

The Distracting War¹

We are aware that the enemies of God and America use “red flag” tactics to distract us from the real issues. They have purportedly advanced the Ukraine War to cover money laundering and used the Gaza crisis to initiate conflict all over the world. The issue is not always the issue. Our adversaries always capitalize on a crisis.

Deception is part of war. According to the formidable Chinese General **Sun Tzu** in the book *Art of War*, “All warfare is based on deception. Hence, when we are able to attack, we must seem unable; when using our forces, we must appear inactive; when we are near, we must make the enemy believe we are far away; when far away, we must make him believe we are near.”

The British chased the Continental Army out of New York, across New Jersey, and into Pennsylvania. In six months, the American ranks dropped from 20,000 to 2,000 exhausted soldiers planning to leave at the end of the year when their six-month enlistments expired.

Philadelphia panicked, expecting a British invasion. The Continental Congress fled, giving their last instruction: “... until Congress shall otherwise order, **General Washington** shall be possessed of full power to order and direct all things.”

Washington gathered his troops and had an Officer read **Thomas Paine’s** pamphlet, *The American Crisis*, to his beleaguered troops, hoping it would stir their spirit of patriotism. Which it did, leading them to victory at Trenton on December 26, 1776, and then at Princeton on January 3, 1777. In his pamphlet, Paine reminded his readers:

Heaven knows how to put a proper price upon its goods, and it would be strange indeed if so celestial an article as FREEDOM should not be highly rated ... In the 15th century, the whole English army... was driven back ... by a few broken forces... headed by a woman, Joan of Arc ... Would that Heaven might inspire some Jersey maid to spirit up her countrymen. ...

In a blizzard, Washington’s troops crossed the ice-filled Delaware River on Christmas evening. Slogging through blinding snow and leaving bloody footprints, they attacked Trenton, New Jersey, at daybreak on December 26, 1776. The Americans captured nearly a thousand Hessians in just over an hour, with only a few wounded, one being **James Monroe**, the future 5th President.

After the American victory at Trenton, British **General Cornwallis** sent his 8,000 British troops to attack Washington at Princeton, NJ. The night before the battle, Washington left his campfires burning and silently marched his army to the rear of the British camp at Princeton. Then, at daybreak on January 3, 1777, Washington attacked.

American troops under **John Cadwalader** began to retreat at one point in the battle. General Washington rode and stopped the retreat, then raced ahead of his troops to within thirty yards of the enemy. He ordered his men to “halt” and then “fire.” The British returned fire, filling the field with smoke. Many thought Washington must have been shot, but when the air cleared, Washington appeared, waving his men forward. The Continental Army captured three British regiments, and enthusiasm swept America!

Frederick the Great of Prussia called the ten days from December 26, 1776, to January 3, 1777, “the most brilliant in the world’s history.” Yale President **Ezra Stiles** stated in an Election Address before the Connecticut General Assembly:

¹ FMI see Federer, Susie. *Miracles in American History: 32 Amazing Stories of Answered Prayer*. Virginia Beach, VA, Amerisearch, Inc, 2016, pp. 51-53.

In our lowest and most dangerous estate... we sustained ourselves against the British Army of 60,000 troops, commanded by ... the ablest generals Britain could procure throughout Europe, with a naval force of 22,000 seamen in above eighty men-of-war... Independence ... was sealed and confirmed by God Almighty in the victory of General Washington at Trenton and in the surprising movement and battle of Princeton...

Who but a Washington, inspired by Heaven, could have struck out the great movement and maneuver of Princeton? . . . The United States are under peculiar obligations to become a holy people unto the Lord our God.

When the Midianites oppressed Israel, God raised Gideon as the “mighty warrior” judge to deliver the nation. You will remember that the Lord slashed the Israelite army of 32,000 down to 300. God would receive credit for the victory, not Gideon or Israel.

God then equipped Gideon with an illusive battle strategy and made his army appear larger than it was. When the Hebrews acted, God delivered Midian into their hands, and they were victorious. **Judges 7:16-18** (NKJV) reveals his successful scheme:

Then he divided the three hundred men *into* three companies, and he put a trumpet into every man’s hand, with empty pitchers, and torches inside the pitchers. ¹⁷ And he said to them, “Look at me and do likewise; watch, and when I come to the edge of the camp you shall do as I do: ¹⁸ When I blow the trumpet, I and all who *are* with me, then you also blow the trumpets on every side of the whole camp, and say, ‘*The sword of the LORD and of Gideon!*’

Throughout the Bible, the people who depended on God win ultimate victory despite being outnumbered and counted out. Americans who endured the **War for Independence** attributed their success to God, not military strength. **Isaiah 31:1** (NKJV) directly admonished Judah (and us indirectly), “**Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help, And rely on horses, Who trust in chariots because *they are* many, And in horsemen because they are very strong, But who do not look to the Holy One of Israel, Nor seek the LORD!**”

Gideon’s faith grew throughout the encounters with the Midianites. He saw God lead his army to an unexpected victory that came by complete trust in the LORD. Our American ancestors similarly experienced God. If God acted in the lives of trusting Bible characters and historical figures, He can work likewise with us, but we must act with a comparable faith. As **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.** said, "Faith is taking the first step even when you don’t see the whole staircase."

A.W. Tozer was called “America’s Prophet” for his insights. He correctly connected the roles of faith and works when he said, "The Bible recognizes no faith that does not lead to obedience, nor does it recognize any obedience that does not spring from faith. The two are opposite sides of the same coin."

The enemies of God and America may appear too numerous and malicious for our meager methods of resistance. Appearances can be deceiving. Jesus warned, “**Do not judge according to appearance**” in **John 7:24** (NKJV). Our strength is not in our numbers, political know-how, or internal fortitude. In the same way that Gideon became God’s “Mighty Warrior” and our forefathers and mothers prevailed in their struggle for liberty, our Help is the LORD. We must restore our relationship with Him to succeed on any level of life.

Keep The Light of *God’s Wisdom and Power* Burning!