

AMERICA'S CHRISTIAN HERITAGE

3/4/2018

TODAY WE CONTINUE OUR STUDY OF BETTER SPIRITUAL TIMES IN BYGONE DAYS.

I. SOME TRUTHS ABOUT THE GREAT SEAL OF THE UNITED STATES.

A. Three founders were given the responsibility to come up with a seal for the United States.

1. Thomas Jefferson
2. Benjamin Franklin
3. John Adams

B. The first two ideas presented were Biblical pictures.

1. Franklin suggested Moses standing at the edge of the Red Sea.
2. Jefferson suggested a picture of the Israelites in the wilderness.

C. The final design is a picture of a pyramid with an eye at the top and a motto underneath.

1. The eye signifies the all seeing eye of Providence.
2. Charles Thomson the Secretary of the Congress that approved the Seal design wrote;
 - a. "The pyramid signifies strength and duration.
 - b. The eye and the motto allude to the many signal interposition of Providence in favor of the American cause."
3. James Wilson a justice of the first Supreme Court noted; "A free government has often been compared to a pyramid...it is laid on the broad base of the people."
4. The motto on the seal, "a new order for the ages";

- a. Is not New Age religion
- b. Is not a statement about One World Government.

II. SOME OF THE GREAT CONTRIBUTIONS OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN ARE SEEN.

- A. There is no evidence to date to verify that Franklin ever made a personal commitment to Christ as Savior and Lord. However God greatly worked through him in the founding of our nation.
- B. At the time of the Constitutional Convention of 1787 Ben Franklin was regarded by the other delegates as the greatest living American philosopher.
- C. The Constitutional Convention after many days became deadlocked;
 - 1. The weather was hot and flies and mosquitoes were plentiful.
 - 2. Tempers became short and order was not to be found.
 - 3. The delegation was breaking up and the delegates were going home.
 - 4. George Washington was in the process of leaving the Convention.
- D. God used Ben Franklin to unite the Convention:
 - 1. Franklin stood and reminded the delegates that; "In the beginning of the contest with Britain, when we were sensible of danger, we had daily prayers in this room for divine protection."
 - 2. Franklin states that the results was that; "Our prayers were heard, and they were graciously answered."
 - 3. Franklin states that they had to observe that; "Frequent instances of a superintending Providence in our favor."
 - 4. Franklin's challenge to the delegation was; "And have we now forgotten this powerful Friend or do we imagine we no longer need His assistance?"
 - 5. Franklin states that the longer he lives he sees more convincing proofs; "That God governs in the affairs of men."

6. Franklin finds it to be improbable that; “An empire can arise without His aid.”
 7. Franklin is convinced that “Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that built it.”
 8. Franklin recognized that in order for the nation to move forward they needed; “His concurring aid.”
 9. At the end of his speech Franklin’s motion was that “Prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven and its blessing on our deliberation be held in this assembly every morning before we proceed to business.”
- E. New Jersey delegate Jonathan Dayton said that Franklin’s words; “Fell upon our ears with a weight and authority even greater than we may suppose an oracle to have had in the Roman Senate.”
 - F. Franklin’s motion was voted down because someone pointed out that there were no funds available to pay a chaplain.
 - G. Another motion was offered to the effect that they adjourn for three days of prayer and preaching and meditation.
 - H. Dayton reported that; “We assembled again; and every unfriendly feeling had been expelled and a spirit of reconciliation had been cultivated.”
 - I. Madison’s letter to Thomas Jefferson said; “It is impossible to conceive the degree of concord which ultimately prevailed, as less than a miracle.”
 - J. In Federalist Paper #37, Madison wrote; “It is imposable for the man of pious reflection not to perceive in it, a finger of the Almighty hand which has been so frequently and signally extended to our relief in the critical states of the revolution.”
 - K. At the close of the Convention when Franklin left Independence Hall a lady asked him; “Well Doctor what have we got a republic or a monarchy? A republic madam, if you can keep it”

III. SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT SOME SAYING OF JOHN QUINCY ADAMS

A. Adams stated that;

1. "The Declaration of Independence first organized the social compact on the foundation of the Redeemer's mission."
2. The Declaration; "Laid the cornerstone of human government upon the first precepts of Christianity."

B. Adams meant that because Jesus came;

1. "To set the prisoners free" (Luke 4:18) the Declaration, which founded a new government of free men based on the God given right to liberty of all mankind, was the first pledge that someday, when Jesus Christ returned, all men would be forever free.
2. The Declaration brought America out from under British suppression of our God given inalienable rights, and established the "self evident truths" of God-given inalienable right as the basis for our government.
3. That act of restoration was the pledge that some day when Christ returns, the government of the whole world will be based on Godly principles.

IV. GEORGE WASHINGTON ACKNOWLEDGED GODS INTERVENTION IN AMERICA

A. When British spy Major John Andre was captured, and the treason of Benedict Arnold was exposed, General George Washington told his troops in a General Order; "Happily the treason has been timely discovered. The Providential train of circumstances which led to it affords the most convincing proof that the liberties of America are the object of Divine Protection."

B. On September 28, 1789 Washington wrote to Samuel Langdon, the President of Harvard College; "The man must be bad indeed who can look upon the events of the American Revolution without feeling the warmest gratitude towards the great Author of the Universe, whose Divine interposition was so frequently manifested in our behalf."