

AMERICA IS A CHRISTIAN NATION

PSALM 33:12

DR. ROBERT JEFFRESS | July 3, 2022

Introduction: Most people believe that America was founded by people from a wide variety of religious beliefs who wanted to create a secular nation that was free from any influence of any one particular religion. But as we will discover today, such a version of American history is a complete myth. We are going to examine the historical evidence that allows us to say with conviction that “America was founded as a Christian nation.”

I. Let The Record Speak

A. Spiritual Beliefs of the Founders

“I have lived, Sir, a long time and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth – that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid? We have been assured, Sir, in the sacred writings that ‘except the Lord build they labor in vain that build it.’”—Benjamin Franklin

B. State Constitutions

Art. 22. “Every person who shall be chosen a member of either house, or appointed to any office or place of trust. ...shall. ...make and subscribe to the following declaration, to wit: ‘I [First Name, Last Name], do profess faith in God the Father, and in Jesus Christ His only Son, and in the Holy Ghost, One God, blessed for evermore; and I do acknowledge the holy scriptures to the Old and New Testament to be given by Divine inspiration.’” —Constitution of Delaware, 1776

“It would be peculiarly improper to omit in this first official Act, my fervent supplications to that Almighty Being... No People can be bound to acknowledge and adore the invisible hand which conducts the Affairs of men more than the People of the United States.” —President George Washington

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“The general principles, on which the Fathers achieved independence, were...the general Principles of Christianity... I will avow, that I then believed, and now believe, that those general Principles of Christianity are as eternal and immutable, as the Existence and Attributes of God; and that those Principles of Liberty, are as unalterable as human Nature...” —President John Adams

“Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.” —President John Adams

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

“Why is it that, next to the birthday of the Savior of the World, your most joyous and most venerated festival returns this day [July 4] ...Is it not that, in the chain of human events, the birthday of the nation is indissolubly linked with the birthday of the Savior? ...Is it not that the Declaration of Independence first organized the social compact on the foundation of the Redeemer’s mission upon earth? That it laid the corner stone of human government upon the first precepts of Christianity...?” —President John Quincy Adams

II. The Original Intent of “the Separation of Church and State”

A. Thomas Jefferson’s Letter to Danbury Baptist in 1802

B. Early Court Rulings

1. Runkel v. Winemiller (1799)

“By our form of government, the Christian religion is the established religion; and all sects and denominations of Christians are placed upon the same equal footing, and are equally entitled to protection in their religious liberty.”

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2. Church of the Holy Trinity v. United States (1892)

“These, and many other matters which might be noticed, add a volume of unofficial declarations to the mass of organic utterances that this is a Christian nation.”

3. The People v. Ruggles (1811)

“Nor are we bound by any expressions in the Constitution, as some have strangely supposed, either not to punish at all, or to punish indiscriminately the like attacks upon the religion of Mahomet [i.e. Muslims] or of the Grand Lama [i.e. Buddhists], and for this plain reason, that the case assumes that we are a Christian people, and the morality of the country is deeply engrafted upon Christianity, and not upon the doctrines of worship of those imposters [i.e. false religions like Islam and Buddhism].”

4. Vidal v. Girard’s Executors (1844)

“Why may not the Bible, and especially the New Testament, without note or comment, be read and taught as a divine revelation in the college -- its general precepts expounded, its evidences explained, and its glorious principles of morality inculcated?”

“It is unnecessary for us, however, to consider what would be the legal effect of a device in Pennsylvania for the establishment of a school or college, for the propagation of Judaism, or Deism, or any other form of infidelity. Such a case is not to be presumed to exist in a Christian country...”

III. Building the “Wall of Separation”

A. Justice Hugo Black and Everson v. Board of Education (1947)



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B. Engel v. Vitale (1962)

C. Abington School District v. Schempp (1963)

D. DeSpain v. Dekalb County Community School District (1967)

“We thank you for the flowers so sweet; We thank you for the food we eat; We thank you for the birds that sing; We thank you for everything.”

E. Stone v. Graham (1980)

“If the posted copies of the Ten Commandments are to have any effect at all, it will be to induce the schoolchildren to read, meditate upon, perhaps to venerate and obey, the Commandments. However desirable this might be as a matter of private devotion, it is not a permissible state objective under the Establishment Clause [of the First Amendment].”

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.” (Hosea 4:6)

Conclusion