



America's Founding

God has always revealed Himself as a God of covenant, binding Himself to humanity through sacred promises that carry both blessing and responsibility. In Genesis 9, God made a covenant with Noah, saying, “I establish My covenant with you... never again shall the water become a flood to destroy all flesh” (Genesis 9:11 NASB). With Abraham, God declared, “I will establish My covenant... to be God to you and to your descendants after you” (Genesis 17:7 NASB). Later, God made a covenant with Israel through Moses, promising blessing for obedience and consequences for rebellion (Deuteronomy 28). Covenant matters because it reveals God’s unchanging character: He is faithful, righteous, and unwavering in His promises. The loss of blessing is never because God is petty or cruel but because covenant requires agreement from both sides. Humanity fails, but God provided a solution through Jesus Christ, who established a new covenant in His blood. Jesus said, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is poured out for you” (Luke 22:20 NASB). Through this covenant, salvation is offered, and when we fall away, repentance restores us to God’s favor. The Cross makes covenant relationship possible, and repentance keeps us aligned with the blessings God desires to give.

Many early American settlers believed they were entering a covenant with God when they arrived in the New World. When the Pilgrims landed in 1620, they wrote the Mayflower Compact, dedicating their colony “*for the glory of God and advancement of the Christian faith.*” Early colonial leaders such as John Winthrop declared that if the people remained faithful, God would bless them, but if they turned away, they would face His displeasure. Winthrop famously warned that their new society would be a “*city upon a hill,*” watched by the world. Later, during George Washington’s first inauguration in 1789, he stated that “*the propitious smiles of Heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right which Heaven itself has ordained.*” Washington’s words reflected a belief that national blessing was tied to national obedience to God. These moments are covenantal in nature, showing that America’s founding involved a conscious acknowledgment of divine authority and responsibility.

America has indeed experienced extraordinary blessings: vast land stretching “from sea to shining sea,” abundant natural resources, fertile soil, navigable rivers, a strong economy, and military strength unmatched in all the world. These blessings are not the result of human effort alone but are evidence of God’s favor upon a nation that sought to honor Him. The Bible shows that the blessings of God’s people often overflow to those around them. Joseph’s presence brought blessing to Egypt (Genesis 39:5), and God told Abraham, “In you all the families of the earth will be blessed” (Genesis 12:3 NASB). Likewise, America’s prosperity has been sustained because of a faithful remnant that continues to seek God. Yet history also shows that nations who

abandon God lose His blessing. Israel repeatedly fell into hardship when they turned from God, only to be restored when they repented. If America does not recognize this pattern, the blessings America has long enjoyed may begin to fade as the nation drifts from its covenantal roots.

George Washington also stated, *“Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports.”*—George Washington, Farewell Address, 1796 and he also said, *“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.”*—Thanksgiving Proclamation, 1789. Additionally, the first prayer to open up the First Continental Congress, Reverend Jacob Duche’s prayer stated, *“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 they have 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, O let the voice of Thine 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 the vigor of their minds; shower down on them and the millions they 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, our Savior. Amen.”* These quotes and prayer provide insight on the spiritual condition during the founding of America and how the Founders viewed God, Jesus, and their blessing based a covenantal relationship.

This all leads to a solemn warning for both unbelieving Americans and Christians alike. If America’s founding involved a covenant with God, then ignoring His Word, celebrating sin, and rejecting His authority places the nation in spiritual danger. The Bible warns, “Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people” (Proverbs 14:34 NASB). Many of the blessings American’s still enjoy may remain only because a faithful remnant continues to pray, repent, and seek God’s face. A nation cannot expect God’s favor while breaking covenant with Him. The call is not to political hostility or cultural warfare but to spiritual awakening, repentance, and renewed faithfulness. America must remember that blessings come from God, not from human strength. If we choose comfort over covenant, sin over Scripture, and silence over truth, we risk losing what God has graciously given. The warning is clear: return to God, honor the covenant, and seek His face before the blessings we take for granted slip away.

Study Questions:

1. God told Abraham, “I will establish My covenant... to be God to you” (Genesis 17:7). How does this covenant model challenge Americans today to consider whether we have remained faithful to the God of covenant?
2. In Deuteronomy 28, God promises blessing for obedience and consequences for rebellion. How does this chapter speak to the idea that nations, including America, experience blessing or loss of blessing based on their relationship with God?
3. Jesus declared, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood” (Luke 22:20). How does the new covenant call individuals and nations to repentance, renewal, and obedience to Christ’s lordship?
4. When the Pilgrims dedicated their colony “for the glory of God and advancement of the Christian faith,” how does this reflect the biblical pattern of covenant seen in passages like Joshua 24:15, “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord”?
5. George Washington warned that “the smiles of Heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right.” How does this align with Proverbs 14:34, “Righteousness exalts a nation”, and what does it demand of modern believers?

6. God blessed Joseph so greatly that “the Lord blessed the Egyptian’s house on account of Joseph” (Genesis 39:5). How does this principle explain why even unbelieving Americans have benefited from the faithfulness of a righteous remnant?

7. In Psalm 33:12, Scripture says, “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.” How does this verse challenge the belief that America’s prosperity is due only to hard work rather than divine favor?

8. Israel repeatedly lost blessing when they turned from God (Judges 2:11–15). How does this historical pattern warn America about the dangers of abandoning biblical obedience?

9. God told Solomon, “If My people... humble themselves and pray... I will heal their land” (2 Chronicles 7:14). How does this promise apply to Christians seeking restoration for America today?

10. In Jeremiah 18:7–10, God declares that He will bless or uproot nations depending on their obedience. How does this passage speak to America’s current spiritual direction and the urgency of national repentance?

11. Jesus warned, “A house divided against itself will not stand” (Matthew 12:25). How does moral and spiritual division in America reflect a departure from the covenantal unity early leaders believed was necessary?

12. God told Ezekiel, “I searched for a man who would stand in the gap” (Ezekiel 22:30). How does this challenge both unbelievers and Christians to take responsibility for America’s spiritual condition and return to covenant faithfulness?