

LAW 2000

Word of Life Fellowship
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A Strategy for Political, Social and Spiritual Renewal

THREE IMPORTANT PREMISES:

FIRST PREMISE: *The Bible is an accurate historical text. The Bible is absolutely true. It contains no mistakes and it has no contradictions or inconsistencies. God's Truth is not changed or affected by popular opinion, or the rejection or disbelief by man. The writings of the Old Testament and New Testament are the very Word of God, verbally inspired in all of its parts and without error as originally given by God, as our only infallible rule of faith and conduct. The canon of Scripture was closed with the book of Revelation and we possess today an extremely accurate and reliable text.*

2 Timothy 3:16,17: "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

2 Peter 1:20,21: "... knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."

John 17:17: "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth."

Psalm 19:8: "The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the command of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes."

Psalm 119:9: "How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your Word."

Psalm 119:105: "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

Psalm 119:130: "The entrance of Your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple."

Romans 1:16: "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek."

Ephesians 6:17: "And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God ..."

Hebrews 4:12: "For the Word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

John 17:17: [Jesus speaking] "Sanctify them by your truth. Your Word is truth."

I Peter 1:22: "Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart ..."

Deuteronomy 17:19-20: [God's law] "And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the Lord his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes so that his heart may not be lifted above his brethren, that he may not turn aside from the commandment to the right hand or to the left, and that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, and he and his children in the midst of Israel."

Romans 15:4: "For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope."

Mark 12:24: "Jesus answered and said to them, 'Are you not therefore mistaken, because you do not know the Scriptures nor the power of God?'"

Revelation 22:18,19: "For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."

SECOND PREMISE: God does not change. His character, thinking and ways are the same today as they were before the foundation of the world.

Hebrews 13:8: "Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever."

Psalms 33:11: "But the plans of the Lord stand forever, the purposes of His heart through all generations."

Psalms 102:27: "But You [God] remain the same, and Your years will never end."

Psalms 110:4a: "The Lord has sworn and will not change His mind."

Malachi 3:6a: "I the Lord do not change."

THIRD PREMISE: *In applying Biblical principles, it is recognized that the United States of America is NOT Biblical Israel; however, we CAN extract God's clear instruction which DOES apply to us here and now.*

The United States of America is not mentioned by name in the Bible, and there is not even any indirect reference to this land which would eventually be the USA. Many of the specific covenants between God and the Hebrew nation were and remain **exclusively** applicable to the nation of Israel, and it would be incorrect or improper to "spiritualize" such covenants and promises by applying them to other peoples.

Having said that, ***HOWEVER***, what God reveals about Himself, His thinking, His ways, His response and reactions, what pleases Him and what He hates, ***ARE APPLICABLE TO ALL PEOPLES AND ALL GENERATIONS***. Therefore, by extracting those principles from the historical record of the Bible, we unlock the answers for political, social and spiritual renewal for America.

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INTRODUCTORY QUESTIONS: If the United States is in need for "renewal" from whence has it come and what is its present condition?

Section One

DESPITE THE REVISIONIST HISTORIANS, AND THE INTENTIONAL DISTORTIONS WE CONFRONT TODAY, AMERICA WAS CONCEIVED AND BORN SOVEREIGNLY AS A CHRISTIAN NATION.

- 1.1 "I believe no one can read the history of our country without realizing that **the Good Book and the Spirit of the Saviour** have from the beginning been our guiding geniuses. ... Whether we look for the first charter of Virginia ... or to the Charter of New England ... or to the Charter of Massachusetts Bay ... or to the fundamental orders of Connecticut ... the same objective is present: **a Christian land governed by Christian principles**. ... I believe the entire Bill of Rights came into being because of the knowledge our forefathers had of **the Bible** and their belief in it: freedom of belief, of expression, of assembly, of petition, the dignity of the individual, the sanctity of the home, equal justice under the law, and the reservation of powers to the people. ... I like to believe we are living today in the spirit of **the Christian religion**. I like also to believe that as long as we do so, no great harm can come to our country."

- Former Chief Justice Earl Warren, addressing the annual prayer breakfast of the International Council of Christian Leadership, 1954.¹

¹ Quoted in Gary DeMar, *America's Christian History: The Untold Story* (Atlanta, Georgia: American Vision, Inc., 1995), 1.

- 1.2 The United States Supreme Court in *Church of the Holy Trinity v. U.S.*, 143 U.S. 457 (1892), declared that America is "a Christian nation."

The U.S. Supreme Court stated, "This is historically true. From the discovery of this continent to the present hour, there is a single voice making this affirmation. ... These are not individual sayings, declarations of private persons: they are organic utterances; they speak the voice of the entire people ... these and many other matters which might be noticed, add a volume of unofficial declarations to the mass of organic utterance that **this is a Christian nation.**" Id. at 458. ²

- 1.3 Three books which give significant detail and thorough documentation of America's Christian heritage are the following:

- A. John Eidsmoe, *Christianity and the Constitution - The Faith of Our Founding Fathers* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House Company [1987] 1998).
- B. Gary DeMar, *America's Christian History: The Untold Story* (Atlanta, GA: American Vision, Inc. [1993] 1995).
- C. David Barton, *Original Intent - The Courts, the Constitution, & Religion* (Aledo, TX: Wallbuilder Press, 1999).

- 1.4 In *America's Christian History: The Untold Story*, Gary DeMar quotes the following portion of the **Mayflower Compact** (p. 56):

"In the Name of God, Amen.

We, whose names are underwritten, the loyal subjects of our dread Sovereign Lord King James, **by the Grace of God** of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, King, Defendant of the Faith, etc.

Having undertaken *for the Glory of God and advancement of the Christian Faith*, and Honour of our King and Country, a Voyage to plant the First Colony in the Northern Parts of Virginia; do by these presents solemnly and mutually *in the presence of God* and one another, Covenant and Combine ourselves together into a Civil Body Politic, for a better ordering and preservation and furtherance of other ends aforesaid, and by virtue hereof do enact, constitute and frame such just and equal Laws, Ordinances, Acts, Constitutions and Offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet [suitable] and convenient for the general good of the Colony, unto which we promise all due submission and obedience."

² Quoted in David Barton, *Original Intent: The Courts, the Constitution, & Religion* (Aledo, TX: Wallbuilder Press, 1999), 69.

1.5 Demar quotes from Anson Phelps Stokes and Leo Pfeffer, *Church and States in the United States* (New York: Harper & Roe, 1964), 102-103, "Throughout its history our governments, national and state, have **cooperated with religion and shown friendliness to it. God is invoked in the Declaration of Independence and in practically every state constitution.** Sunday, the Christian's Sabbath, is universally observed as a day of rest. The sessions of Congress and of state legislatures are invariably opened with prayer, in Congress by chaplains who are employed by the Federal government. We have chaplains in our armed forces and in our penal institutions. Oaths in courts of law are administered through use of the Bible. Public officials take an oath of office ending with 'so help me God.' Religious institutions are tax exempt throughout the nation. Our Pledge of Allegiance declares that we are a nation 'under God.' Our national motto is 'In God We Trust,' and is inscribed on our currency and on some of our postage stamps."³ Gary Demar's conclusion of Chapter 3 reads in part as follows: "A survey of all the colonies will lead any student of the era to conclude that they were **founded on religious precepts of Christianity**" (p.61).

1.6 The United States Congress acknowledged that the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution contain principles from the Bible. Congress passed Public Law 97-280 declaring 1983 to be the "Year of the Bible" and the Bill was signed into law by the President of the United States. The said Public Law opened with these words:

"Whereas Biblical teachings inspired concepts of civil government that are contained in our Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States ..." ⁴

³ Quoted in Gary Demar, *America's Christian History: The Untold Story* (Atlanta, GA: American Vision, Inc., 1995), 78.

⁴ Quoted in John Eidsmoe, *Christianity and the Constitution - The Faith of Our Founding Fathers* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House Company 1998), 355.

1.7 **OUR DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE:** Note the use of distinctly religious words throughout the document, including:

"Nature's God" ... "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are **endowed by their Creator** with certain inalienable rights " ... "the Supreme Judge of the World" ... "**a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence.**"

1.8 Declarations of significant historical leaders ⁵

(a) **George Washington:** "... *Let me live according to those Holy Rules which Thou hast this day prescribed in Thy Holy Word ... Direct me to the true object, **Jesus Christ the Way, the Truth and the Life.** Bless, O Lord, all the people of this land.*" - 1752

(b) **John Adams:** "*Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.*" - 1798

(c) **Thomas Jefferson:** "*Can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are the gift of God ?*" - 1781

(d) **John Quincy Adams:** "*No book in the world deserves to be so unceasingly studied, and so profoundly meditated upon as **the Bible.***" - 1812

*"Is it not that the Declaration of Independence first organized the social compact on the Foundation of the Redeemer's mission upon earth? That it laid the cornerstone of human government upon **the first precepts of Christianity.**"* - 1837

(e) **Andrew Jackson:** "*Sir, I am in the hands of a merciful God. I have full confidence in His goodness and mercy ... **The Bible is true** ... I have tried to conform to its spirit as near as possible. Upon that sacred volume I rest my hope for eternal salvation, through the merits and blood of our blessed Lord and Savior, **Jesus Christ.***" - 1845

(f) **Abraham Lincoln:** "*Unless the great God who assisted President Washington, shall be with me and aid me, I must fail. But if the same omniscient mind, and Almighty arm, that directed and protected him, shall guide and support me, I shall not fail ... Let us pray that the God of our fathers may not forsake us now.*" - 1861

(g) **Theodore Roosevelt:** "*In this actual world, a churchless community, a community where men have abandoned and scoffed at, or ignored their religious needs, is a community of rapid down-grade.*" - 1917

⁵ All of these quotes are found on pages 4-6 of the June, 1996 letter of Dr. James Dobson, Focus on the Family, with documentation found in the endnotes on pages 11 and 12 thereof.

- (h) **Woodrow Wilson:** "*America was born a **Christian nation**. America was born to exemplify that devotion to the elements of righteousness which are derived from the Revelations of the Holy Scripture.*" - 1911
- (i) **Calvin Coolidge:** "*They were intent upon establishing a **Christian commonwealth** in accordance with the principle of self-government. They were an inspired body of men. It has been said that God said to the nations that He might send choice grain into the wilderness ... Who can fail to see it in the hand of Destiny? Who can doubt that it has been guide by a Divine Providence ?*" - 1923
- (j) **Dwight D. Eisenhower:** "*Without God there can be no American form of government, nor an American way of life. Recognition of the Supreme Being is the first - the most basic - expression of Americanism. Thus, the founding fathers of America saw it, and thus with God's help, it will continue to be.*" - 1974
- (k) **Ronald Reagan:** "*A frustrating thing is that those who are attacking religion claim they are doing it in the name of tolerance, freedom and open-mindedness. Question: Isn't the real truth that they are intolerant of religion? They refuse to tolerate its importance in our lives.*" - 1984

[In the same letter, Dr. Dobson identified the specific mechanisms that secularists have devised in their goal to immobilize and silence Christians:

- [1] Deny our Judeo-Christian roots and rewrite America's historical record.
- [2] Convince the American people that Christians, specifically conservatives, are in violation of the Constitution whenever they advocate their view beyond the front doors of their churches.
- [3] Christian-bashing, employing every effort to embarrass, insult, shout down and mischaracterize Christians, hoping to intimidate them and to silence and to marginalize or demoralize traditional views. (pp.7)

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THE PRACTICAL CALL TO ACTION

Fact: The United States was founded upon Christian principles.

Fact: The Founders never intended the U.S. Constitution to be used as a club *against Christianity or the Bible.*

Fact: There is a concerted effort today to distort the truth by dishonest revisionists in the fields of history and education ... **BUT...**

Even though these things are true, there is not enough time and there are not enough resources to force anyone to accept or believe that the above facts are true. Instead we need to press on to achieve political, social and spiritual renewal as a goal, and the

correction of those distortions will then result as a by-product. Furthermore (and I say this respectfully), the following principles pre-date the founding of America and are established as true regardless of any public opinion poll of any description. [Romans 3:3-4, "For what if some did not believe? Will their unbelief make the faithfulness of God without effect? Certainly not! Indeed, let God be true and every man a liar."]

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SECTION TWO

WHAT IS THE "STATE OF THE UNION" IN THE YEAR 2001?

2.1 This is NOT positive "evolution" :

- a. Declining morality
- b. Declining integrity
- c. Declining responsibility
- d. Declining respect for authority
- e. Declining commitment in marriage
- f. Declining quality of parenting
- g. Declining family stability
- h. Declining quality of education
- i. Declining patriotism
- j. Declining work ethic
- k. Declining character, strength and vision of leaders
- l. Declining willingness of self-sacrifice
- m. Declining value of human life
- n. Declining influence of churches, ministers and pastors
- o. The terrorism of "political correctness"
- p. The militant intolerance of special interests which demand and permit tolerance of only their opinions and positions.

2.2 See Robert H. Borak, *Slouching Toward Gomorrah: Modern Liberalism and American Decline* (New York, NY: Harper Collins Publishers, Inc., 1996; and Erwin W. Lutzer, *Exploding the Myths that Could Destroy America*.

2.3 Within the legal profession, there are now continuing legal education seminars entitled, "How to Deal with the S.O.B. Lawyer." Also, there are regular admonitions from judges and bar associations for lawyers to start being "civil" to one another. The American Bar Association conducted a seminar on using Tort Law Against Religions, including workshops on "Liability of Clergy as Spiritual Counselors," "Liability of Religious Bodies and Affiliated Entities," and "Tort Law as an Ideological Weapon." ⁶

⁶ [NOTE: For a national bar association that does NOT have a political and ideological agenda as the ABA does, check out the NATIONAL LAWYERS