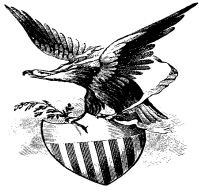


Light Brings Salt

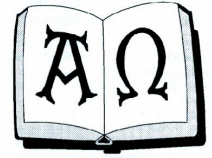
Volume 6, Issue 26

July 06, 2008



Iron Range Bible Church

Dedicated to the Systematic Exposition of the Word of God
"Sanctify them in the truth: Your word is truth."



True Liberty

by Henry Morris IV

When the United States of America was founded on July 4, 1776, the signing of the Declaration of Independence was preceded by prayer at the urging of Benjamin Franklin, the senior statesmen of the fledgling nation. It was certainly no coincidence, then, that the very first sentence of this historic document acknowledged God as Creator ("nature's God").

This was followed by arguably one of the world's best-known statements, when the delegates declared that "all men are created equal...endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights." And even in the concluding sentence, the delegates pledged "support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence." From its very beginning, America was founded on an expressed faith in God as both Creator and Sustainer, and the Lord has blessed this nation greatly in the years since that first Fourth of July.

It has been noted that America's beginning and the history that followed seem, in many ways, to mirror that of ancient Israel. God's chosen nation of Israel started strong, but its people gradually forgot their Sabbaths, Passovers, and Jubilee years. They even forgot God, and instead turned to the gods of nature. After multiple calls for repentance through His prophets, God finally judged Israel and banished them to captivity.

In much the same way, the Lord greatly blessed America in its remarkable formation and early history. When the Liberty Bell was rung on that first Independence Day, a proclamation taken directly from Scripture was sent to all thirteen colonies: "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof" ([Leviticus 25:10](#)). And yet America, like ancient Israel, is rapidly forgetting the true Creator that it acknowledged in

its beginning--which may eventually, I fear, exhaust the patience of God.

In reality, many Americans have already deserted their Christian heritage of liberty through our great Savior. And as a result, they have relinquished their freedom in some fashion--exchanging it for immorality, drugs, self-indulgence, pleasure, or some other pursuit that conflicts with God's Word. They have, in effect, become "the servant of sin" ([John 8:34](#)), and have been deceived by "great swelling words" from false teachers who "promise them liberty" but who themselves "are the servants of corruption" ([2 Peter 2:18-19](#)).

But we have a Hope! True freedom--true liberty--can only be secured by faith in Christ's saving work. For "if the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed" ([John 8:36](#)). As a nation--and as individuals--we need to return, before it is too late, to that same Creator so strongly affirmed by our founding fathers in the Declaration of Independence.

ICR seeks through its use of good science to help those of our world discover the true liberty that is found in the Creator. That freedom begins with a belief in the God of creation, and flourishes with the knowledge of His Word. While the adversaries of God and His Word are powerful and plentiful, we are not intimidated--because the Lord is on our side. But the opposition is very real, and the battle grows hotter every day. As such, we need your help both in finances and through prayer to strengthen our hands as we fight on. Please let me know how I can serve you as you prayerfully consider joining our cause.

A Most Remarkable Declaration

Larry Arnn

Friday morning, July 4, our nation marks for the 232nd time the signing of the Declaration of

Independence, which we have always regarded as the event that makes us what we are. Also we have regarded it as the event that marks us a special nation, a nation holding out a light to guide the rest of the world.

Always, that is, until lately.

Today critics celebrate that the world is passing us by. Fareed Zachariah declares: "America remains the global superpower today, but it is an enfeebled one." China and India will soon tower above us.

Amy Chua writes in her book *Day of Empire* that we are getting what we deserve. Our empire building and our "xenophobic intolerance" are the causes of our coming decline. These sentiments are as common in the academy as snow in the Midwest (apologies, global warming).

Increasingly our politics revolve around the fashions of other nations or of that vast entity, commanding and yet impotent—"the world," or better, "the rest of the world." Seldom now do our politicians hearken to the great documents of our republic, the Declaration and the Constitution, to guide their actions or restrain their ambitions. We are reaching, perhaps, the place where America does not matter. Many think this a happy place.

Before we call it happy, we might just revisit this old and neglected friend to see what he has to say.

The universal claims of the Declaration are more remarkable when one remembers that it is an act of treason carrying the risk of death to all who supported it. Especially at the end, where the resolve of the signers becomes particular and grim, one can see that the document contemplates sacrifice as the price of liberty:

And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

A lovely sentence, it contains one of the four mentions of God to be found in the Declaration. As it forms a link to God, so it forms at the same time a band of brothers, Adams pledging his life to Jefferson, and Jefferson to Franklin and Hancock and all the others. It is the mood of the battlefield. It is the prayer of the soldier before the charge is sounded.

How curious then is the contrast between this solemn and resolute conclusion to the Declaration and its majestic and universal beginning. You have read the words:

When in the course of human events [meaning any time, not just 1776, and not just today] it becomes necessary for one people [meaning any people, not just our own] to dissolve the political bands that have connected them to another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

Is this not remarkable to read in an age dominated by relativism and multiculturalism? We may think today that morality changes with the individual, right and wrong different in one nation than in another, but our fathers did not think that. They thought rather than our rights are written "as with a sunbeam, in the whole volume of human nature by the hand of Divinity itself" (Alexander Hamilton).

Look about the world today and you will see that many powerful nations proclaim precisely the opposite of the Declaration of Independence. The doctrine of China, official and lately reiterated, is that the suppression of religion and free speech by the privileged and the powerful is the only proper form of "democracy". When the Russian government cooks elections, arrests candidates, expropriates the property of its opponents, it sneers that it acts for the motherland. If in these countries the people are allowed to work and to save for their families, it is because the interest of the state justifies it. If that interest changes, then their rights are forfeit. Notice the class politics of the current presidential race: does this idea not have a foothold here, too?

We might remember then, this Fourth of July, that our nation may not be perfect, but it can make a claim available to no other: in the name of the rights of all, it was built from the first to belong to its people and not to their rulers.

It is not given to any nation to be guaranteed preeminence of power; certainly we did not have it at our beginning, and we may not have it in future. Never mind: if we cling to the principles that brought us to life, we will use whatever power we have for good. If others nations do that, we can live with them in peace and celebrate their strength as much as they. If they do not, then we should remember the resolution of our fathers before a certain despotic King.

The Declaration, you see, remains "the last, best hope of mankind on earth."

Obama's Faith

On March 27, 2004, then Democratic nominee for the U.S. Senate from Illinois, B. Hussein Obama denied the deity of Christ, defined Christ as Muslims define Him, said there were many ways to eternity, defined sin as "being out of alignment with" his own values, and defined heaven in Islamic terms. Obama was interviewed by Cathleen Falsani, author of "The God Factor: Inside the Spiritual Lives of Public People." Because of the interest in Obama's faith, she has made the interview available to the public. It is the most revealing commentary on Obama's faith, by Obama himself.

Islam believes that Jesus Christ is a historical figure, a teacher, a prophet, but not the Son of God, the Savior of the world. In Obama's words, "Jesus is a historical figure for me, and he's also a bridge between God and man, in the Christian faith, and one that I think is powerful precisely because he serves as that means of us reaching something higher. And he's also a wonderful teacher. I think its important for all of us of whatever faith, to have teachers in the flesh and also teachers in history...There's the belief, certainly in some quarters, that people haven't embraced Jesus Christ as their personal savior that they are going to hell."

Obama says he doesn't believe that. He says, "I find it hard to believe that my God would consign four-fifths of the world to hell. I can't imagine that my God would allow some little Hindu kid in India who never interacts with the Christian faith to somehow burn for all eternity...I think that each of us when we walk into our church or mosque or synagogue are interpreting that experience in different ways, are reading scriptures in different ways and are arriving at our own understanding at different ways and in different phases...If all it took was someone proclaiming 'I believe Jesus Christ and that he died for my sins,' and that was all there was to it, people wouldn't have to keep coming to church, would they?"

Obama also reflected an Islamic-type concept of heaven. He said he doesn't presume to know what happens after death. He said, "But I feel very strongly that whether the reward is in the here and now or in the hereafter, the aligning myself to my faith and my values is a good thing...if I am true to myself and my faith, that that is its own reward, when I'm not true to it, it's its own punishment." From his own words, you can draw

your own conclusions about Obama and his faith. Jesus Christ said in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man comes unto the Father, but by me." According to Jesus, there is only one way to the Father. You can't believe in Jesus and yet believe Jesus is a liar.

A Most Amazing Escape Artist

Job 38:41

Who provideth for the raven his food? when his young ones cry unto God, they wander for lack of meat.

A parasitic worm that matures on land, but must breed under the water has some remarkable abilities to make this difficult trick possible.

The worm grows to maturity on dry land, but must return to a body of water to find a mate and breed. It grows inside insects like crickets. The insects it infests are typically not aquatic, making this problem number one. When breeding time comes, the worm causes the insect to move in such an uncontrolled manner that it eventually ends up in the water. Once in the water, it takes the worm about 10 minutes to escape from the insect. However, an insect struggling on the surface of the water is very attractive to a hungry fish. This is problem number two. But if the worm can't wriggle free of the insect before it is eaten, the worm has more abilities to put into play. The worm inside an eaten insect continues to wriggle until it finally escapes through the fish's mouth or gills. Scientists studying the worm reported observing six escapes each from frogs and perch and more than 20 escapes from trout.

God has marvelously provided for this little worm. But then, this is easy for Him, considering He has provided us with escape from sin, death and Satan through the innocent death of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Quote:

"When the terrorists attack again—as Homeland Security has repeatedly warned us they will—how many survivors will be consoled because the Supreme Court and the State Department looked out for the 'rights' of terrorists before the rights of their dead loved ones?" —Cal Thomas