

## 104.1 National Well-Being

Memorial Day is a day for patriots. The holiday began as a Decoration Day for the graves of Southern Civil War soldiers. Eventually, the practice spread to the North and became a national day of remembrance in which we honor all our fallen patriots who laid down their lives for their fellow Americans.

You may recall the story of Esther. Her uncle, Mordecai, became a great man among the Jews and in the Persian Empire. Like Joseph in Egypt, he rose to be second only to King Ahasuerus. **Esther 10:3** (AMP) describes him and his patriotism.

**<sup>3</sup>For Mordecai the Jew was second only to King Ahasuerus, and great among the Jews and in favor with his many fellow people, for he worked for the good of his people and spoke for the welfare *and* peace of his whole nation.**

Mordecai showed a patriotic spirit. He did not seek or accept a position of prominence for his own sake. He rose in power to care for his people. He did not roll over and throw up his hands in feeble submission when Haman manipulated the king into eliminating the Jews. He did all he could to save them, basing his patriotism on God and doing the right things according to God's standards. For instance, Mordecai uncovered and exposed the conspiracy to assassinate the king. Silence meant participation in the plot, and he, like the assassins, would have been guilty of murder. God said, "***Thou shalt not murder***" (**Exodus 20:13**). He did not seek acclaim or reward for his actions. Still, eventually, the king did reward him, to the embarrassment of Haman, the Jews' adversary.

Our ancestors understood that following God is what is best for the nation. "**Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a reproach to any people.** (**Proverbs 14:34**, NKJV). To be "patriotic" meant being faithful to God and nationalistic. Some of our forefathers believed you could not be an American and subvert the word of God. They were right because you cannot be a genuine citizen without God. **Patrick Henry** stated that they established America on the gospel of Jesus Christ, not just any religion. Let's hear from some of them.

### **George Washington:**

Of all the dispensations and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. . . In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness. . . The mere politician equally with the pious man ought to respect and cherish them.

### **John Adams:**

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.

### **Daniel Webster:**

The Christian religion – its general principles – must ever be regarded among us as the foundation of civil society.

When God's people are authentic and faithful, they are patriots to their country. Mordecai cared for the Jews and protected them. As a result, with the aid of Queen Esther, the Jews armed and defended themselves against their enemies rather than meekly submitting to their executions. They exhibited their unalienable right to self-defense, which our Founders understood and protected in our **Second Amendment** to the Constitution.

Too many natural-born citizens need to become genuine as Americans. Most do not have a biblical worldview, though professing Christ. These un-American Americans do not want what is best for themselves, their neighbors, or their posterity. Overtly or covertly, they seek the destruction of the greatest nation in the history of the world by undermining our moral and religious foundations. As in the case of Mordecai and the assassination attempt of the king, we only have to be silent to go along with and be guilty of evil.

Recently I heard of a US Senator, whom I had respected, say that he wanted to be friends with China in the **New World Order**. He and many of his colleagues are not interested in what is best for you and America but in advancing the cause of those currently controlling the world. What happened to his oath to support and defend the Constitution? No authentic American can serve pagans in their various forms of slavery.

Listen to **Dr. Benjamin Rush** on patriotism and religious duty:

“Patriotism is as much a virtue as justice and is as necessary for the support of societies as natural affection is for the support of families. The Amor Patriae is both a moral and a religious duty. It comprehends not only the love of our neighbors but of millions of our fellow creatures, not only of the present but of future generations. . . . What shining examples of Patriotism do we behold in Joshua, Samuel, Maccabeus, and all the illustrious princes, captains, and prophets amongst the Jews! St. Paul almost wishes himself accursed for his countrymen and kinsmen after the flesh. Even our Savior himself gives a sanction to this virtue. He confined his miracles and gospel at first to his own country.”

God providentially intervened to save the Jews in captivity. He acted on behalf of America in our quest for independence in such instances as the rescue of troops from Long Island in 1776 and the supernaturally-imposed defeat of the British at Yorktown five years later in 1781. As in the case of many biblical incidents, military strategy and superiority did not determine the victor. God did!

Using the phrase “*Christian Patriots*” is almost redundant because genuine Christians ARE Patriots, and authentic American Patriots will honor Christ. Still, we need “Christian Patriots” to “stand in the gap” for the nation. God is looking for men and women who care about their families, neighbors, and friends and will pray for and speak to the needs of this dark hour. Mordecai told Esther a truth that applies to you and me. **In Esther 4:14** (NKJV), he stated, “**Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?**”

God could have placed us at any point in human history but has chosen to appoint us to this time. You and I are here to be godly patriots who exalt God and encourage our peers to “**live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present age**” (**Titus 2:12**). What a privilege to serve Him in this hour!

Keep The Light of *Our National Well-being* Burning!

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