A historical painting depicting a church service. A minister in white and black vestments stands at a wooden pulpit, gesturing with his hands as if speaking. In the foreground, a woman in a dark dress and white stockings is kneeling on the floor, her hands clasped in prayer. Other people are seated in the background, some looking towards the minister. The setting is a church interior with a large arched window in the background.

# America's Christian Heritage

The Secret to America's Greatness

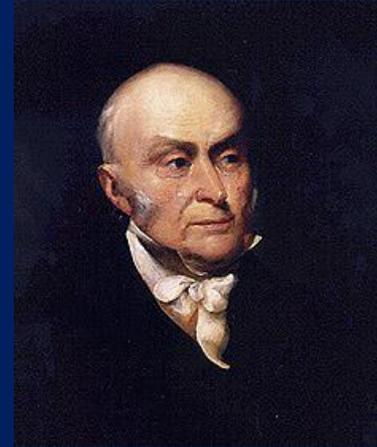
# God Blesses His Truth

- Proverbs 14:34 says, “Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.”
- Ps 33:12, “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.”

# God Blesses His Truth

- Matt 7:16-18, “You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn *bushes* nor figs from thistles, are they? So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit.”

# John Quincy Adams



- “The birth-day of the nation is indissolubly linked with the birth-day of the Saviour [and] forms a leading event in the progress of the gospel dispensation...the Declaration of Independence first organized the social compact on the foundation of the Redeemer’s mission upon the earth [and] laid the corner stone of human government upon the first precepts of Christianity.”

John Quincy Adams, *An Oration Delivered before the Inhabitants of the Town of Newburyport at Their Request on the Sixty-First Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence* (Newburyport: Whipple, 1837), 5-6.

# A Christian Nation?

“Although...we have a very large Christian population, *we do not consider ourselves a Christian nation* or a Jewish nation or a Muslim nation; we consider ourselves a nation of citizens who are bound by ideals and a set of values” (italics added).



Cited in Lynn Sweet, “Obama and President Gul of Turkey Press Conference. Obama’s Islamic Outreach,” *Chicago Sun Times* (April 6, 2009).

# A Christian Nation?

“Whatever we once were, *we’re no longer a Christian nation.* At least not just. We are also a Jewish nation, a Muslim nation, and a Buddhist nation, and a Hindu nation, and a nation of nonbelievers” (Italics added).

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tmC31evZiik> (2007).



# Preview

## Early America's:



Early pioneers



Education



Architecture



Founding documents



Christian consensus



Legal system



# Christopher Columbus

**“Our Lord opened to my understanding (I could sense his hand upon me) so it became clear to me that the voyage was feasible...All those who heard of my enterprise rejected it with laughter, scoffing at me...Who doubts this illumination was from the Holy Spirit? I attest that He, with marvelous rays of light, consoled me with the holy and sacred Scriptures...”**



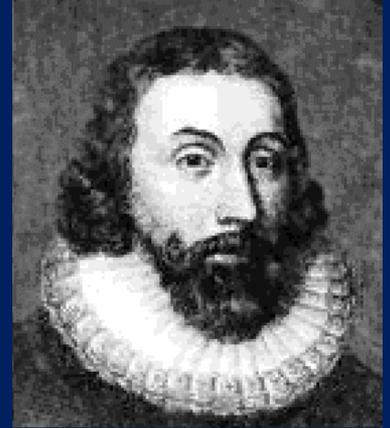
# Christopher Columbus

...“they inflame me with a sense of great urgency...No one should be afraid to take on any enterprise in the name of the savior if it is right and if the purpose is purely for His holy service...And I say that the sign that convinces me that our Lord is hastening the end of the world is the preaching of the Gospel in so many distant lands.”

Columbus, *Book of Prophecies*, trans. Kay Brigham, 178-79, 182-83.



# John Winthrop



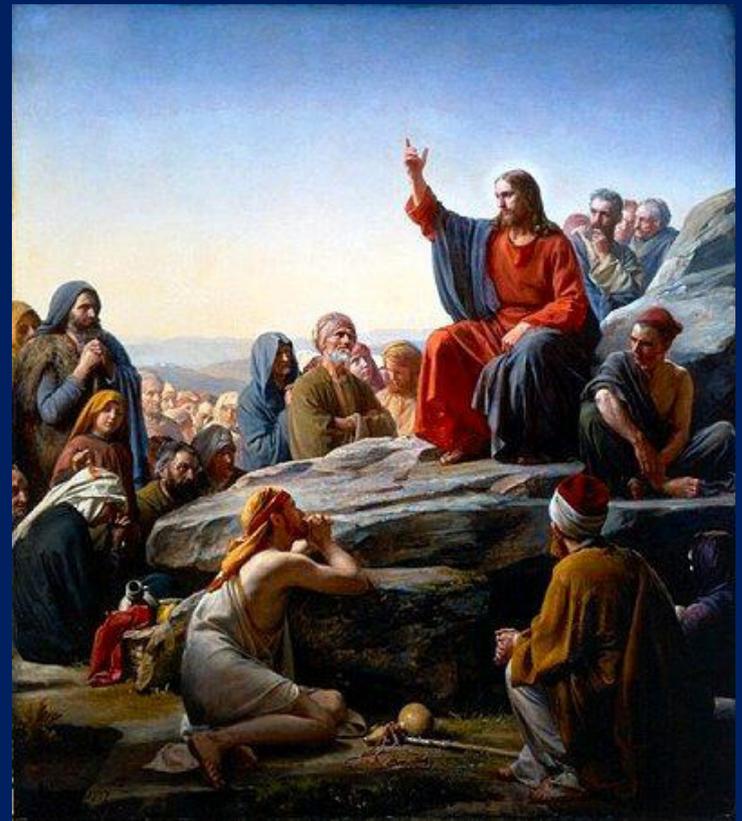
- “For we must consider that we shall be as a City set upon a Hill; the eyes of all people are upon us; so that if we shall deal falsely with our God in this work we have undertaken and so cause him to withdraw his present help from us, we shall be a story and a by-word through the world.”

John Winthrop, “A Model of Christian Charity,” *Winthrop Papers*, 2:292-95.

# A City Set Upon a Hill

Matt 5:13, 16:

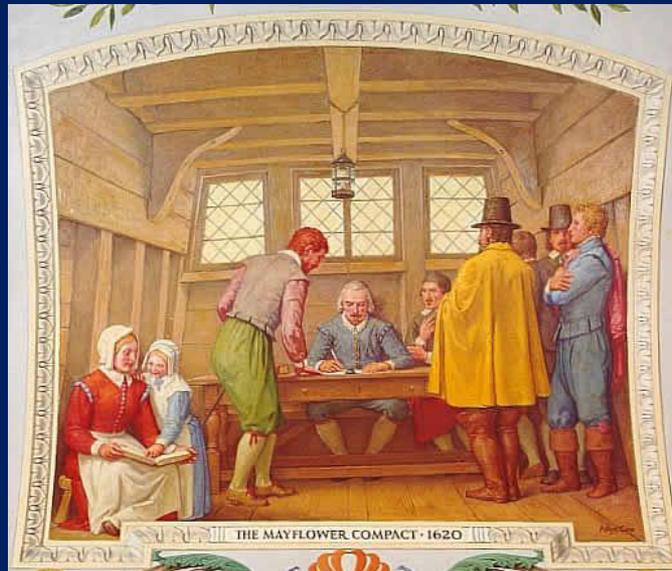
“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden...Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”



# Mayflower Compact (1620)

Mayflower, in 1620, recites: “Having undertaken for the glory of God and advancement of the Christian faith and the honor of our king and country a voyage to plant the first colony in the northern parts of Virginia.”

Brewer, *United States A Christian Nation*, 14





# New England Primer

A: “In Adam’s fall we sinned all.”

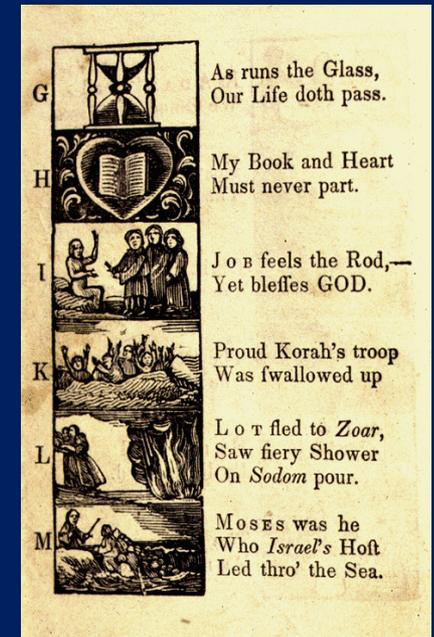
C: Christ crucify’d for sinners dy’d.”

D: “The deluge drown’d the earth  
around.”

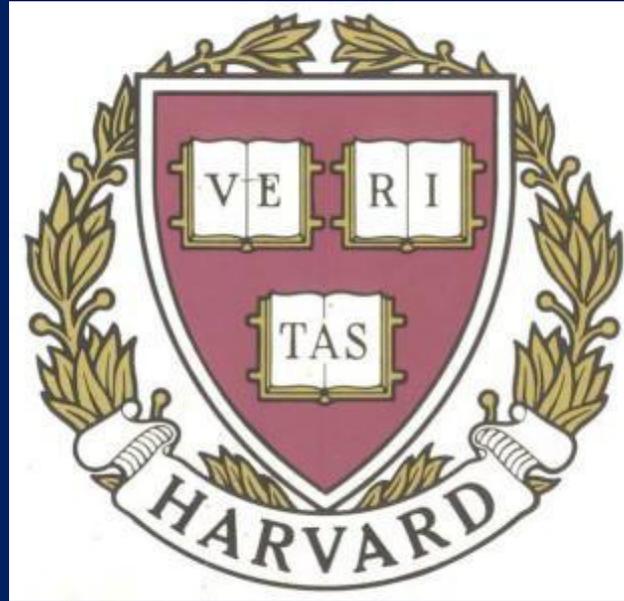
J: Job feels the rod, yet blesses God

N: “Noah did view the old world & new.”

Z: “Zaccheus he did climb the tree our Lord to  
see.”



Harvard

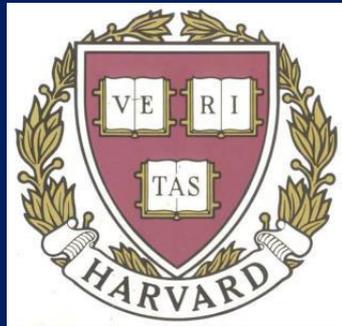


University

**The first seal used by Harvard College had as a motto,  
“In Christi Gloriam,” ...**

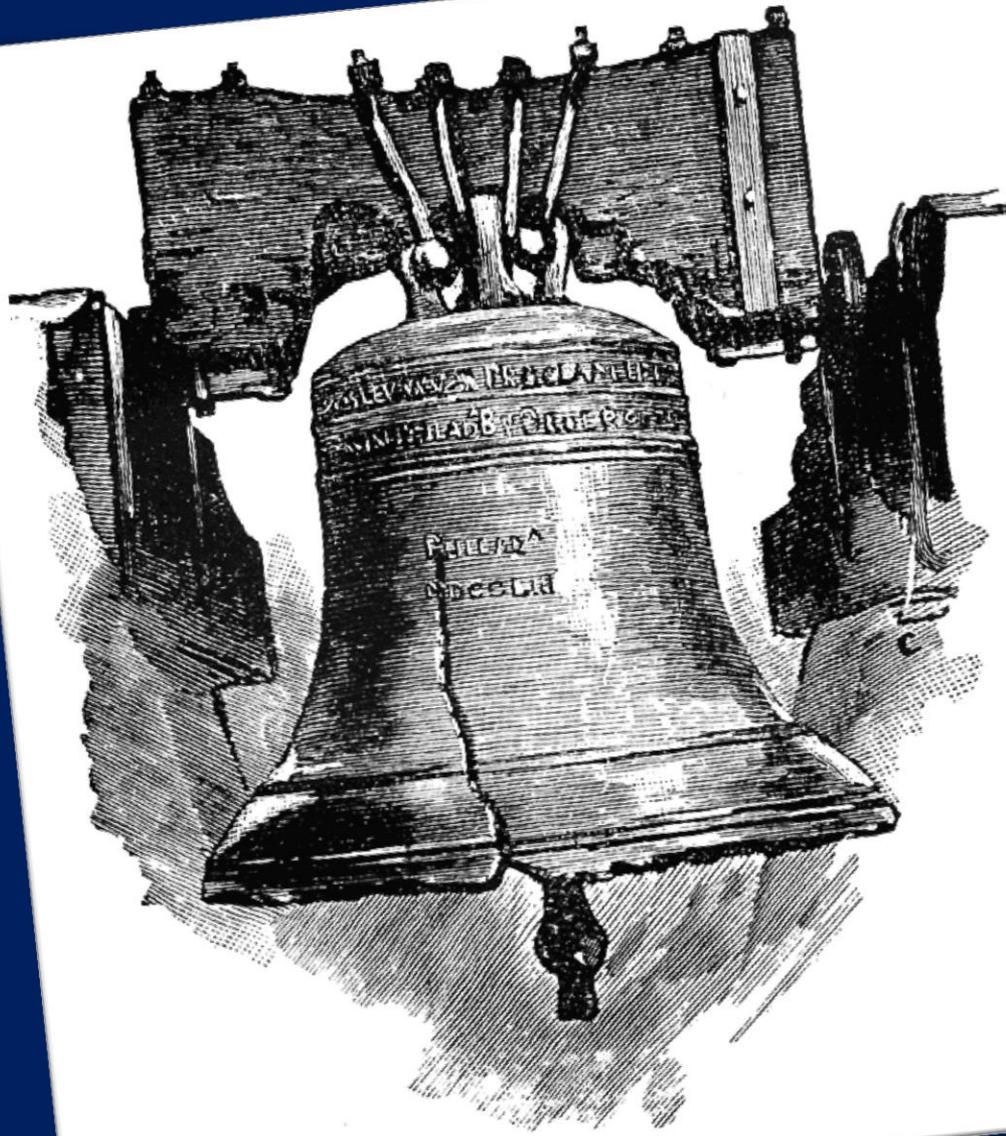
*Brewer, United States A Christian Nation, 20*

# Harvard University



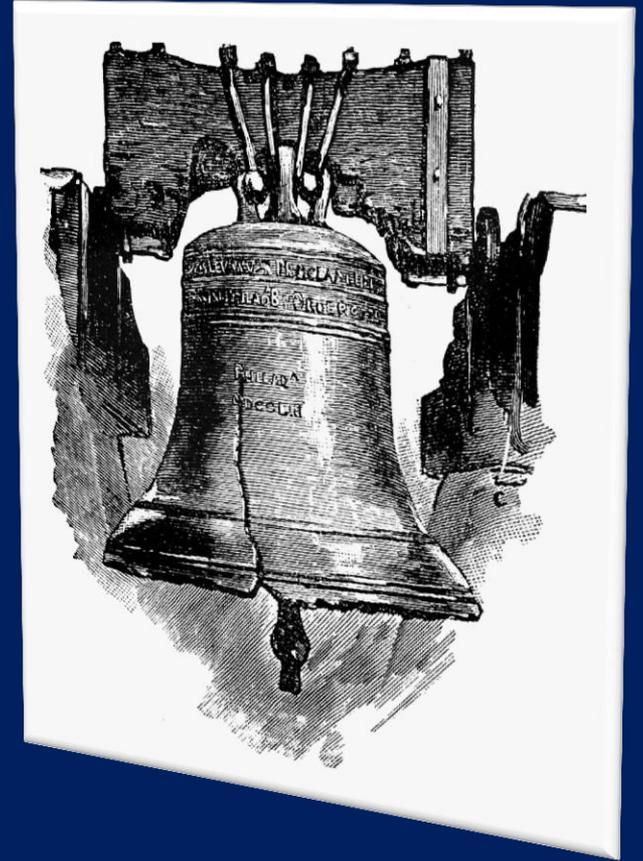
**“Let every student be plainly instructed and earnestly pressed to consider well the main end of his life and studies is to know God and Jesus Christ which is eternal life (John 17:3) and therefore to lay Christ in the bottom as the only foundation of all sound knowledge and learning. And seeing the Lord only giveth wisdom, let everyone seriously set himself by prayer in secret to seek it of Him (Prov. 2, 3). Everyone shall exercise himself in reading the Scriptures twice a day that he shall be ready to give such an account of his proficiency therein.”**

Rules of Harvard in 1636; quoted in David Barton, *Original Intent*, 81



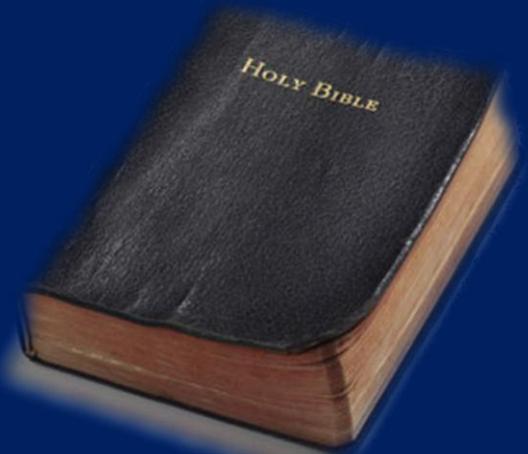
# Leviticus 25:10

“And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout [all] the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a Jubilee for you; and each of you shall return to his possession, and each of you shall return to his family.”

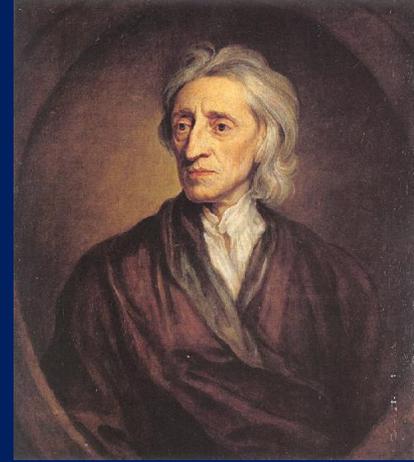


# Founders' Sources

- 34% Bible
- 8.3% Baron Montesquieu
- 7.9% William Blackstone
- 2.9% John Locke



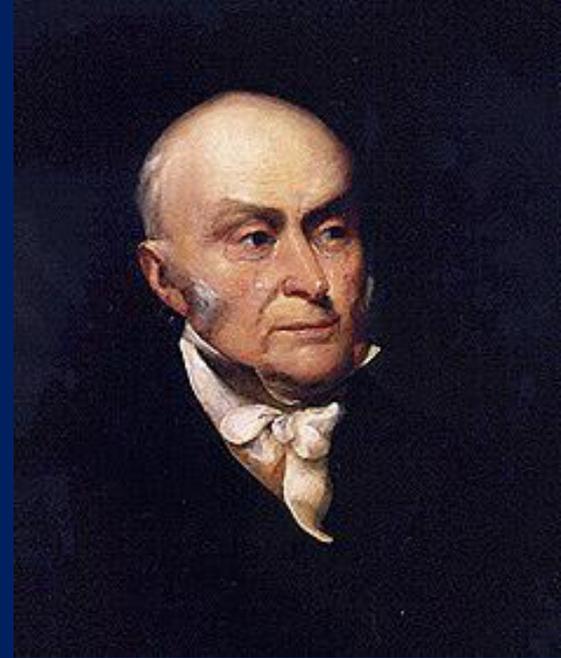
# Baron Montesquieu



- “The Christian religion...is a stranger to mere despotic power. The mildness so frequently recommended in the Gospel, is incompatible with the despotic rage with which a prince punishes his subjects, and exercises himself in cruelty...[W]e shall see, that we owe to Christianity, in government, a certain political law; and in war, a certain law of nations; benefits which nature can sufficiently acknowledge.”

Alvin J. Schmidt, *Under the Influence: How Christianity Transformed Civilization*  
(Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001), 257-58.

# John Quincy Adams



- “The highest glory of the American Revolution was this: it connected in one indissoluble bond, the principles of civil government with the principles of Christianity.”

J. Wingate Thornton, *The Pulpit of the American Revolution* (1860; reprint, NY: Franklin, 1970), XXIX.

# Declaration of Independence



“the Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God,”



“we hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal,”



“they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights,”



“appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions,”



“with firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence.”

# Lord Acton



“All power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely.”

# Federalist # 51



“But what is government but the greatest of all reflections on human nature? If men were angels, no government would be necessary. If angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary. In framing a government which is to be administered by men over men, the great difficulty lies in this: you must first enable the government to control the governed; and in the next place oblige it to control itself.”

Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay, *The Federalist Papers*, trans. Clinton Rossiter (New York, NY: Penguin, 1961), 322.

# Isaiah 33:22

For the LORD is our  
judge, The LORD is our  
lawgiver, The LORD is  
our king



# Genesis 8:21

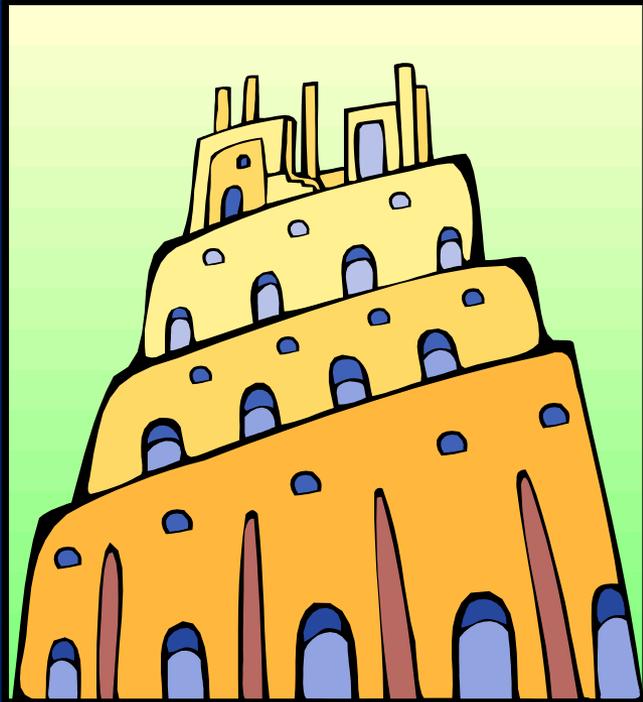


NOAH'S SACRIFICE. Gen. viii. 20.

"And Noah builded an altar unto the Lord; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar."

*The Lord smelled the soothing aroma; and the Lord said to Himself, “I will never again curse the ground on account of man, for the intent of man’s heart is evil from his youth; and I will never again destroy every living thing, as I have done.[emphasis mine].*

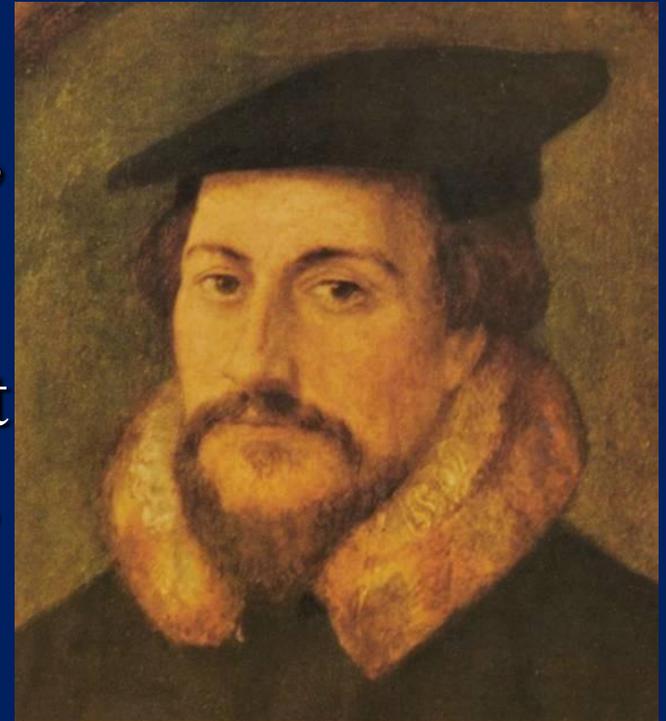
# Genesis 11:6



*The Lord said, “Behold, they are one people, and they all have the same language. And this is what they began to do, and now nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them.”*

# John Calvin

Bancroft “...simply calls Calvin ‘the father of America’ and adds: ‘He who will not honor the memory and respect the influence of Calvin knows but little of the origin of American liberty.’”



Lorraine Boettner, *The Reformed Doctrine of Predestination* (Philipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1932), 398-90.

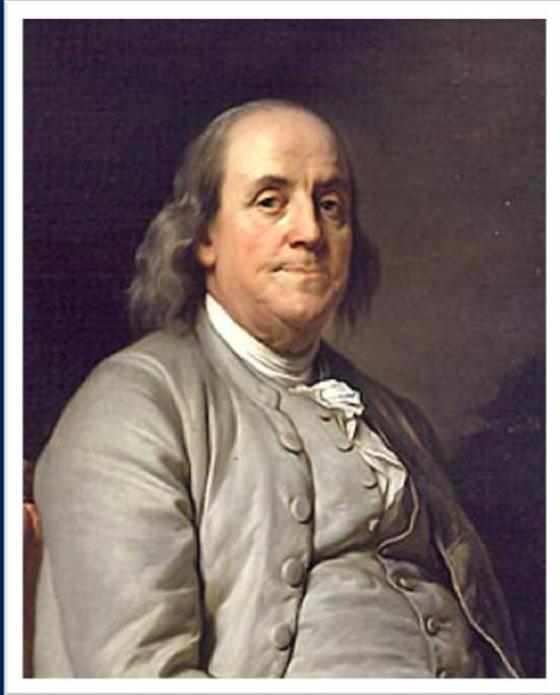
# Alexis de Tocqueville



- “There is no country in the whole world in which the Christian religion retains a greater influence over the souls of men than in America and there can be no greater proof of its utility, and of its conformity to human nature, than that its influence is most powerfully felt over the most enlightened and free nation on earth.”

Alexis de Tocqueville, *The Republic of the United States of America and Its Political Institutions, Reviewed and Examined*, trans. Paul Reeves, vol. 1 (Garden City, NY: Barnes, 1851), 337.

# Benjamin Franklin



**“Hence bad examples to youth are more rare in America... Atheism is unknown there, Infidelity rare and secret; so that great persons may live to a great age in that country without having their piety shocked by meeting with either Atheist or Infidel.”**

**Benjamin Franklin, “Advice on Coming to America,” *America in Person*, ed. George D. Youstra, 109.**

# 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.”



B.F. Morris, *The Christian Life and Character of the Civil Institutions of the United States*, 186.

# Founders' Sources

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Justice Iredell; quoted in Barton,  
*Original Intent*, 217.

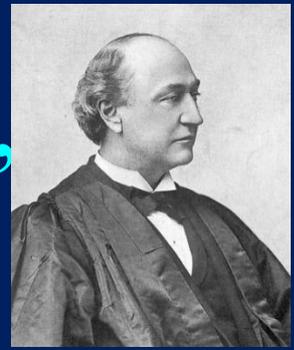
“For nearly thirty years it [Blackstone’s Commentaries] has been the manual of almost every law student in the United States, and its uncommon excellence has also introduced it into the libraries, and often to the favorite reading of private gentlemen.”

“Thus, when the Supreme Being formed the universe, and created matter out of nothing, he imposed certain principles upon that matter, from which it can never depart, and without which it would cease to be...If we farther advance, from mere inactive matter to vegetable and animal life, we shall find them still governed by laws, more numerous indeed, but equally fixed and invariable...Man, considered as a creature, must necessarily be subject to the laws of his creator, for he is entirely a dependent being.

...no human laws should be suffered to contradict the laws of nature and the law of revelation.”



# America is a “Christian Nation”



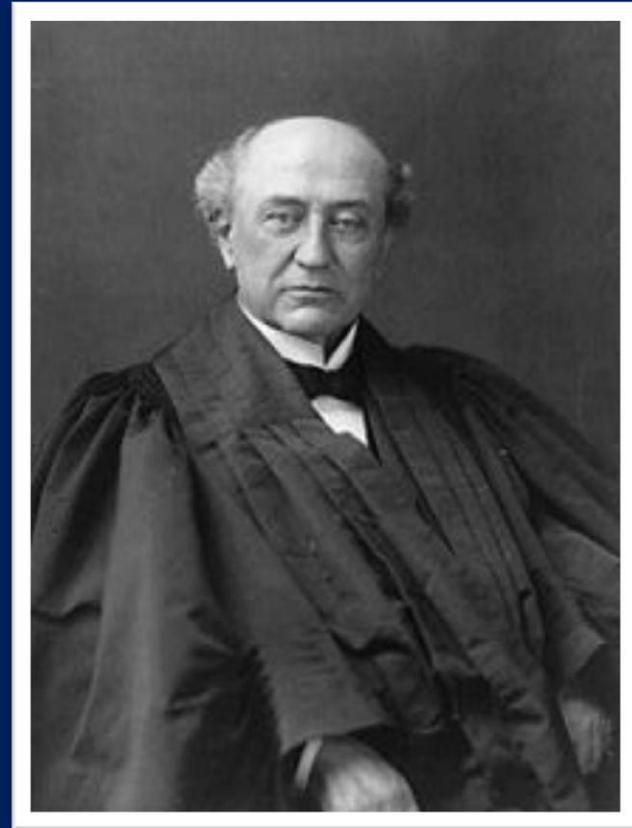
“This is historically true. From the discovery of this continent to the present hour, there is a single voice making this affirmation...These are not the sayings, declarations of private persons: they are organic utterances; they speak the voice of the entire people...These and many other matters which might be noticed, add a volume of unofficial declarations to the mass of organic utterances that this is a Christian nation.”

*Church of the Holy Trinity v. U.S.*, 143 U.S. 457, 465, 470-71 (1892)

# America is a “Christian Nation”

**But in what sense can it be called a Christian nation? Not in the sense that Christianity is the established religion or that the people are in any manner compelled to support it.**

*Brewer, United States A Christian Nation, 11-12*



Conclusion

# Review

## Early America's:



Early pioneers



Education



Architecture



Founding documents



Christian consensus



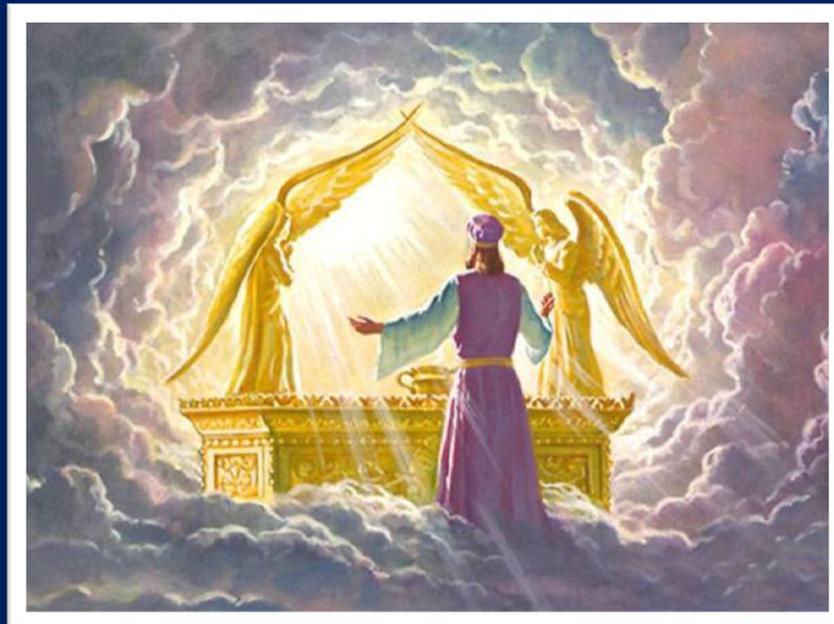
Legal system



# So What?

## Points of Application!

1. God deserves glory for what He has done – doxological purpose



# So What?

## Points of Application!

### 2. Repent (Rev 2:5)

Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place—unless you repent.



Repent and turn to God, so that  
your sins may be wiped out.  
Acts 3:19

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©1998, Paul Lee

Repent and turn to God, so that  
your sins may be wiped out.  
Acts 3:19

REPENT

# So What?

## Points of Application!

3. God gives us the potential for greatness

