

Special
2024 Independence Day
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Is There a Future for Liberty?



The Apostle Paul's Warning to the Leaders of the Church of Ephesus:

Acts 20:28, “Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

Acts 20:29, “For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.

Acts 20:30, “Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.

Acts 20:31, “Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.”

Eph. 6:12, “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”

By paganism we mean not simply ancient worshippers of Baal, Thor, or Zeus, but the entire system of beliefs that were part of these ancient systems. Fundamentally they denied the Creator-creature distinction, and once you do that, you worship in one form or another the creation, called nature, the environment, Gaia mother-earth, or the religion of climate change, or some powerful political figure masquerading as a god, such as the ancient pharaohs or Caesars. [RD]

“ ‘[T]he choice before us is the creation of a new Christian culture, and the acceptance of a pagan one.’ [National Socialist] Germany or [Communist] Russia, is an abuse of terms. We mean only that we have a society in which no one is penalised for the formal profession of Christianity; but we conceal from ourselves the unpleasant knowledge of the real values by which we live.” [For him the values of the West had already shifted to a form of paganism.]

~T. S. Eliot, *The Idea of a Christian Society*, 1939. Written during the rise of Naziism.

In stark contrast:

The foundational ideology which undergirds both the Declaration and the Constitution is one that asserts a Creator-lawgiver who is the ultimate reference point for law and all reality.

“The revolutionary principles of republican liberty and self-government, taught and embodied in the system of Calvin, were brought to America. ... The vital relation of Calvin and Calvinism to the founding of the free institutions of America, however strange in some ears [this sounds] is recognized and affirmed by historians of all lands and creeds.”

~John Eidsmoe, *Christianity and the Constitution: The Faith of Our Founding Fathers*, 18

**Source Material Cited by the Founding Fathers:
[Donald S. Lutz, “The Relative Influence of European
Writers on Late 18th Century American Political Thought”,
American Political Science Review (1984)]**

Citation Sources	Percent of the Total Number
Bible	34%
Enlightenment	22%
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English Common Law	11%
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Others	2%

The Declaration of Independence is grounded on a biblically informed, Judeo-Christian worldview.

- **The sanctity and significance of human life.**
- **The sanctity and significance of the individual.**
- **The importance of individual liberty especially in relation to God, but from this developed the thinking of individual rights derived from the Creator-God related to humans being in the image of their Creator-God, individual property rights, the rule of Law over the rule of a human king, freedoms related to speech, assembly, worship, which were in stark contrast to the history of civilizations among the pagan cultures.**

Christian verbiage from the Declaration of Independence

- the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God
- that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights
- Governments are instituted among Men **DI 4**
- Organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness
1 Tim. 2:2, "for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence."
- appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions
- a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence

Jer. 17:5, “Thus says the LORD: ‘Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart departs from the LORD.

Jer. 17:6, “ ‘For he shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when good comes, but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land which is not inhabited.

Jer. 17:7, “ ‘Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, and whose hope is the LORD.

Jer. 17:8, “ ‘For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river, and will not fear when heat comes; But its leaf will be green, and will not be anxious in the year of drought, nor will cease from yielding fruit.

Jer. 17:9, “ ‘The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; Who can know it?’ ”

Jer. 17:10, “I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings.”

The Biblical Philosophy of History

- 1. History is the outworking of the plan of the Creator-Redeemer God of the universe.**
- 2. In eternity past there was a rebellion of the angels under *Helel ben Shahaar*, who seeks to subvert the allegiance of the human race.**
- 3. Through the dispensations, from the attack of the demonic “sons of god” in Gen. 6, to the judgments on the Canaanites, to God’s judgments on Israel and Judah, to the Cross, and onto the future Tribulation, and Great White Throne judgment, human history is influenced by demons.**

The indictment of the pagan Canaanites:

Deut. 32:17, “They sacrificed to demons, not to God, to gods they did not know, to new gods, new arrivals that your fathers did not fear.”

The indictment of ancient Israel, and moderns:

Deut. 32:18, “Of the Rock who begot you, you are unmindful, and have forgotten the God who fathered you.”

Ancient paganism:

“All early peoples sacrificed human beings. One has only to remember Agamemnon’s sacrifice to angry Artemis of the most beautiful thing he possessed, his daughter Iphigenia. But this was a story of the Greek Iron Age, no more present to the Romanized world into which Patrick was born than public executions are to ours. For us, it is a strain to find any surviving elements of sacrifice—cut flowers, Christmas trees, vigil lights, and the Mass may be the last vestiges—but in the Roman world animal sacrifices were still offered.”

“[Civilization is from the Jews](#)” by Andrew Doran, [The European Conservative](#), May 25, 2024

“Most will agree that civilized behavior, at a minimum, consists of abstaining from ritualistic torture, rape, sexual mutilation, human sacrifice, cannibalism, and related conduct. Yet for most of human history such conduct was normative and often sacralized. Habits of ritual violence and scapegoating to satisfy blood lust and communal anxiety were ubiquitous.”

~Doran

“The myth of ‘the noble savage’ somehow survives despite the mounting evidence. In truth, there is nothing noble in our origins, only savagery, and the primary reason few of us have encountered such savagery is the spread of the Abrahamic religions.”

~Doran

“Human sacrifice was a near-universal practice in primitive pagan societies, even among sophisticated pagans. Greeks had elaborate religious rituals for killing their *pharmokoi* (scapegoats). Romans buried sacrificial victims alive in religious rituals to spare Rome from enemies like the Carthaginians, and though human sacrifice was later banned, crucifixion, mass executions, and murderous entertainment continued until banished in the Christian era. The Carthaginians, like their Phoenician and Canaanite ancestors, sacrificed their own children, as did many Mediterranean peoples. Aztec, Maya, Chinese, Japanese, and Indian civilizations all had rituals for human sacrifice.”

~Doran

“Ritualistic violence among low pagans was less well documented but often more horrific. Christians from the medieval to modern eras, travelers like Ahmad ibn Fadlan and Samuel de Champlain, and missionaries, all personally witnessed ritualized torture, murder, and cannibalism, from North America to Northern Europe and Asia. Celtic and Baltic, Germanic and Angle, Comanche and Guanche—more peoples partook than can be numbered because most have gone extinct. Ritualistic barbarity was universal.”

~Doran

What changed the world?

- **The values of the Mosaic Law**
- **The teaching of Christianity**

i.e., Judeo-Christian worldview

In the ancient world, when Israel succumbed to paganism, worse than the Canaanites, God punished them, as He had the Canaanites.

2 Kings 21:2, “And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel.

2 Kings 21:3, “For he rebuilt the high places which Hezekiah his father had destroyed; he raised up altars for Baal, and made a wooden image, as Ahab king of Israel had done; and he worshiped all the host of heaven and served them.

2 Kings 21:4, “He also built altars in the house of the LORD, of which the LORD had said, ‘In Jerusalem I will put My name.’

2 Kings 21:5, “And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD.

2 Kings 21:6, “Also he made his son pass through the fire, practiced soothsaying, used witchcraft, and consulted spiritists and mediums. He did much evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger.”

2 Kings 21:9, “But they paid no attention, and Manasseh seduced them to do more evil than the nations whom the LORD had destroyed before the children of Israel.

2 Kings 21:10, “And the LORD spoke by His servants the prophets, saying,

2 Kings 21:11, “Because Manasseh king of Judah has done these abominations (he has acted more wickedly than all the Amorites who were before him, and has also made Judah sin with his idols),

2 Kings 21:12, “therefore thus says the LORD God of Israel: ‘Behold, I am bringing such calamity upon Jerusalem and Judah, that whoever hears of it, both his ears will tingle.

2 Kings 21:13, “ ‘And I will stretch over Jerusalem the measuring line of Samaria and the plummet of the house of Ahab; I will wipe Jerusalem as one wipes a dish, wiping it and turning it upside down.’ ”

Jer. 18:1, “The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying:

Jer. 18:2, “ ‘Arise and go down to the potter’s house, and there I will cause you to hear My words.’

Jer. 18:3, “Then I went down to the potter’s house, and there he was, making something at the wheel.

Jer. 18:4, “And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter; so he made it again into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to make.

Jer. 18:5, “Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying:”

Jer. 18:6, “ ‘O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter?’ says the LORD. ‘Look, as the clay is in the potter’s hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel!’

Jer. 18:7, “ ‘The instant I speak concerning a nation and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, to pull down, and to destroy it,

Jer. 18:8, “ ‘if that nation against whom I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I thought to bring upon it.

Jer. 18:9, “ ‘And the instant I speak concerning a nation and concerning a kingdom, to build and to plant it,

Jer. 18:10, “ ‘if it does evil in My sight so that it does not obey My voice, then I will relent concerning the good with which I said I would benefit it.

Jer. 18:11, “ ‘Now therefore, speak to the men of Judah and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying, “Thus says the LORD: ‘Behold, I am fashioning a disaster and devising a plan against you. Return now every one from his evil way, and make your ways and your doings good.’ ” ’ ”

We are in a battle for the soul of our nation.

What can we do about it?

Eph. 6:13, “Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Eph. 6:14, “Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

Eph. 6:15, “and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

Eph. 6:16, “above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

Eph. 6:17, “And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

Eph. 6:18, “praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—”

We are in a battle for the soul of our nation.

What can we do about it?

1. Pray, internalize Scripture, apply Scripture, teach your children.

Proverbs 22:6, “Train a child in the way they should go and when they grow up, they will not depart”

- a. Only the full armor of God can protect.**
- b. Only the full armor of God is sufficient.**
- c. This armor includes:**

TRUTH: In two forms:

The living Word of God: “I am the Truth”

The written Word of God: “Thy Word is Truth”, which is called here the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.

The breastplate of +R: Our imputed righteousness;

The gospel of peace: That we stand on the good news of Christ’s death for us and this provides our salvation, which is the Christian soldier’s helmet;

The shield of faith: Faith in God’s Promises;

The helmet of salvation:

And with all things praying toward the end of endurance, being strengthened to stand firm against all the devil throws at us.

Get involved in your community.

Conclusion:

Two possibilities in our future:

- A. God will hear our prayers and begin to transform our nation. But faith only comes by hearing and hearing from the Word of God. Nothing else will do.**
- B. The trajectory continues and this nation destroys itself from within. We lose our freedoms, families, wealth, security, homes, and dreams.**

Jeremiah's depression overlooking Jerusalem:

Lam. 3:1, “I am the man who has seen affliction by the rod of His wrath.

Lam. 3:2, “He has led me and made me walk in darkness and not in light.

Lam. 3:3, “Surely He has turned His hand against me time and time again throughout the day.

Lam. 3:4, “He has aged my flesh and my skin, and broken my bones.

Lam. 3:5, “He has besieged me and surrounded me with bitterness and woe.”

He continues:

Lam. 3:6, “He has set me in dark places like the dead of long ago.

Lam. 3:7, “He has hedged me in so that I cannot get out; He has made my chain heavy.

Lam. 3:8, “Even when I cry and shout, He shuts out my prayer.

Lam. 3:9, “He has blocked my ways with hewn stone; He has made my paths crooked.

Lam. 3:10, “He has been to me a bear lying in wait, like a lion in ambush.

Lam. 3:11, “He has turned aside my ways and torn me in pieces; He has made me desolate.”

Lam. 3:20, “My soul still remembers and sinks within me.

Lam. 3:21, “This I recall to my mind, therefore I have hope.”

Lam. 3:20, “My soul still remembers and sinks within me.

Lam. 3:21, “This I recall to my mind, therefore I have hope.

Lam. 3:22, “Through the LORD’S mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not.

Lam. 3:23, “They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.

Lam. 3:24, “ ‘The LORD is my portion,’ says my soul, ‘Therefore I hope in Him!’

Lam. 3:25, “The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him.

Lam. 3:26, “It is good that one should hope and wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.”