

GNA Podcast #1 – It’s a Start!

Welcome to the very first edition of our God-N-America podcast! My name is Perry Greene and I will be your host. Please check out our website, “GodNAmerica.com.”

Since this is the first podcast of what I hope to be many more, I thought it would be appropriate to make some introductions – of myself and of the God-N-America Ministry. I will TRY to keep it brief today and let you know more about me and this Ministry as time goes on.

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I hope with this podcast we will start a long-term relationship today. Let me give you a very brief background of myself:

- I did not grow up going church, I only attended occasionally when my mother would take my brothers and me to the Naval Base Chapel services. I have a faint memory as a small child of my parents sending me to a Baptist Sunday School in Washington State. At 19 I started having a hunger for God and was soon converted after my search for Him began.
- Shortly after my conversion I transferred from the USF in Tampa to a small Christian college in west Tennessee to study Bible and learn to be a Minister.
- When I was 22 my late wife and I married and moved to, Kentucky to begin working with a small congregation.
- For the last 45 years I served congregations in 6 states in various capacities – Preaching Minister; Education Minister; Small Groups Minister; Involvement and Spiritual Formation Minister.
- Circumstances have a way of changing our lives, and in the fall of 2020 I resigned my preaching position in a leap of faith.
 - At first I had no clue what I was going to do, I just knew I had to make a change
 - A good friend asked me, “If you could do anything, what would you do?”
 - God-N-America was birthed out of this conversation.
 - I certainly love God and the study of His word and I also love America and His providential hand in our history so I decided to merge the two and developed God-N-America.
- The **mission of God-N-America** is: “To advance faith in God by telling His story in our history.”
 - I’d like to offer a word of caution here – “History” often puts people off. I’ve heard for years that history is “boring” and is of no purpose.
 - I believe that has been done on purpose – if we make history boring, people will be repulsed by it and NOT want to study it.
 - Winston Churchill has been attributed with: “**The farther back you can look, the farther forward you are likely to see.**”
 - That’s a crucial concept. In fact, as you read the Bible you will occasionally notice that God retells His story with Israel so that the people will remember where they came from, who they are and WHOSE they are. History is not just past, it’s present and future.
 - There is application for America and our story as “one nation under God.”

If you are a believer today, you are probably aware of the perilous times in which we live. You are aware that we are in a battle for the very heart soul of the nation and the destiny of the world. This is not merely about:

- Political Party affiliations
- Race issues
- Education issues
- Economic issues
- “Right vs. Left”

We are now at the precipice. It is all coming down to “Right vs. Wrong.” It reminds me of the time of our War of Independence from the tyranny of the British Crown. It was a battle of good and the rights of man vs. tyranny and unjust control. Today this battle is not about earthly issues but about the spiritual issues that control them. The Bible says it this way in Ephesians 6:10-18 (ESV):

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

[He then goes on to describe the weapons of our warfare]

¹⁴ Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷ and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸ praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,

God has put some things on my heart. I believe the things I am going to tell you in the weeks ahead are Spirit-led – at least I hope so! God has reminded me of His work in our history and I believe He wants me to remind you as well. Remember Psalm 33:12 (ESV)?

**¹² Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD,
the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!**

The nation of Israel was chosen by God to be His people and show Him to the world. Sometimes they lived up to that and were blessed, and sometimes they did not and were cursed. America may have been chosen by God for His purposes, but in the beginnings of our nation, we chose Him as well. Nations can choose God, and if they do, they will be blessed.

Why do you think America has been the greatest nation in history? We’re not smarter than others. We’ve not always been militarily stronger than others. We’re not technologically superior, etc. It is because we put faith and trust in God and His ways.

I’ve been told that several of our Founders and Framers may have believed in God in a general way but were not practicing Christians. However, they saw the value of following the Bible. Pragmatically they favored following the scriptures because they knew it works.

God has given us the best possible life through His word. If you don’t believe it, try it for a year. Live your life forgiving others instead of begrudging them. Live honestly instead of deceptively. Support worthy charities instead of hoarding your money. Treat others the way you want to be treated. Essentially, live your life like Jesus. Read the Gospels and see how He lived and then imitate Him. If after a year your life doesn’t work out for the better, let me know but I am sure that if you do this correctly, you will receive blessings that you have not yet imagined.

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It is easy to be influenced by the fear factor today. There is something at every turn it seems. Some people believe that we are being groomed in fear. We’ve gone through the threats of WWII; the Cold War; Terrorists; Domestic Violence; Race Wars; and now what seems to be a perpetual virus. Yet, when the real evidence about the virus has come out we see that there were far less deaths than the 2 million + that were predicted. That the tests have been flawed. That there is actually a 99+% recovery rate for those infected. Yet we fear because we have been told to fear.

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The Bible has a great deal to say about fear. In fact, there are at least 365 verses that teach us NOT to fear but to trust God. That does not mean to be foolish but it does mean not to worry and fill ourselves with anxiety about the issues of this world.

2 Timothy 1:7 (ESV) reads

⁷ for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

Maybe Timothy was like Joshua and a bit timid and fearful about his task before God (read Deuteronomy 31 and Joshua 1 to see God’s encouragement to Joshua in his new role as Moses’ successor). That spirit of fear does not come from God. If it does not come from Him, then from whom does it come? Obviously, it comes from God’s chief opponent. Faith conquers fear every time.

Just a quick side note: If you are part of a congregation that is steeped in fear, you might want to find a new congregation that lives by faith. At the recent Health and Freedom Conference in Tulsa, OK I heard that 60% of American churches are still closed as of April, 2021. The only explanation is FEAR! I think there are probably some church leaders and members who have opened their churches but would still like to be closed but given in to the pressures to reopen. Are we operating out of fear or faith? If you must, find a FAITH-FILLED, FAITH-FULL congregation where you can worship and serve God to your fullest without fear.

If you are a patriot, look to the scriptures and back to our history to see what God can do, especially when the odds are against His people (remember Gideon). In fact, Ephesians 3:20-21 reminds us that God “can do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think.” Do you believe it?

In the weeks ahead I want to tell you about some firsthand accounts of some of our founding heroes. Places like:

- Monongahela in the French and Indian Wars
- Trenton
- Long Island
- Yorktown
- And more

I want to go even further back and talk about Columbus and the Pilgrims. Believe it or not, in spite of their flaws, it appears that the providential hand of God was with them. We still should honor Columbus because he was scripture-led by and he believed, Spirit-led in his explorations.

Please do not think that I think America has been a flawless, perfect nation. We are not. Here’s what I do think, God worked with us in spite of our flaws. Just like He worked with Israel and works with you and me. He has worked with the nation that imperfectly tried to follow Him. Yes, we have made some sinful mistakes – and we still do. We look back in our history and are outraged and dismayed that slavery was ever even a part of our nation. But before we pass judgment on those people, let me ask you, what atrocities do you see happening today? Why have we allowed over 60 million babies to be murdered in abortion

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clinics? How do you think future generations will judge us and our complacency in not protecting the innocent? What about child sex trafficking and abuses today? Patriots, don’t you think it’s time that we let God lead us into doing what’s right about these and other issues?

He’s still at work because there is a conscience placed in us in the DNA of our founding. He hasn’t quit on us because when the American people realize our sinful behavior we typically repent and try to right the wrong. Our politicians listen to the people when we stand up for right and changes are made. We have to speak out!

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That conscience comes from the Bible. It was the most quoted document in the writings of the Founders and Framers of our Republic. They knew the importance of the scriptures.

- Thomas Jefferson put Bibles in public schools because he said it was the “cornerstone for American liberty.”
- Patrick Henry said, “Our country was founded on the gospel of Jesus Christ.”
- John Adams declared that our Constitution was only for a moral and religious people, that it was wholly unfit for any other. I think we’ve proven that in recent months.

There is another part of the American conscience that I want to address more fully in the future, but briefly today. That is, that we have an empathy for those who are oppressed. Americans have put themselves in harm’s way for the liberty of others. Our Patriot ancestors did it for us, their posterity, and we often do it for others in the world. That is why we have marched off to war to free slaves in the American Civil War or throughout the world. That’s why we have fought tyranny in Europe during WWII or Communist aggression in Korea and Vietnam; or terrorism in the Middle East. Jesus said it this way in **John 15: 13**:

¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

We identify with the oppressed and intervene in their circumstances because of the example of Jesus.

There are at least two things I want to do in the future podcasts.

1. I want to INFORM you of biblical and American stories of God’s Providence that you may not know or may have forgotten.
2. I want to INSPIRE you with these stories to live like our heroes of the past, both the biblical and historical ones. That is, we live our lives trusting God with faith over fear, standing up and speaking out for what is right.

In closing, let me ask, do you have a favorite Bible verse? It seems that my favorite verse seems to change depending on circumstances. Right now my favorite verse is Esther 4:14 (ESV), especially the last part:

¹⁴ For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”

Esther had the opportunity to help rescue the Jews from destruction. She also had the opportunity to save herself through silence. She stepped up and spoke out because it was her time to shine.

God could have placed you anywhere in the world He wanted. You could have been born in another country in another time. You could have become a citizen of another country. Why are you here; and why are you here now? Maybe you’ve come here for such a time as this. Maybe it’s your time to shine. Maybe you can speak up – even at peril rather than keeping silent. Who knows whom you will help deliver?

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There is a Great Awakening coming to America and a reviving of believing people in America. We’ve been quiet and complacent too long. This will be the greatest Awakening in history. People have been praying for it for years and I believe it is coming. It will help restore America to God and bless the whole earth.

Remember, America is not just an outline on a map. We are more than our borders. America is also an idea with the ideal of “Liberty and Justice for all.” Get in the game!

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Thank you for listening! There’s more to come in the weeks ahead. I plan to have another podcast next week.

Remember to visit our website, GodNAmerica.com. If you feel led, you can contribute to our work through PayPal or by sending a check. More options are coming.

Keep The Light Burning!