biblical principal passed on from generation to generation was implanted in the hearts of

those men as they stood on those church steps and said, “this far and no further.” When England had dispatched bishops to come and take control of their local churches, when their daughters and wives were being ravaged by the illegal billeting (housing) of British troops. Our founding fathers said “this far and no further.” When the moment came and those 800 British Marines under the control of Major Pickering came down to the church at Lexington and faced 27 men with squirrel muskets in their hands, and Major Pickering looked at them and said “disperse you Yankees, why don’t you disperse?” And they stood, they stood with all the character and conviction of their Father’s before them. “Why don’t you disperse? Disperse this group.” And they stood. And Captain Parker said: “We want not war, but if it must be, then let it begin here.” The British wheeled around to the right and a shot was fired. Our founding fathers took the first volley of rounds with their arms at their side. There was a woman who was watching this from the side, observed what was happening and Jonas Clarke the preacher who was standing in front of the entire group of patriots grabbed one of the men who was wounded and dying and was holding him. The woman ran out from the side and said: “look what you have done, look at what you have done!” And he said, “I have no regrets, I have no regrets for from this hour the death bell of tyranny has sounded and freedom is born around the world.” 8 were instantly killed but patriots in the area responded and thousands responded winning the battle.

GOD blessed that rag tag bunch of plow boys to defeat the finest fighting machine the world had produced to date because GOD was with them, because they stood for the principles that GOD had laid down for them to lead their lives. The first skirmish was at Reed’s Hill at the base of Bunker Hill. It proved something to them. They began to defeat the British until they ran out of ammunition and then they began to fight with rocks and sticks and they proved to men and women around them in nearby villages that “we could do this.” When General Green pursued General Gage, not once, not twice, but three times - **GOD** caused the rivers to rise so that the British could not pursue the inferior force of the Continentals. GOD blessed them. HE blessed them abundantly. - As it came to the end of that conflict, the whole heart of America had changed. LET FREEDOM RING!

Because you see, America is not just a form of government, America is a heart condition that **must be** passed on from generation to generation We need heroes - great men and women of Character whom GOD has worked through – that need held up to each generation. It was George Washington who said: “The indispensable supports of good government - are religion and morality. Let us move with caution if we think one can exist without the other.” It was George Washington who gathered his officers to pray before the battle. It was George Washington who was seen praying by a man who was a Torrey and who ran back to his home and his wife and pounded his fist on the table and said; “we cannot win this war.” And she said “what has become of you?” He just said, “I saw General Washington in the woods praying.” A man of great and incredible character known by the entire nation of America who swept him into office. Twice the Continental Congress recommended that he be made king over America, he had the character to step away and say: “Never shall we repeat the mistakes of the past.”

They understood all rights come from GOD not man. If you believe all rights come from the government, then that government can take those rights away anytime they want to. /// And those men and women stood firm that all rights come from GOD - it is the truth laid down

in scripture. They laid great principles in place that have blessed this nation from that time.

After the battles of the Revolutionary war were over, and the words of the Declaration of Independence were being framed, another battle was yet to be fought. And that was in the halls of congress. How do you create a form of government that will represent the colonies of the great landmass and the populations different in each one. How do you create equality in representation? They battled back and forth, and the Continental Congress was just about to disband thinking they were never going to be able to come back together again in any kind of harmony. In fact, the North Carolina delegation sent messages back saying: “congress was going to disband, that there would be no hope.” There was concern that if we could not create a form of government, the British might attack again.

Then a little old man stood up and faced General Washington who chaired the committee and he said these words: “we have not hetherto once thought of humbly appealing ourselves to our FATHER of lights to illumine our understanding. In the beginning of the contest with Great Britain when we were sensible to danger and had daily prayers in this room for divine protection, our prayers sir, were graciously heard and answered. Do we assume that we no longer need HIS help? 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? We have been assured sir in the sacred writings, that unless the LORD build the house, they labor in vain that build it. I firmly believe this.”

And when Benjamin Franklin sat down, there was a hush on the Continental Congress. From that day congress has opened its sessions with prayer. After Franklin made that declaration and that statement - they devised the concept of our form of government that was unique in the history of the world. And the pattern came straight from scripture. Straight from Isaiah 33:22 *For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; it is he who will save us.* NIV

For the LORD is our judge = judicial;
the LORD is our lawgiver,= legislative;
the LORD is our king =executive.

A diffusion of power, for the first time in history instead of a centralization of power and monarchy they began to create a system of diffusion of power that produced more individual liberty than any people have every experienced in the history of the world. Because they believed in GOD’S word.

Quote of John Quincy Adams: “The highest glory in the American Revolution is this, that in one indissoluble sweep it connected the principles of Christianity and the principles of civil government.” And that is why his father, John Adams said: “That our constitution, our system of government is written for a religious people and is **wholly inadequate for the governing of any other.**”

Our principles, our foundation are Christian, distinctly Christian, but we live in a society that wants to rub that out. We live in a society that wants to change it all together. To make us think we are a pluralistic society. (Pluralism means in this context the concept of existing in the United States as an American, but retaining all of one’s ethnic, religious, linguistic, traditions brought from somewhere else at the same time, giving preference to heritage or other irreligious

mindsets). **We are not a pluralistic society.** That is humanist fallacy! We live in a Christian nation.

Ps 11:3 *When the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do?"* NIV Blackstone has written - that **any law written contrary to the law of GOD is no law at all.**

I see no violation in taking that a step further and saying that **any law written contrary to the law of GOD is no law at all.** It is treason written by traitors!

Listen to Isaiah 5:20 *Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter.*

Romans 13 contains the famous passage for everyone to submit to government "Rom 13:1 *Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.*

But be careful you mind what it says - not what some government wants you to think it says. Government is established by GOD - under any other establishment it is not of GOD. Government is ordained of GOD, to enforce GOD's laws, not man's humanistic ones, that is no government at all but tyranny. Government is ordained of GOD to punish those who do evil according to GOD's laws, not man's humanistic ones. If you reverse the principle as humanistic culture does, it reverses GOD'S principles and HE cannot bless any longer.

Earlier we said: //"Have you ever noticed how often those who inherit great wealth squander it in the first generation or two or worse yet who squander potentially productive lives because they existed off the estate of their ancestors?" That application is for all of us as we celebrate our freedom. But we as citizens of the USA today must carefully consider in our own lives and experience. We simply cannot continue to live off the blessings GOD has given to our fathers, grandfather's and the founders of this nation because of their attaining and maintaining freedom. We have a charge to do our part in our generation. May every aspect of your celebration be focused on GOD and thanking HIM for your blessings and responding to HIS divine inspiration to do your part in sustaining those freedoms for generations yet to come.

LET FREEDOM RING

Isiah 6:8 is the clarion call to us: **8** *And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me."* ESV

Our invitation hymn words are on the back of the bulletin and on the screen. If you have never accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior and he is directing you to do so today, or if there is another decision you want to make public, please come forward and speak to me as we stand together and sing : "He Touched Me"