The Pastor, Politics,
and
The Preservation of Freedom
1 Cor. 10:31; 1 Tim. 2:1–6

John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg

Pastor, Major General, Congressman, Senator
A member of the Pennsylvania Constitutional Convention, 1790; U.S. Representative from Pennsylvania; U.S. Senator, 1801. In 1889, Pennsylvania chose his statue to represent their state in the Statuary Hall at Washington, D.C.

Frederick Augustus Conrad Muhlenberg
(1750–1801)
Lutheran Pastor
First and third Speaker of the House of Representatives
First signer of the Bill of Rights

Rev. William Payson led men from his congregation to Boston

Rev. Jonathan French came w/ his musket and surgical bag

Rev. David Avery brought 20 from Vermont

Stephen Farrar (NH) led 2 companies from his congregation

John Steele (PA) brought 900 men from his church

Jonas Clarke, Pastor of the church at Lexington, led 77 men from his church to take his stand against 400 British.

The most frequently cited source in the writings of the founding era was the Bible, by 34%.

The most frequently quoted in the NT, was Paul in Romans 13, Peter in 1 Peter 2 and followed by John's gospel.

The Old Testament citations came from first Deuteronomy, then Isaiah, Genesis, Exodus, and Leviticus.

"When reading comprehensively in the political literature of the war years, one cannot but be struck by the extent to which biblical sources used by ministers and traditional Whigs undergirded the justification for the break with Britain, the rationale for continuing the war, and the basic principles of Americans writing their own constitutions."

~Donald S. Lutz,
  The Origins of American Constitutionalism

A

SERMON

PREACHED BEFORE

His Excellency JOHN HANCOCK, Esq.

GOVERNOUR;

His Honor SAMUEL ADAMS, Esq.

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOUR;

The Honourable the

COUNCIL, SENATE, AND HOUSE OF

REPRESENTATIVES,

OF THE

COMMONWEALTH

OF

MASSACHUSETTS,

MAY 26, 1790.

BEING THE DAY OF

GENERAL ELECTION,

By DANIEL FOSTER, A. M.

PASTOR OF THE CHURCH IN NEW-BRAINTREE.

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS:
PRINTED BY THOMAS ADAMS,
PRINTER TO THE HONOURABLE, THE GENERAL COURT.

M,DCC,XC.

A

SERMON,

PREACHED BEFORE THE

ANCIENT AND HONOURABLE

ARTILLERY COMPANY,

IN BOSTON, JUNE 5, 1809.

BEING

THE ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR
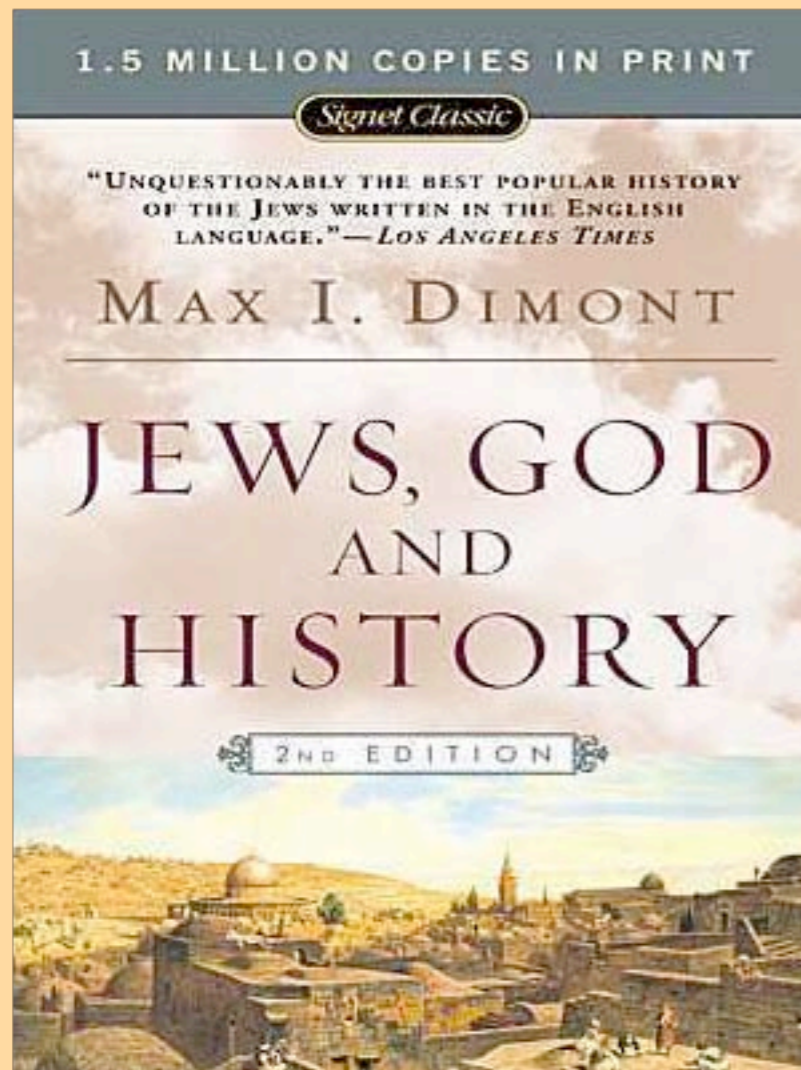
ELECTION OF OFFICERS,

—

BY JOHN FOSTER, A. M.

Minister of Brighton.

—

BOSTON,
PRINTED BY MUNROE, FRANCIS AND PARKER,
NO. 4 CORNHILL.

1809.

"The Mosaic Code… was the first truly judicial, written code, and eclipsed previously known laws with its all-encompassing humanism, its passion for justice, its love of democracy…"

~Max I. Dimont,
   *Jews, God, and History*, **1962.**

David J. Brewer
THE LIFE OF A SUPREME
COURT JUSTICE, 1837–1910

"This republic is classified among the Christian nations of the world. It was so formally declared by the Supreme Court of the United States. 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.

... Nevertheless, we constantly speak of this republic as a Christian nation in fact, as the leading Christian nation of the world."

[~David J. Brewer, *The United States a Christian Nation* (Philadelphia, PA: Winston, 1905), 11–12.]
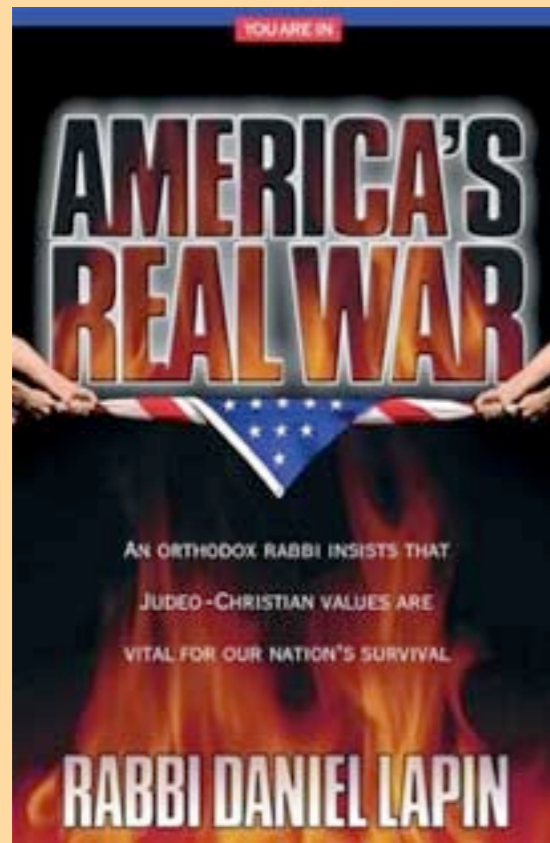
"As a Jew I am filled with profound gratitude to America… Life in America has been good for American Jews. It would be churlish to deny it… I believe Jews live comfortably in America only due to that Christian heritage… As an American, I am grateful for the religious outlook that guided the founders of this country; as a Jew I tremble at the thought of what a post-Christian America might mean for my people."

~Daniel Lapin, *America's Real War: An Orthodox Rabbi Insists that Judeo-Christian Values are Vital for Our Nation's Survival* (Sisters, OR: Nultnomah, 1999), 113–7.

"God having made Man a rational creature, hath (as it were) twisted Law into the very frame and constitution of his soul…"

~Timothy Cutler, Connecticut Election Sermon, 1717.

Source: Manuscripts & Archives, Yale University Library
Produced for reference use only. (mssa img 003447)
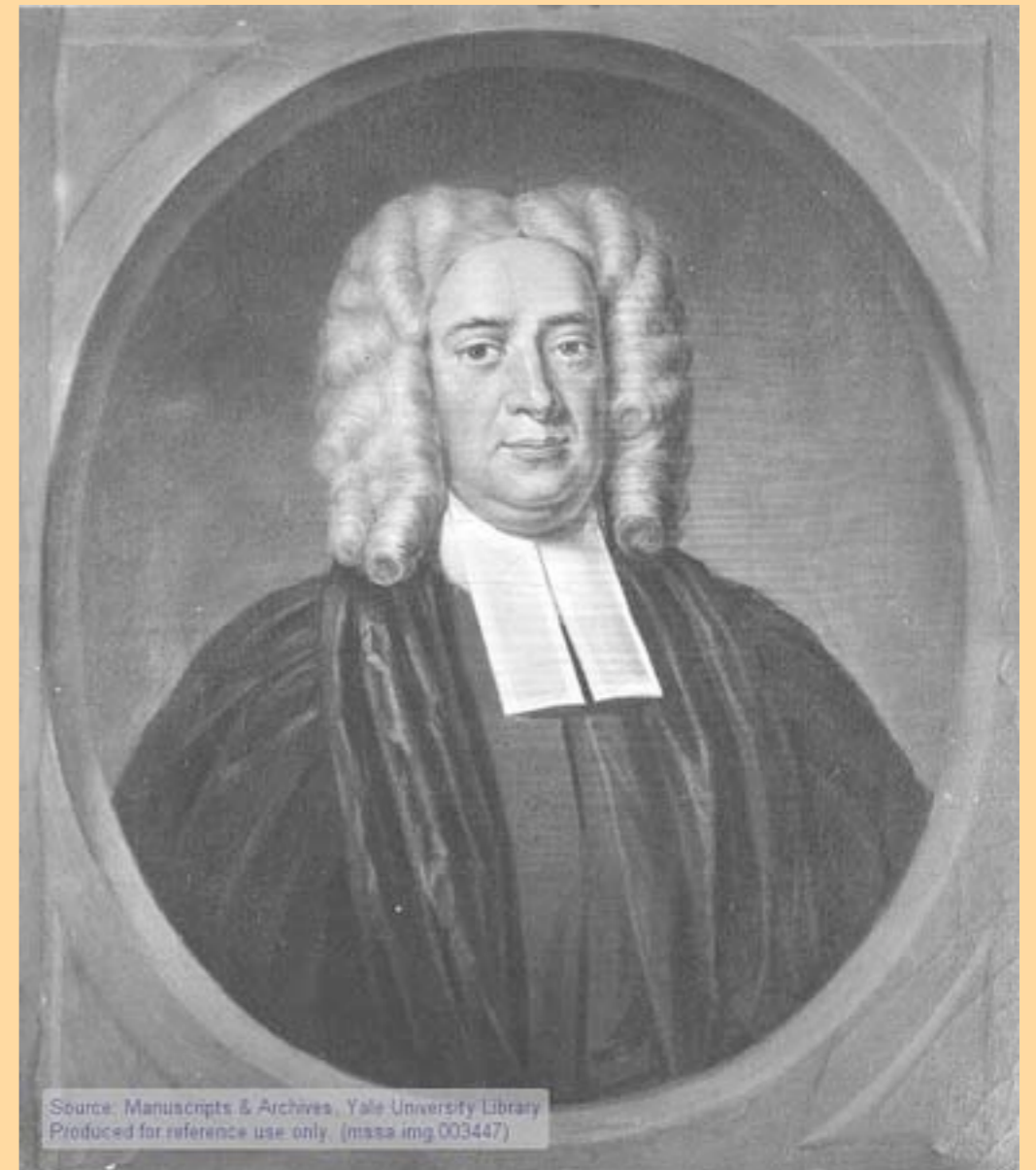
Timothy Cutler
Third Rector [President] of Yale
College; Graduate of Harvard,
1701

"The Law of Nature is God's Law…"

~John Davenport, Massachusetts Election Sermon, 1699

John Davenport
(April 9, 1597 – May 30, 1670)
Founder of the Colony of New Haven

"I think there can be no doubt about this; but that in all cases where the matter under Determination appertains to natural Right, the Cause is God's Cause."
    ~Samuel Hall, Connecticut Election
        Sermon, 1746

The Voice of Nature is the Voice of God. Thus 'tis that *vox populi est vox Dei.*'

~John Barnard, Massachusetts Election Sermon, 1734

"[Moral or natural law was] … given by the Sovereign of the universe to all mankind … Being founded by infinite wisdom and goodness on essential right, which never varies, it can require no amendment or alteration."

~John Jay, letter to John Murray,
  15 April 1818

First President of the Continental Congress, Governor of New York, Ambassador, Statesman, First Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

**James Madison
(1751–1836)
Continental Congress,
Helped write the
Constitution,
Fourth U.S. President**

"The transcendent law of nature and of nature's God, which declares that the safety and happiness of society are the objects at which all political institutions aim, and to which all such institutions must be sacrificed."

~James Madison

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are <u>endowed by their Creator</u> with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

~Preamble, Declaration of Independence

"Can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are the gift of God. That they are not to be violated but with His wrath?"

~Thomas Jefferson

Thomas Jefferson
(April 13, 1743 – July 4, 1826)
One of the writers of the Declaration of Independence,
Ambassador,
Vice-President,
Third U.S. President

"The gallant Struggle in America, is founded in Principles so indisputable, in the moral Law, in the revealed law of God, in the true Constitution of Great Britain, and in the most apparent Welfare of the Nation as well as the People of America, that I must confess it rejoices my very Soul."

~John Adams

John Adams (October 30, 1735 – July 4, 1826) – Continental Congress, Signer of the Declaration of Independence, Vice-President, Second U.S. President

Gen. 9:1, "And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them: 'Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth.

Gen. 9:2, " 'And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, and upon all wherewith the ground teemeth, and upon all the fishes of the sea: into your hand are they delivered.

Gen. 9:3, " 'Every moving thing that liveth shall be for food for you; as the green herb have I given you all.

Gen. 9:4, " 'Only flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat.

Gen. 9:5, " 'And surely your blood of your lives will I require; at the hand of every beast will I require it; and at the hand of man, even at the hand of every man's brother, will I require the life of man.

Gen. 9:6, " '<u>Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God made He man</u>.' "

Tanach, JPS 1917

Rom. 13:3, "For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same.

Rom. 13:4, "For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil."

"The depravity which mankind inherited from their first parents, introduced wickedness into the world. That wickedness rendered human government necessary to restrain the violence and injustice resulting from it."

~John Jay

John Jay
(1745 – 1829)
First President of the Continental Congress,
Governor of New York,
Ambassador,
Statesman,
First Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

"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."

~James Madison, Federalist No. 51

James Madison (1751–1836) Continental Congress, Helped write the Constitution, Fourth U.S. President

Rom. 13:3, "For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same.

Rom. 13:4, "For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil."

"The end of government is the natural, moral, civil and spiritual good of men."

~John Davenport, *Discourse about Civil Government in a New Plantation*, 1663.

"Without government men are in a state of war."
~J Hancock, Sr., Massachusetts Election Sermon, 1722

1 Cor. 10:31, "Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."

1 Cor. 10:29, "<u>Conscience</u>, I say, not your own, but that of the other. For why is my liberty judged by another man's conscience?"

1 Cor. 10:31, "Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."

1 Cor. 10:33, "just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved."

1 Tim. 2:1, "Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men,

1 Tim. 2:2, "for kings and all who are in authority, <u>that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life</u> in all godliness and reverence."

1 Tim. 2:3, "For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,

1 Tim. 2:4, "who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

1 Tim. 2:5, "For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,

1 Tim. 2:6, "who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time,"

Gal. 5:1, "For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery."