

GNA: His Providence

Recently my friend and former elder, Joe Wallace, invited me to address his business club at one of their breakfast meetings. I decided to record the talk, edit it, and use it for one of my Sunday Podcasts.

The point of this message is that God has worked in American history. Our schools did not teach the spiritual aspect of America when I was growing up and certainly do not today under some strange rule that we have adopted to keep God out of our schools and government.

Our forefathers had a different view. Let me read a few of their quotes before I get into my short talk.

Fisher Ames, Politician and author of the First Amendment:

"We have a dangerous trend beginning to take place in our education. We're starting to put more and more textbooks into our schools ... We've become accustomed of late to putting little books into the hands of our children containing fables and moral lessons We are spending less time in the classroom on the Bible, which should be the principle text of our schools The Bible states these great moral lessons better than any other manmade book."

Dr. Benjamin Rush

On July 13, 1789, in a letter to Jeremy Belknap, Dr. Benjamin Rush stated:

The great enemy of the salvation of man, in my opinion, never invented a more effectual means of extirpating Christianity from the world than by persuading mankind that it was improper to read the Bible at schools.

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Genesis 50:20 (ESV):

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

Romans 8:28

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

George Washington on Providence

"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." *Washington's letter to Samuel Langdon, September 28, 1789*

John Adams

"It must be felt that there is no national security but in the nation's humble acknowledged dependence upon God and His overruling providence."

John Jay

"Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty, as well as the privilege and interest of our Christian nation to select and prefer Christians for their rulers."

NUREMBERG TRIALS¹

¹ William J. Federer, *Socialism: The Real History from Plato to the Present*, pp. 100-101.

After World War II ended, officials of the National Socialist Workers Party were arrested and put on trial for killing millions of Jews and others in the Holocaust. At the Nuremberg Trials of 1945-1946, on full display was the socialist idea that rights come from "the group" and not God. Nazi officials defended their actions by explaining they were only following "laws agreed upon" by the people of the German state. An insight into the perpetrators' mindset was provided by **Nazi General Hans Frank**, who carried out orders to plunder Poland and commit the mass murder of millions of Poles and Jews in death camps.

At his trial, August 31, 1945, **Hans Frank was remorseful** as he described the false justification for his acts and the slippery slope of socialist thought:

At the beginning of our way we did not suspect that our turning away from God could have such disastrous deadly consequences and that we would necessarily become more and more deeply involved in guilt. At that time we could not have known that so much loyalty and willingness to sacrifice on the part of the German people could have been so badly directed by us. Thus, by turning away from God, we were overthrown and had to perish ...

Frank continued:

Before all, God pronounced and executed judgment on Hitler and the system which we served with minds far from God. Therefore, may our people, too, be called back from the road on which Hitler – and we with him – have led them. I beg of our people NOT to continue in this direction, be it even a single step; because Hitler's road was the way without God, the way of turning from Christ, and, in the last analysis, the way of political foolishness, the way of disaster, and the way of death...

We call upon the German people ... to return from this road which, according to the law and justice of God, had to lead us and our system into disaster and which will lead everyone into disaster who tries to walk on it... everywhere in the whole world.

Christians started America – some came for gold, some for God; God and His system of government would prevail.

Pilgrims – "To advance Christian faith"

Israel was the Chosen Nation, and we are the Choosing Nation of God (Isaiah 56:1-8)

GNA = Return to God for the nation's sake and the glory of God; "Reconnecting God and America by Telling His Story in Our History."

We have been blessed as a nation (not perfect) because we looked to God. His PROVIDE-NCE is seen in our history.

Esther 4:14 – Who knows if you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this.

Us?

Some Providence stories:

1755 Monongahela

700+ French and Indians trapped General Braddock's British soldiers and Virginia Militia. Braddock refused to fight "Indian style" as the Virginians did. 714 British died; 30 of the French and Indians (by the Virginians).

GW survived the battle with 4 bullet holes in his clothes and having had two horses shot from under him.

1770 he and a friend went to view the place of the battle – two Indian chiefs came to visit Washington.

They wanted to see:

- The particular favorite of heaven who cannot die in battle."

- George Washington was never born to be killed by a bullet.” He had tried seventeen times to kill him and missed every time.

Long Island – August 1776

The British had 30,000 troops and backed the Americans’ 9,000 to the river. For some unknown reason, General Howe stopped the attack on the Americans and sent for the Navy to come up the river so they could capture the troops and take them away by ship. A funny thing happened.

A storm on the river prohibited the ships from sailing to capture GW and his men. GW called for anything that floated to start evacuating the men. The wind switched when it was too dark for the British ships to sail on the river, and during the night, 8000 escaped.

Washington was determined to be the last man off of the Island, but about 1000 fearful troops remained when dawn came. Another providential event occurred. **Major Ben Talmage, GW’s Chief of**

Intelligence, wrote:

“At the dawn of the next day, those of us who remained in the trenches became very anxious for our own safety. At this time, a very dense fog began to rise out of the river and it seemed to settle in a peculiar manner over both encampments. I recollect this peculiar providential occurrence perfectly well. So dense was the atmosphere that I could scarcely discern a man at 6 yards’ distance.”

You know what a fight we are in for the Republic our ancestors established. We are in a similar state as they regarded tyranny and liberty. We have the same resources they did – a willingness to join God in spiritual warfare.

We are no longer in a political conflict but a battle of good vs. evil. It’s a challenging fight, but it was for our forefathers, too.

The American Founders had a biblical worldview and did everything in their power to live under the omniscient oversight of God. They began our Revolution with prayer and continued with it throughout our Founding era.

When the Continental Congress met **9.6.1774 in Carpenter’s Hall**, Philadelphia, they invited Jacob Duche to lead their opening prayer. John Adams wrote:

“Mr. Samuel Adams arose and said that he was no bigot, and could hear a Prayer from any gentleman of Piety and virtue, who was at the same time a friend to his Country. He was a stranger in Philadelphia, but had heard that **Mr. Duche**’ deserved that character and therefore he moved that **Mr. Duche**’, an Episcopal clergyman might be desired to read Prayers to Congress tomorrow morning. . . .”

So, on **September 7, 1774**, Duche entered Congress and read **Psalm 35** from his prayer book, prayed the written prayer, and then broke out into extemporaneous prayer that moved the members of Congress into a two hour prayer meeting. Here is his prayer:

“O Lord our Heavenly Father, high and mighty King of kings, and Lord of lords, who dost from thy throne behold all the dwellers on earth and reignest with power supreme and uncontrolled over all the Kingdoms, Empires and Governments; look down in mercy, we beseech Thee, on these our American States, who have fled to Thee from the rod of the oppressor and thrown themselves on Thy gracious protection, desiring to be henceforth dependent only on Thee. To Thee have they appealed for the righteousness of their cause; to Thee do they now look up for that countenance and support, which Thou alone canst give. Take them, therefore, Heavenly Father, under Thy nurturing care; give them wisdom in Council and valor in the field; defeat the malicious designs of our cruel adversaries; convince them of the unrighteousness of their Cause and if they persist in their sanguinary purposes, of own unerring justice, sounding in their hearts, constrain them to drop the weapons of war from their unnerved hands in the day of battle!

Be Thou present, O God of wisdom, and direct the councils of this honorable assembly; enable them to settle things on the best and surest foundation. That the scene of blood may be speedily closed; that order, harmony and peace may be effectually restored, and truth and justice, religion and piety, prevail and flourish amongst the people. Preserve the health of their bodies and vigor of their minds; shower down on them and the millions they here represent, such temporal blessings as Thou seest expedient for them in this world and crown them with everlasting glory in the world to come. All this we ask in the name and through the merits of Jesus Christ, Thy Son and our Savior. Amen."

Years later, at the Constitutional Convention, **Benjamin Franklin** called for prayer to alleviate the delegates' issues, and almost miraculously, the Constitution was approved.

"How long will the American Republic endure? As long as the ideals of the Founders remain dominant."

Thomas Paine

"Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom must, like men, undergo the fatigue of supporting it."

"Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph.

"What we obtain too cheaply, we esteem too lightly; 'tis dearness only that gives everything its value. Heaven knows how to put a price upon its goods, and it would be strange indeed if so celestial an article as freedom should not be highly rated.