

## God's Presence in America's History: At The Lions Den – Yukon, OK, 11.9.23

Intro

A few days ago, I had the privilege of speaking at the Yukon, OK, Lions Den Meeting. The Lions Den is a proactive group of patriotic conservatives involved in our community's political process. They listen to political candidates and actively help the best candidates through the election process. The Yukon chapter usually meets on the second Thursday of the month at the Liberty Church on Main Street at 6 PM.

### God's Presence in America's History – Lions' Den, Yukon, OK – 11.9.23

We are in desperate need, beginning with our local community and going to our national government. The Lions Dens are critical to our efforts.

[Slide of Biblical Christianity vs. American Christianity]

Our issue is more significant than politics and economics. This is ultimately a spiritual issue. I believe that God is at work in the world. We see it in the scriptures and the pages of our history. If He did it then, He can do it now, but we need to seek Him – individually and collectively. **Psalm 33:12** (NKJV)

**Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD,  
The people He has chosen as His own inheritance.**

We have forgotten what our founding patriots said of our nation.

**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.

**Patrick Henry:**

- Being a Christian... is a character which I prize far above all this world has or can boast.
- It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religions, but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ. For this very reason peoples of other faiths have been afforded asylum, prosperity, and freedom of worship here.

**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.

**President George Washington, October 3, 1789, National Day of Thanksgiving**

"Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor. ... Now, therefore, I do recommend and assign Thursday, the twenty-sixth day of November next, to be devoted by the people of these United States..."

### A Few Examples of Providence in Action in America

**Jamestown, 1607**

When the settlers arrived at Jamestown, **Pastor Robert Hunt** walked his men to the shore and gathered his flock around him. Prayer was the first order of the day. Hunt declared for the first time in the Western world the solemn invocation: "**The Lord is in His Holy Temple; Let all the earth keep silence before Him**" (Habakkuk 2:20). Each morning and evening, Pastor Hunt led his people in the following prayer:

*Almighty God, ... we beseech Thee to bless us and this plantation which we and our nation have begun in Thy fear and for Thy glory ... and seeing, Lord, the highest end of our plantation here is to set up the standard and display the banner of Jesus Christ, even here where Satan's throne is, Lord, let our labour*

*be blessed in labouring for the conversion of the heathen. ... Lord, sanctify our spirits and give us holy hearts, that so we may be Thy instruments in this most glorious work."*

### **The Pilgrims, 1620**

- Trials in England – Holland
- Back to England – Mayflower to America
- As missionary families, not Conquistadors – "... to advance Christian faith ..."
- Providence with Squanto and Indian assistance to survive

### **The Fast Hurricane, 1743 [David Barton – Whenever weather is involved -- providence**

By 1742 France, Spain, and Prussia had become the enemies of Great Britain. Then, in 1743 the British captured the French city of Louisburg, Nova Scotia. The French wanted the busy seaport back so in 1746 King Louis XV sent Admiral Anville with the most powerful fleet of the day to retake the city. They intended to expel the British, put Boston in flames, ravage New England, and waste the West Indies.

Massachusetts Governor William Shirley declared a day of fasting and prayer on October 16, 1746, to pray for deliverance. Boston gathered in the Old South Meeting House. The Reverend Thomas Prince prayed, "*Send thy tempest, Lord, upon the waters . . . scatter the ships of our tormentors!*"

Witnesses said that as he finished praying, the skies darkened, winds shrieked, and the church bells rang a "wild, uneven sound . . . though no man was in the steeple." A hurricane scattered the entire French fleet all the way to the Caribbean. Lightning struck some of the ships causing fire onboard which ignited gunpowder. 2000 French died in the hurricane, including the Admiral. 4000 died as a result of typhoid. The French Vice-Admiral threw himself on his sword, ending his life and the threat.

### **Monongahela, 1755**

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

"I am a chief and ruler over my tribes. I have traveled a long and weary path that I might see the young warrior of the great battle. [On that day] I called to my men and said, 'Quick, let your aim be certain, and he dies.' Our rifles were leveled, rifles which, but for you, knew not how to miss--'twas all in vain, a power mightier far than we shielded you. I have come to pay homage to the man who is the particular favorite of Heaven and who can never die in battle." (The chief said that he shot at GW 17 times and could not hit him).

### **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."

### **Yorktown, 10.19.1781**

*Yorktown Guide (Y-town pivotal battle when we won the war)* "We won for three reasons **1. Brilliance of Gen. Washington and the help he got from the French; 2. Division in British Army (bickering), and 3. Luck** –

Cornwallis chose Yorktown because it was good ground for battle, as it was the only place where the James River was narrow enough that if he needed to retreat, he could cross. When he learned GW was coming up from the South, he sent for reinforcements from NY, but they were late in coming.

When the battle began, Cornwallis was hammered and knew he needed to retreat. He thought that during the night, he would evacuate his troops across the James River. The first wave crossed, then a fierce storm came up, and the wind blew so hard that the boats could not get back across the river to rescue any more British troops.

Cornwallis had no recourse but to surrender." The guide called it 'Luck,' but GW a few days later called it the 'providence of God.'

**11.15.1781 GW wrote to Tom McKean, President of the Continental Congress,** "I take a particular pleasure in acknowledging that the interposing **hand of heaven** in the various instances of the preparation for this operation has been most conspicuous and remarkable."

### **We could talk about much more:**

Lexington and Concord

The Battle of Trenton

Valley Forge and Isaac Potts esteem for GW.

Benedict Arnold

The Washington DC Tornado in 1814

President Zachary Taylor's Call for Prayer in the Cholera Epidemic of 1849

George Washington Carver and the Peanut

Patton's Prayer and the Battle of the Bulge

When we learn our history, we can appreciate the hand of God in the life of our nation. But, **when we become prosperous** – just like the Hebrews – we can forget God and think our wealth is by our hand and scoff at God's intervention.

We are fighting for the Republic our ancestors established. We are in the same condition as they were regarding tyranny and liberty. We have the same resources they did – a willingness to join God in spiritual warfare. The signers of the **Declaration** stated:

And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the **protection of divine Providence**, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.

I started GNA in hopes that I could encourage Christians to pick up the ball we dropped decades ago. Somewhere, our churches got off course and focused on nickels and noses instead of our co-mission with Christ. Liberty starts with Him. Without Him, we remain in bondage.

### **2 Corinthians 3:17 (NKJV)**

**Now , the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.**

All of the Patriot groups are important in this endeavor, but we all rely on God to carry us through.

## Outro

Thank you for listening today. I hope the brief overview of providential stories in American history encouraged you. We are in a similar position as our ancestors, and I believe God can reestablish our nation under His care and leadership if we repent and return to Him. Dr. Benjamin Rush illustrated this point with this brief story:

Upon my return from the army to Baltimore in the winter of 1777, I sat next to John Adams in Congress, and upon my whispering to him and asking him if he thought we could succeed in our struggle with Great Britain, he answered me, "Yes, if we fear God and repent of our sins."

Let me leave you with **Romans 8:31** (NLKV):

**What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who *can be* against us?**

Keep The Light of *God's Providence in Our History* Burning!

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