

## AMERICA'S CHRISTIAN HERITAGE

8/6/2017

### II Chronicles 7:12-15

We continue our series on our Christian History. It is vitally important that we know our history if we are to know where we are going in the future.

#### I. OUR HISTORY AND JOHN ADAMS

A. John Adams and his life are worth noting:

1. He was a graduate of Harvard.
2. He was an original member of the Continental Congress.
3. He was a signer of the Declaration of Independence.
4. He recommended that Thomas Jefferson pen the Declaration.
5. He recommended that George Washington be the Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army.
6. He helped write the Massachusetts Constitution.
7. He was the first United States Vice-president serving under Washington for Eight years.
8. He was the second President of the United States.
9. He was the first President to reside in the White House.
10. Under the administration of Adams;
  - a. The Department of the Navy was established.
  - b. The Library of Congress was established.
11. He was the father of the sixth President John Quincy Adams.

12. He was the cousin of Samuel Adams, known as the “Father of the Revolution.”
  13. He was the husband of Abigail Adams whose letters are considered among the best accounts of the Revolutionary period.
- B. These qualities of John Adams qualify him to speak and for us to listen!

## II. SOME NOTEWORTHY RELIGIOUS QUOTES OF ADAMS ARE GIVEN.

- A. Adams wrote in his diary, February 22, 1776—“Suppose a nation in some distant region would take the Bible for their only law book, and every member should regulate his conduct by the precepts there exhibited! Every member would be obliged in conscience, to temperance, frugality, and industry; to justice, kindness, and charity towards his fellow men; and to piety, love, and reverence toward Almighty God...What a Eutopia, what a paradise would this region be.”
- B. Adams sent a letter to the Militia of Massachusetts, October 11, 1798 stating; “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.”
- C. On April 19, 1817 John Adams wrote to Thomas Jefferson: “Without religion, this world would be something not fit to be mentioned in polite company.”
- D. On June 21, 1776 Adams wrote: “Statesmen, my dear Sir, may plan and speculate for liberty, but it is religion and morality alone, which can establish the principles upon which freedom can securely stand. The only foundation of a free Constitution is pure virtue, and if this cannot be inspired into our people in a greater measure, than they have it now, they

may change their rulers and the forms of Government, but they will not obtain a lasting liberty.”

- D. Adams wrote to Thomas Jefferson: “Have you ever found in history, one single example of a Nation thoroughly corrupted that was afterwards restored to virtue? And without virtue, there can be no political liberty.”

### III. A PROCLAMATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN ADAMS ON MARCH 6, 1799

A. America was threatened with a war from France.

B. President Adams issued a proclamation requesting a day of:

1. Humiliation
2. Fasting
3. Prayer

C. The Proclamation was lengthy and Divinely dependent. Note:

As no truth is more clearly taught in the **Volume of Inspiration**, nor any more fully demonstrated by the experience of all ages, than that a deep sense and a due acknowledgment of the **governing providence** of a **Supreme Being** and of the accountableness of men to **Him** as the **searcher of hearts and righteous distributor of rewards and punishments** are conducive equally to the happiness and rectitude of individuals and to the well-being of communities;

As it is also most reasonable in itself that men who are made capable of social acts and relations, who owe their improvements to the social state, and who derive their enjoyments from it, should, as a society, make their **acknowledgments of dependence and obligation to Him who hath endowed them with these capacities and elevated them in the scale of existence by these distinctions;**

As it is likewise a plain dictate of duty and a strong sentiment of nature that in circumstances of great urgency and seasons of imminent danger

earnest and particular supplications should be made to Him who is able to defend or to destroy;

As, moreover, the most precious interests of the people of the United States are still held in jeopardy by the hostile designs and insidious acts of a foreign nation, as well as by the dissemination among them of those principles, subversive of the foundations of all religious, moral, and social obligations, that have produced incalculable mischief and misery in other countries;

And as, in fine, the observance of special seasons for public religious solemnities is happily calculated to avert the evils which we ought to deprecate and to excite to the performance of the duties which we ought to discharge by calling and fixing the attention of the people at large to the momentous truths already recited, by affording opportunity to teach and inculcate them by animating devotion and giving to it the character of a national act:

For these reasons I have thought proper to recommend, and I do hereby recommend accordingly, that Thursday, the 25th day of April next, be observed throughout the United States of America as a day of solemn humiliation, fasting, and prayer;

That the citizens on that day abstain as far as may be from their secular occupations, devote the time to the sacred duties of religion in public and in private;

That they call to mind our numerous offenses against the Most High God, confess them before Him with the sincerest penitence, implore His pardoning mercy, through the Great Mediator and Redeemer, for our past transgressions, and that through the grace of His Holy Spirit we may be disposed and enabled to yield a more suitable obedience to His righteous requisitions in time to come;

That He would interpose to arrest the progress of that impiety and licentiousness in principle and practice so offensive to Himself and so ruinous to mankind;

That He would make us deeply sensible that "righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people;" (Proverbs 14:34)

That He would turn us from our transgressions and turn His displeasure from us;

That He would withhold us from unreasonable discontent, from disunion, faction, sedition, and insurrection;

That He would preserve our country from the desolating sword;

That He would save our cities and towns from a repetition of those awful pestilential visitations under which they have lately suffered so severely, and that the health of our inhabitants generally may be precious in His sight;

That He would favor us with fruitful seasons and so bless the labors of the husbandman as that there may be food in abundance for man and beast;

That He would prosper our commerce, manufactures, and fisheries, and give success to the people in all their lawful industry and enterprise;

That he would smile on our colleges, academies, schools, and seminaries of learning, and make them nurseries of sound science, morals, and religion;

That He would bless all magistrates, from the highest to the lowest, give them the true spirit of their station, make them a terror to evil doers and a praise to them that do well;

That He would preside over the councils of the nation at this critical period, enlighten them to a just discernment of the public interest, and save them from mistake, division, and discord;

That He would make succeed our preparations for defense and bless our armaments by land and by sea;

That He would put an end to the effusion of human blood and the accumulation of human misery among the contending nations of the earth by disposing them to justice, to equity, to benevolence, and to peace;

And that he would extend the blessings of knowledge, of true liberty, and of pure and undefiled religion throughout the world.

And I do also recommend that with these acts of humiliation, penitence, and prayer fervent thanksgiving to the Author of All Good be united for the countless favors which He is still continuing to the people of the United States, and which render their condition as a nation eminently happy when compared with the lot of others.

D. This Proclamation is filled with;

1. The recognition of God!
2. Full dependence upon God !
3. Finally note all the phases of society he invoked Heavens Blessings upon!