

America celebrated its 250th birthday with much fanfare and fireworks. We have much to be thankful for. The founders of our country were led by God to set up a constitutional republic, not a democracy as the misinformed suggest. At our founding, according to John Adams: 1/3 were for the Revolution, 1/3 were for the Crown of England and 1/3 were indifferent - Our independence from King George and England was only part of the story. Our first settlers and later our founding fathers also proclaimed our dependence on God and his Holy Scriptures, from which they solidified our constitutional principles and bill of rights. They were aware of the dangers of centralized power, therefore they instituted the separation of the executive, legislature and judicial branches of human government. Only God himself can be trusted with all three at once - Isaiah 33:22. Self-government is better than a bureaucratic nanny state, but it can only succeed when the people have morality and self-discipline which stems from reliance and respect for God and his ways. James Madison is considered the father of our Constitution. He was a great student of the Bible and believed that God's Word must not only be applied to private life but also to government. Madison summed up the efforts of the Constitutional Convention with these words after 4 months of serious deliberation.

We have staked the whole future of American civilization, not upon the power of government, far from it. We have staked the future of all 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.

- Vernal Hall, historian / Foundation for American Christian Education

Two thirds of the 3 million population of our country were Puritans and Calvinists in their beliefs and world view. The Puritans saw a parallel between God's covenant relationship with ancient Israel and also with the formation of America. Both were established to proclaim the glory and goodness of Almighty God. Sadly, we have succumbed to many of the failures we see from Israel's story in the Old Testament. Prosperity and comfort can lead to less dependence on God.

'When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you. Be careful that you do not forget the Lord your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day. Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses, settle down, and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, then **your heart will become proud,** and **you will forget the Lord your God** who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. - Deuteronomy 8:10-14 NIV

During many of our Sunday School classes in the 1970's, I remember how often we looked at the warnings God gave to Israel and how our country was drifting into idolatry and other sins just as did Israel. If you look at our **Kingdom Intro** section in our website, you will find a message called **Kingdom Aspects** which gives a brief summary of 8 areas which include: Words, Wonders, Walk, Works, Warfare, Wisdom, Wealth and Warnings! God gives warnings to spare us from the consequences of living apart from his wisdom, presence and power.

America is in danger from many dark forces within....secular humanists, radical Islamists, Marxists and Communists and pagan globalists. However, our greatest peril is to live independent from the God who inspired the formation of our country. May we once again depend on Him and His Word. A minority remnant of Jesus' followers influenced America 250 years ago. The same can happen again!

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