

Independence Day Special

July 4, 2010

Dean Bible Ministries

www.deanbible.org

Dr. Robert L. Dean, Jr.



The Signing of the Declaration of Independence

Quiz on the *Declaration of Independence*

- 1. The Continental Congress voted for the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.**
- 2. The Declaration of Independence declared the independence of the United States from what nation?**
- 3. The Declaration of Independence was signed by 56 members of the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776.**
- 4. All of those who signed the Declaration voted for it.**

1. Were the Founding Fathers mostly agnostics, deists, and secularists who wanted a wall of separation between Church and State?
2. Is there any sense in which the United States was conceived as a Christian Nation?
3. Did the Founders intend to erect a wall of separation between Church and State?



John Witherspoon, 1723–1794

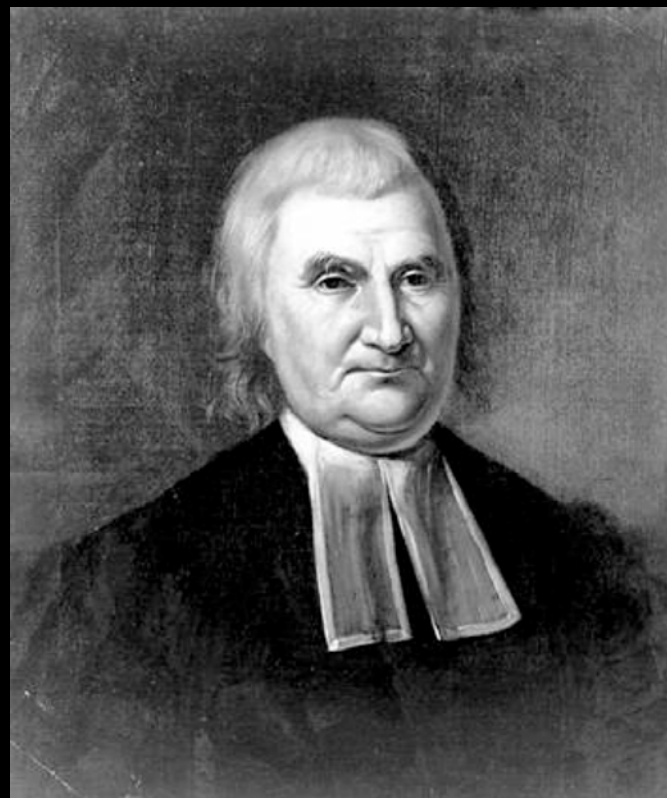


John Witherspoon, by Rembrandt Peale,
Copy after Charles Willson Peale

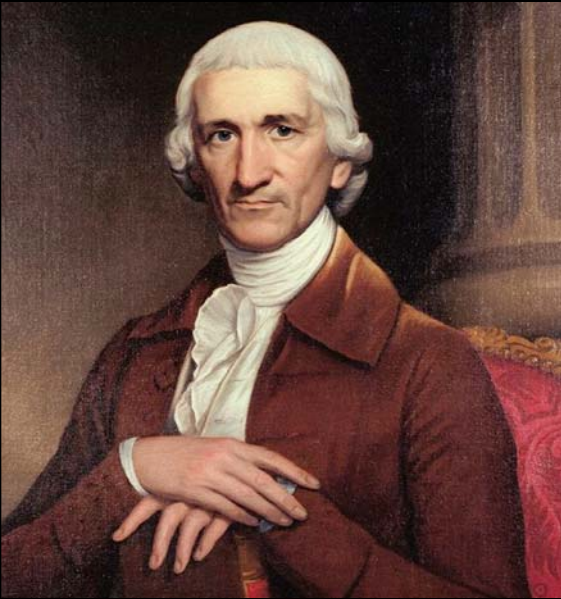
- Scots-Irish Presbyterian minister
- President of the College of New Jersey (Princeton)
- Responsible for printing two different editions of American Bibles, including 1791 ed. “America first Family Bible”
- Not only trained J. Madison (4th US President) who came to study theology, biblical principles of law and government form his legal convictions.

also trained: 1 VP, 3 SC justices,
10 Cabinet Members, 12 Governors,
60 Congressmen (21 Senators, 39
Representatives)

“Upon the whole, I beseech you to make a wise improvement of the present threatening aspect of public affairs and to remember that your duty to God, to your country, to your families, and to yourselves is the same. True religion is nothing else but an inward temper and outward conduct suited to your state and circumstance in Providence at any time. And as peace with God and conformity to Him, adds to the sweetness of created comforts while we possess them, so in times of difficulty and trial, it is in the man of piety and inward principle that we may expect to find the uncorrupted patriot, the useful citizen, and the invincible soldier. --God grant that in America true religion and civil liberty may be inseparable, and the unjust attempts to destroy the one may in the issue tend to the support and establishment of both.”



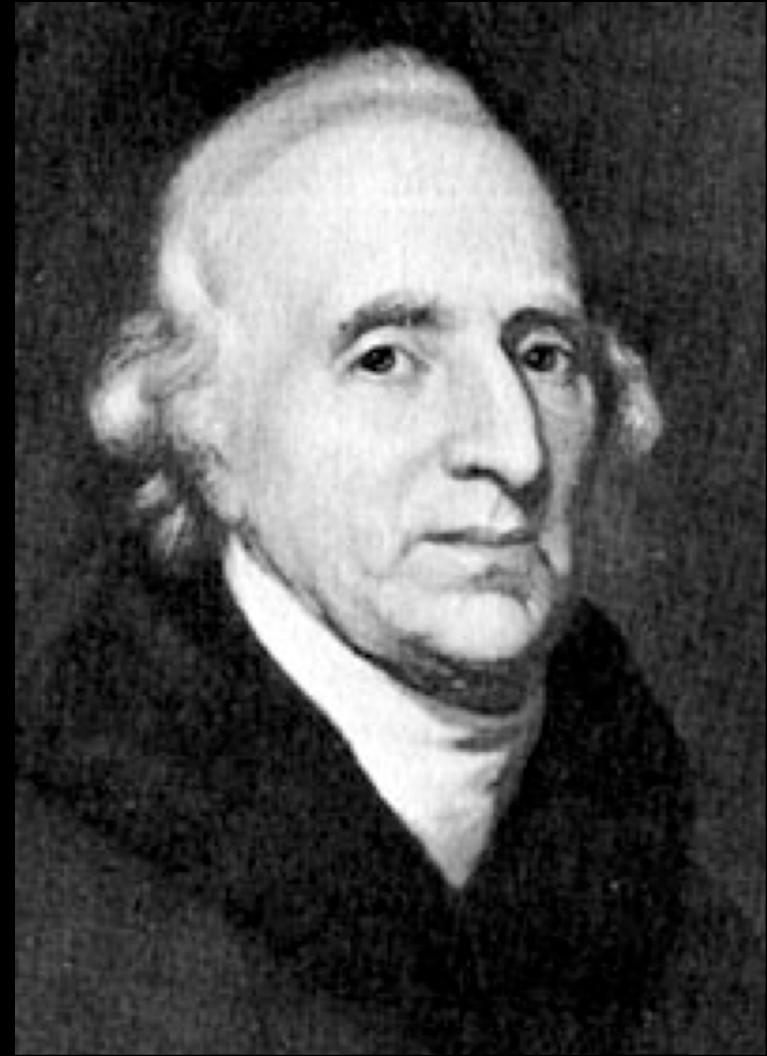
Charles Thomson (1729–1824)



- **Secretary of the Continental Congress.**
- **Translated and printed *Thomson's Bible*, the first Greek LXX to English translation, considered one of the very best. After 19 years, it was published in four volumes in 1808.**
- **He also translated the New Testament.**

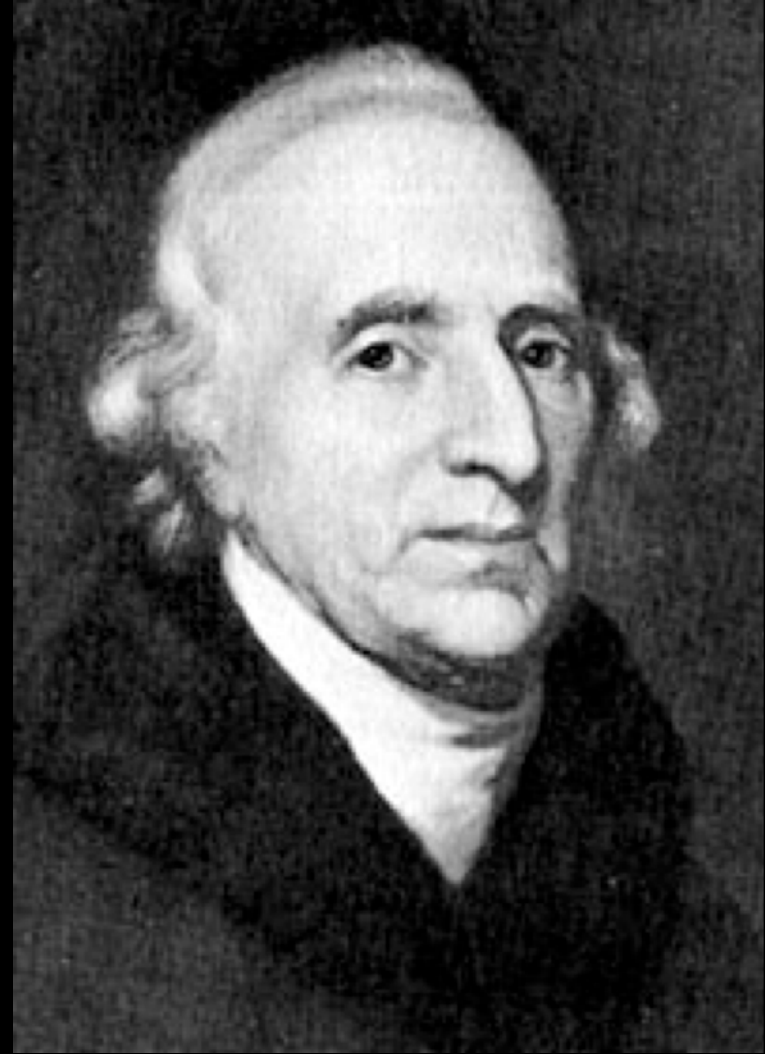
“On the mercy of my Redeemer I rely for salvation and on His merits; not on the works I have done in obedience to His precepts.”

Letter from Charles Carroll to
Charles W. Wharton, Esq.,
September 27, 1825



“Without morals a republic cannot subsist any length of time; they therefore who are decrying the Christian religion, whose morality is so sublime and pure... are undermining the solid foundation of morals, the best security for the duration of free governments.”

Charles Carroll, Signer of the Declaration of Independence; [Letter to James McHenry on November 4, 1800.]



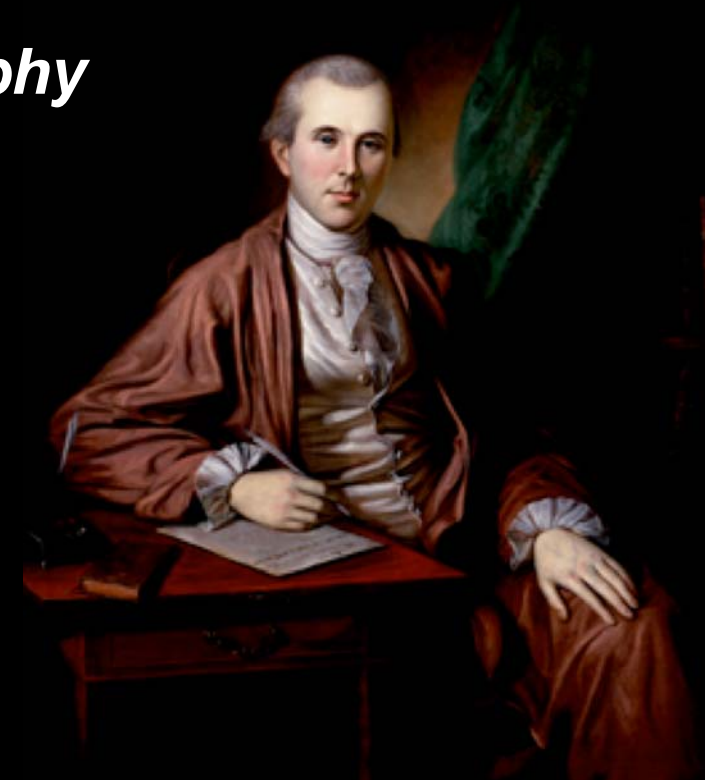
Dr. Benjamin Rush (1745–1813)

- **Father of American medicine**
- **Numerous medical discoveries**
- **Founder of first American abolition society; active in opposing slavery for 50 years**
- **1791 founded the Sunday School movement**
- **1808 founded the first Bible society**
- **Considered by the founders to be the third most significant founder**
- **Mass produced the first stereotyped Bible, with the help of President Madison and the U.S. Congress**



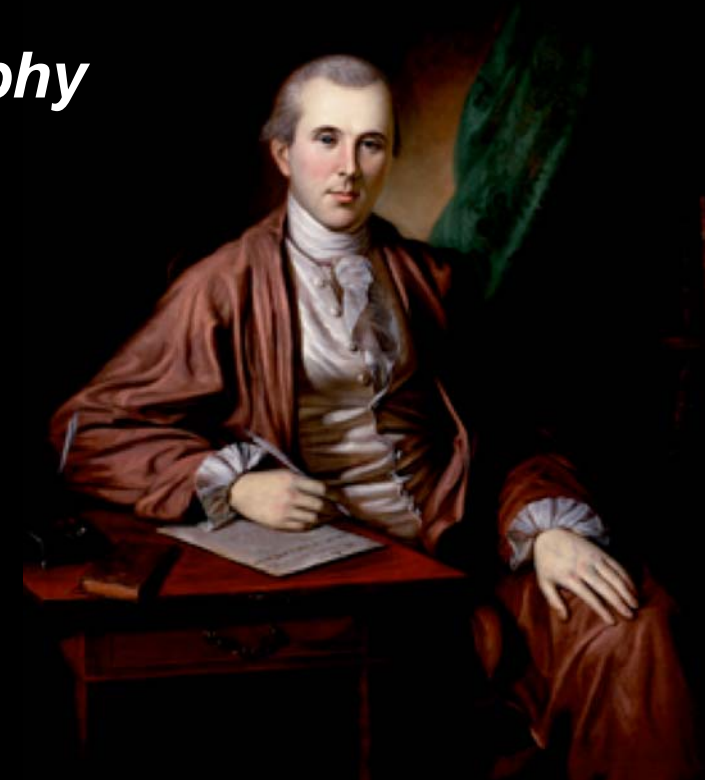
“My only hope of salvation is in the infinite, transcendent love of God manifested to the world by the death of His Son upon the cross. Nothing but His blood will wash away my sins. I rely exclusively upon it. Come, Lord Jesus! Come quickly!”

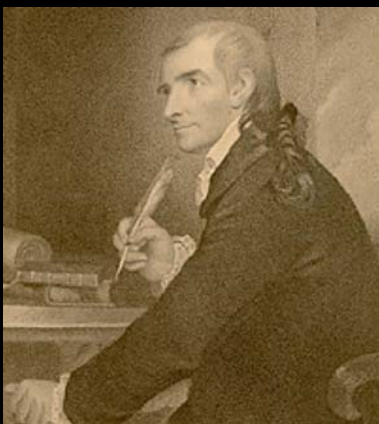
Benjamin Rush, *The Autobiography of Benjamin Rush*



“The only means of establishing and perpetuating our republican forms of government is ... is the universal education of our youth in the principles of Christianity by means of the Bible.”

Benjamin Rush, *The Autobiography of Benjamin Rush*



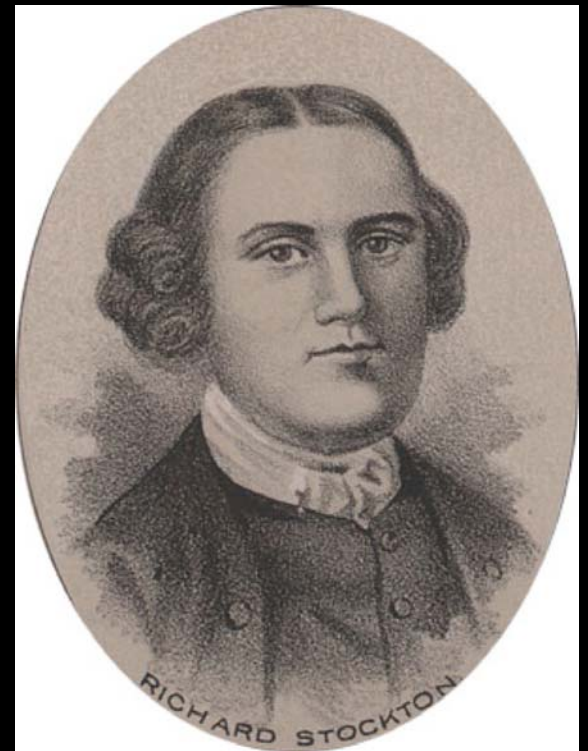


Francis Hopkinson (1737–1791)

**1767 printed a hymnal with all 150
Psalms set to music.**

Richard Stockton (1730–1781)

- Chosen by New Jersey to replace one of their delegates who would not vote for independence
- Captured and tortured by the British



Last Will and Testament:

“I think it proper here not only to subscribe to the entire belief of the great and leading doctrines of the Christian religion such as the being of God, the universal defection and depravity of human nature, the divinity and person and the completeness of the redemption purchased by the blessed savior...of the Divine faith accompanied with an habitual virtuous life...but also to exhort and to charge my children that the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom.”



Thomas McKean
(1734–1817)

- Leading legal authorities of his time
- 1781 elected as President of the Continental Congress
- 1792 Commentary on the American Constitution
- Helped write the state Constitutions for both Pennsylvania and Delaware
- Governor in both Pennsylvania and Delaware
- Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

Everyone elected and appointed to office shall make and subscribe the following declaration, to wit:

“I do profess faith in God the Father, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, and in the Holy Ghost, one God, blessed forever more, and I do acknowledge the holy scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be given by divine inspiration.”

-Delaware State Constitution

“Each member [of the legislature], before he takes his seat, shall make and subscribe the following declaration, viz: I do believe in one God, the Creator and Governor of the universe, the rewarder of the good and the punisher of the wicked, and I do acknowledge the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be given by Divine Inspiration.”

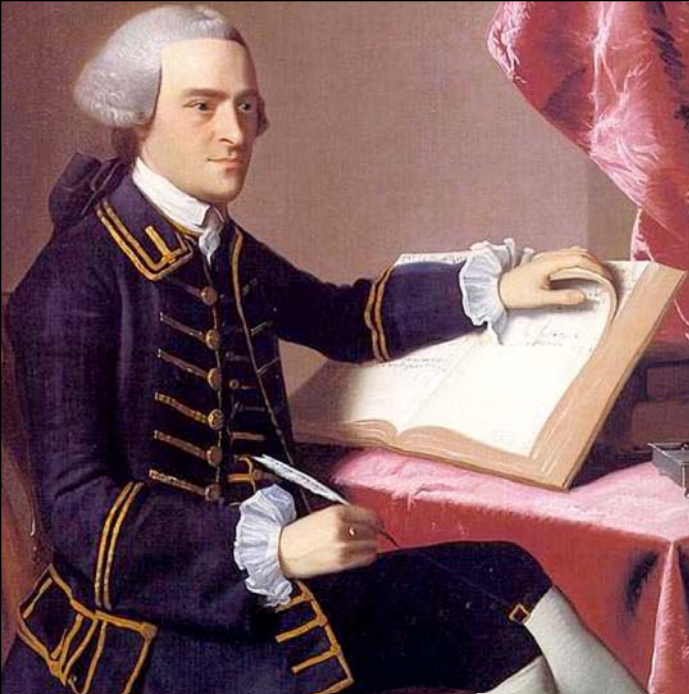
–Pennsylvania State Constitution



Thomas McKean
(1734–1817)

Presided over *Respublica vs. John Roberts*. After the sentencing he told Roberts:

“You will probably have but a short time to live, before you launch into eternity it will behoove you to improve the time allowed you in this world, it behooves you most seriously to reflect upon your conduct to repent of your evil deeds, be incessant in prayers to the great and merciful God to forgive your manifold transgressions and sin to teach you to rely on the grace and compassion on the dear Redeemer and thereby to avoid those regions and doleful shades where peace and happiness can never dwell.”



- Father and Grandfather were both pastors (Father, at Lexington)
- President of the first Continental Congress
- Served as governor of Mass.

A close-up of the handwritten signature "John Hancock" in elegant cursive script on aged paper.

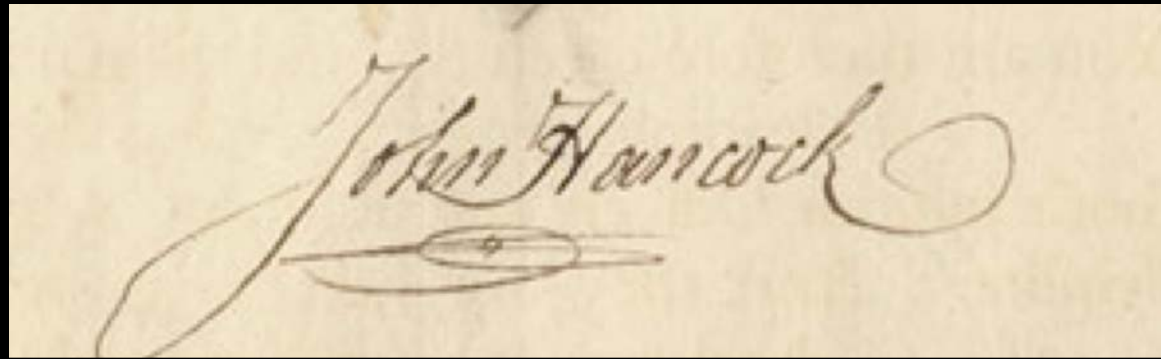
1737–1793

Prayer Proclamation, Oct 15, 1791

“And pray especially that universal happiness can be established in the world, and that all may bow to the scepter of our Lord Jesus Christ, and that the whole earth will be filled with His glory.”

Last Will and Testament:

“I, John Hancock, . . . being advanced in years and being of perfect mind and memory—thanks be given to God—therefore calling to mind the mortality of my body and knowing it is appointed for all men once to die [Hebrews 9:27], do make and ordain this my last will and testament... Principally and first of all, I give and recommend my soul into the hands of God that gave it: and my body I recommend to the earth . . . nothing doubting but at the general resurrection I shall receive the same again by the mercy and power of God. . . .”

A photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John Hancock". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, aged piece of paper. The name is written in a large, flowing, and somewhat ornate style characteristic of the 18th century. Below the name, there is a decorative flourish consisting of several loops and a horizontal line.

Samuel Adams (1722–1803)



- “Father of the American Revolution”
- Sons of Liberty; Boston Tea Party
- Served as
Lt. Gov of Mass., 1789–1794; and
Governor, 1794–1797

Samuel Adams (1722–1803)



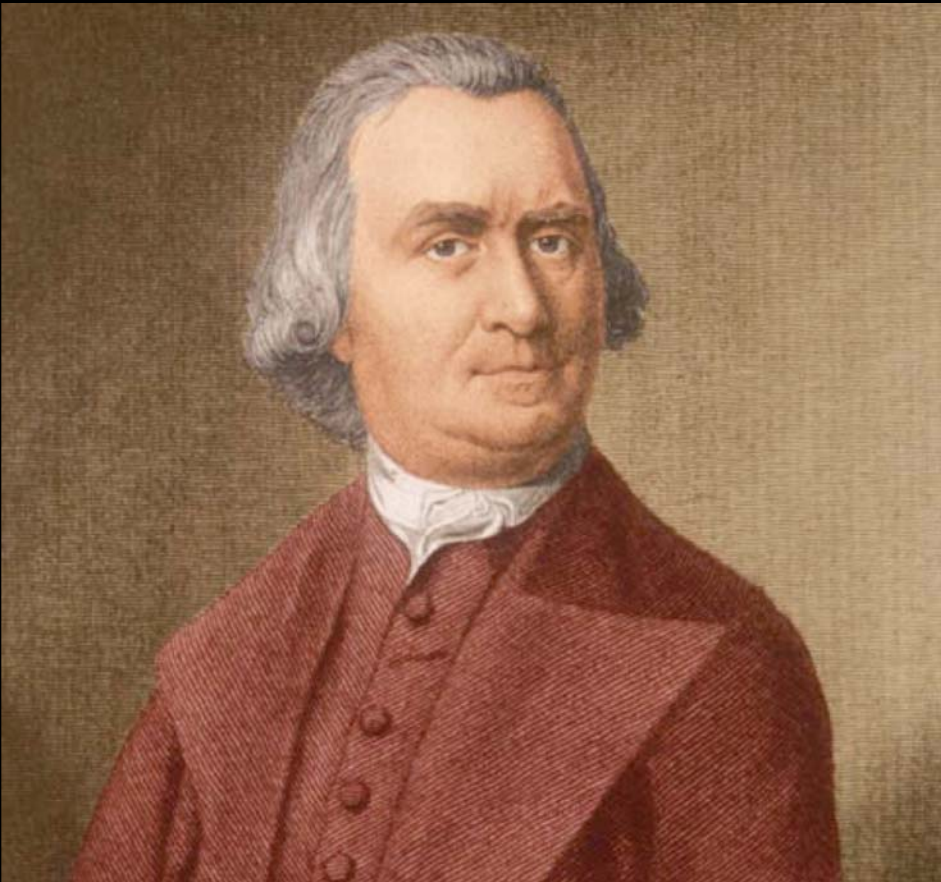
1795 – Call for prayer, fasting,
and thanksgiving

All citizens were “to pray that the peaceful and glorious reign of our Divine Redeemer may be known and enjoyed throughout the whole family of mankind.”

1797 – Call for prayer, fasting,
and thanksgiving

All citizens were “speedily bringing on that holy and happy period when the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ may be everywhere established and all the people willingly bow to the scepter of Him who is the Prince of Peace.”

“I . . . recommend my Soul to that Almighty Being who gave it, and my body I commit to the dust, relying upon the merits of Jesus Christ for a pardon of all my sins.”



Will of Samuel Adams

A
S E R M O N

PREACHED BEFORE

HIS EXCELLENCY JOHN HANCOCK, Esq.
GOVERNOUR;

HIS HONOR SAMUEL ADAMS, Esq.
LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOUR;

THE HONOURABLE THE
COUNCIL, SENATE, AND HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES,

O F T H E
COMMONWEALTH
O F
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,

“I desire to bless and praise the name of God most high for appointing me my birth in a land of Gospel Light where the glorious tidings of a Savior and of pardon and salvation through Him have been continually sounding in mine ears.”

Robert Treat Paine, *The Papers of Robert Treat Paine*

“[W]hen I consider that this instrument contemplates my departure from this life and all earthly enjoyments and my entrance on another state of existence, I am constrained to express my adoration of the Supreme Being, the Author of my existence, in full belief of his providential goodness and his forgiving mercy revealed to the world through Jesus Christ, through whom I hope for never ending happiness in a future state, acknowledging with grateful remembrance the happiness I have enjoyed in my passage through a long life. . . .”

Will of Robert Treat Paine, signer, Declaration

“Unto Him who is the author and giver of all good, I render sincere and humble thanks for His manifold and unmerited blessings, and especially for our redemption and salvation by His beloved son. He has been pleased to bless me with excellent parents, with a virtuous wife, and with worthy children. His protection has accompanied me through many eventful years, faithfully employed in the service of my country; His providence has not only conducted me to this tranquil situation but also given me abundant reason to be contented and thankful. Blessed be His holy name!”

Will of John Jay

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OED: “a system of government in which priests rule in the name of God or a god.”

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4. However, their use of the term “religion” often related to a sectarian or denominational meaning. Thus, the Federal government was not to establish or prefer any one sect or denomination over another.

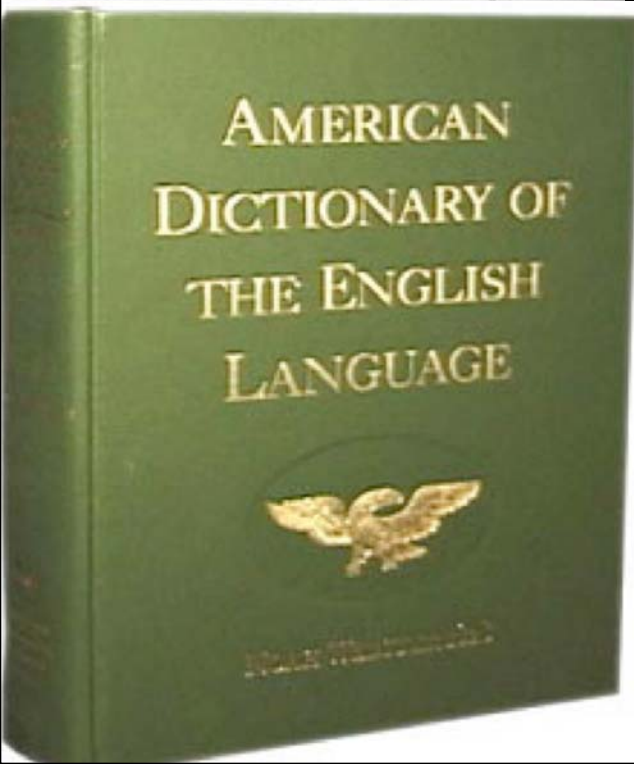
“ We’ve staked our future on our ability to follow the Ten Commandments with all of our heart. We have staked the whole future of American civilization, not upon the power of government, far from it. We’ve staked the future of all our political institutions upon our capacity... to sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God.”

James Madison, Fourth President of the USA [1778 to the General Assembly of the State of Virginia]

“There is no dissonance in these declarations. There is a universal language pervading them all, having one meaning; they affirm and reaffirm that this is a religious nation, this is a Christian nation.”

U.S. Supreme Court, 1892





“In my view, the Christian religion is the most important and one of the first things in which all children, under a free government ought to be instructed... No truth is more evident to my mind than that the Christian religion must be the basis of any government intended to secure the rights and privileges of a free people.”
– Preface

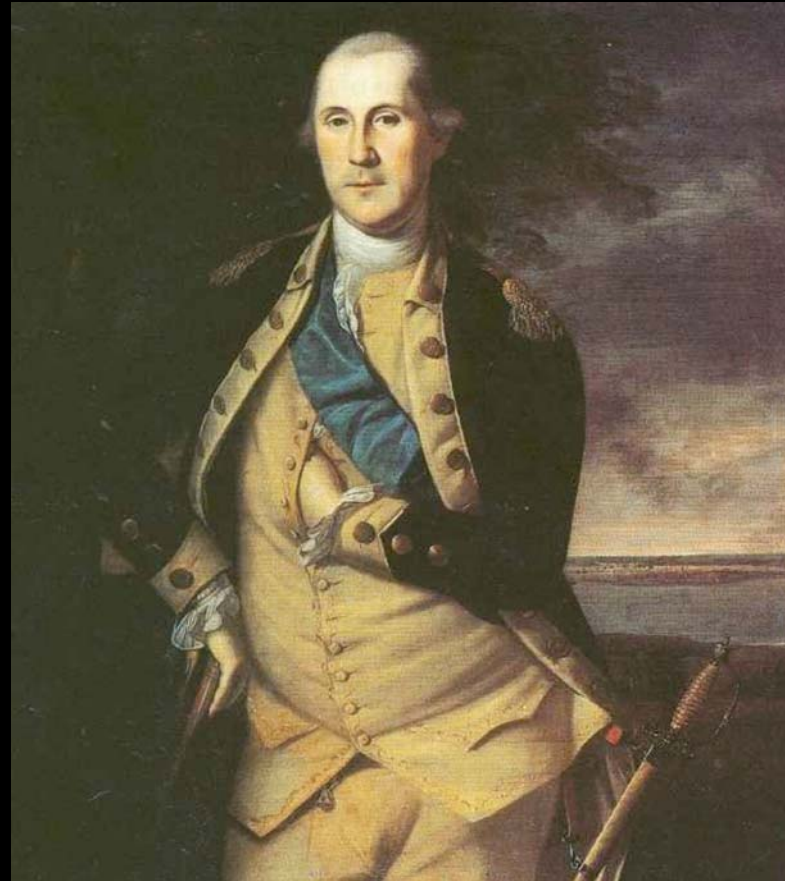


“The safety and prosperity of nations ultimately and essentially depend on the protection and the blessing of Almighty God, and the national acknowledgement of this truth is an indispensable duty which the people owe to Him.”

John Adams

“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.”

George Washington



“Feeble would be the best form of government without a sense of religion and the terrors of the world to come. Banish a sense of religion and the terrors of the world to come from society, and you leave every man to do that which is right in his own eyes. The man who is not actuated by the fear and awe of God, has in many cases no bond or restraint upon his conduct, and therefore is not fit to be trusted with the nation’s welfare. Think not that men who acknowledge not God or his laws will be corrupt in office.”

–Rev. Matthias Burnett, 1803, to
the CT legislature

“Finally, ye whose high prerogative it is, to invest with office and authority or to withhold them, and in whose power it is to save or destroy your country, consider well the important trust... which God has put into your hands. To God and posterity you are accountable for them... Let not your children have reason to curse you for giving up those rights, and prostrating those institutions which your fathers delivered to you.”

–Rev. Matthias Burnet

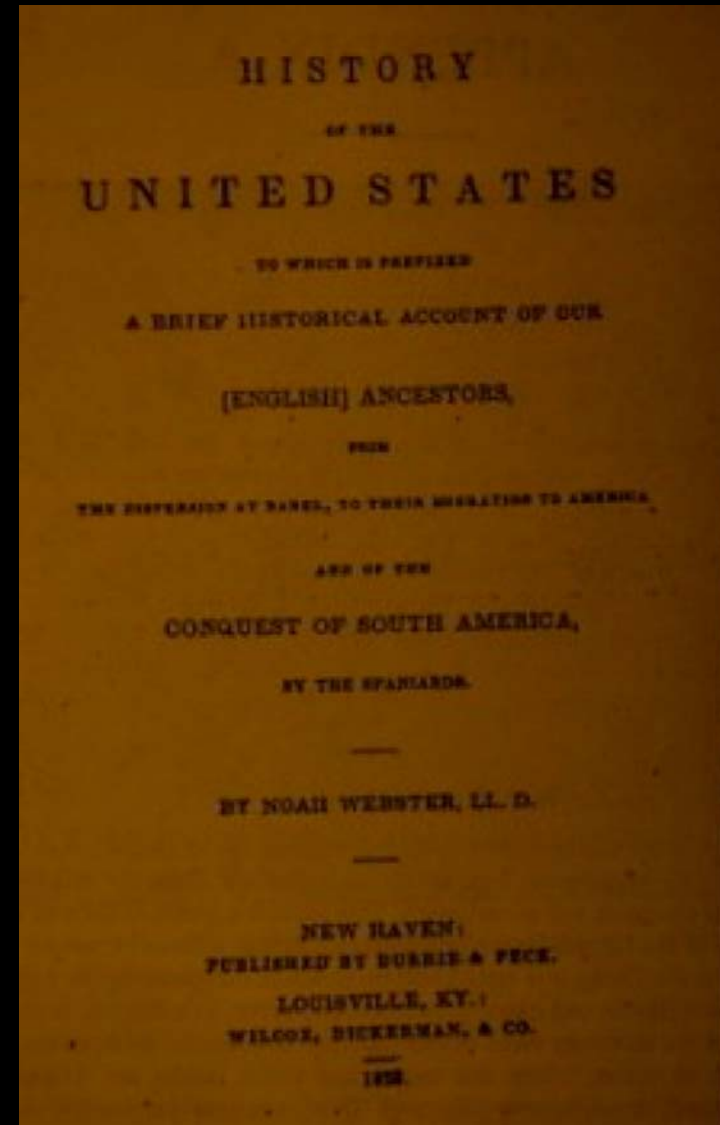
“Look well to the characters and qualifications of those you elect and raise to office and places of trust... Let the wise counsel of Jethro be your guide. Choose ye out from among you ‘able men, such as fear God, men of truth and hating covetousness and set them to rule over you’.”

–Rev. Matthias Burnett, 1803, to
the CT legislature

“How constantly do we find it inculcated in the sacred writings, that rulers be ‘just men, fearers of God, haters of covetousness.’ That they ‘shake their hands from holding bribes,’ because, a gift blindeth the eyes of the wise, and perverteth the words of the righteous.”

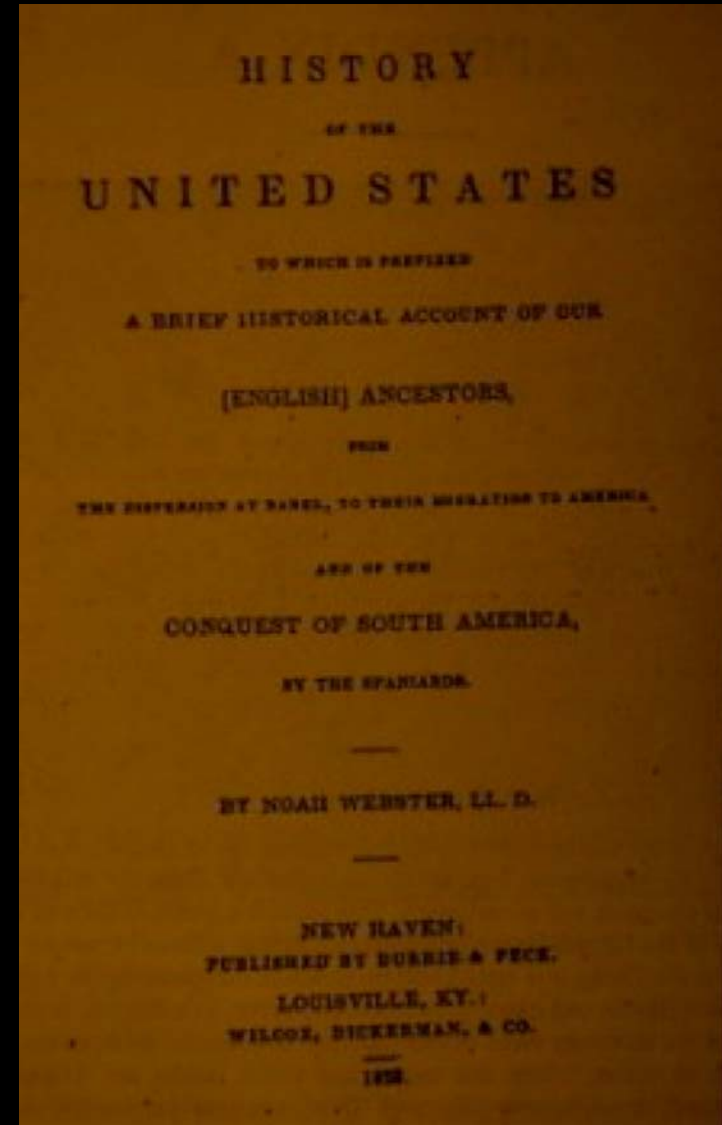
–Rev. Chandler Robbins, 1791, to
the Mass legislature, incl.
Gov. John Hancock and
Lt. Gov. Samuel Adams

49. When you become entitled to exercise the right of voting for public officers, let it be impressed on your mind that God commands you to choose for rulers, “just men who will rule in the fear of God.” The preservation of a republican government depends on the faithful discharge of this Duty; if the citizens neglect their Duty and place unprincipled men in office, the government will soon be corrupted; laws will be made, not for the public good so much as for selfish or local purposes;



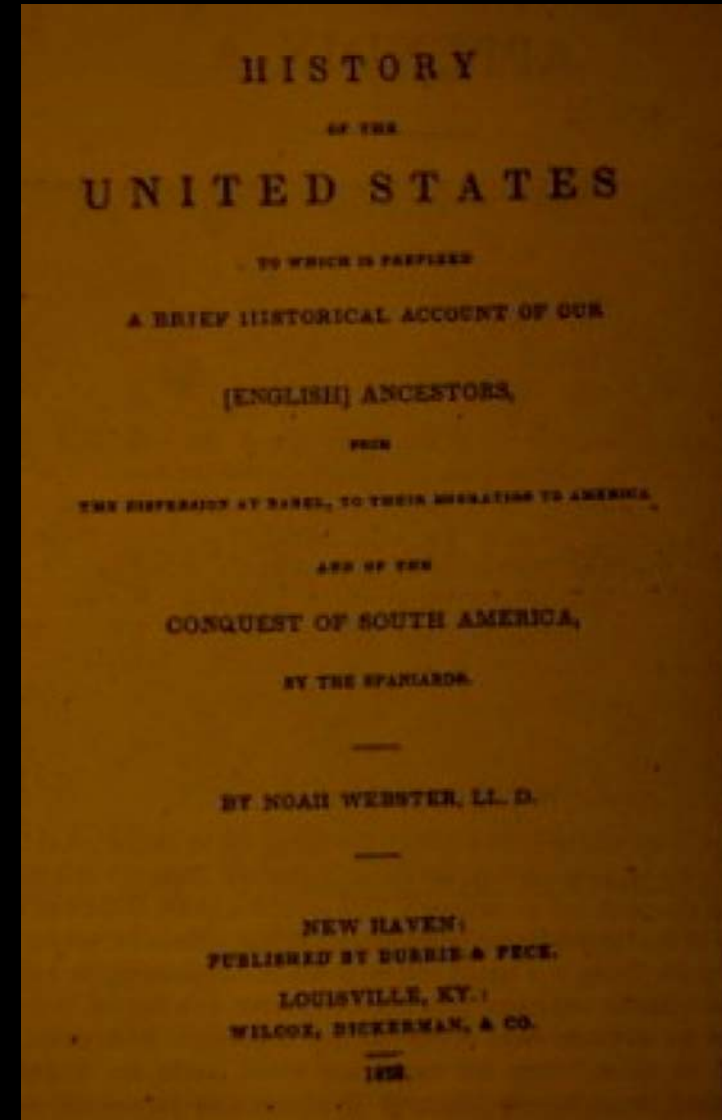
corrupt or incompetent men will be appointed to execute the Laws; the public revenues will be squandered on unworthy men; and the rights of the citizen will be violated or disregarded. If a republican government fails to secure public prosperity and happiness, it must be because the citizens neglect the Divine Commands, and elect bad men to make and administer the Laws. Intriguing men can never safely be trusted.

—Noah Webster



Summary:

1. They will corrupt government;
2. They will make laws, not for the general welfare, but for “selfish or local purposes”;
3. They will appoint other corrupt men to execute their laws;
4. They will squander the citizen’s taxes upon those who are unworthy;
5. They will violate the citizen’s rights.



“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.”

-John Jay (1745-1829), a president of the Continental Congress, first Chief Justice, cont. *The Federalist Papers*



“The morality of the country is deeply engrafted upon Christianity... The people whose manners and morals have been elevated and inspired by means of the Christian religion.”

–New York Supreme Court

“The Christian concept of right and wrong, or right and justice, motivates every rule of equity. It is the guide by which we dissolve domestic frictions and the rule by which all legal controversies are settled.”

–Florida Supreme Court

T H E
H O L Y B I B L E.

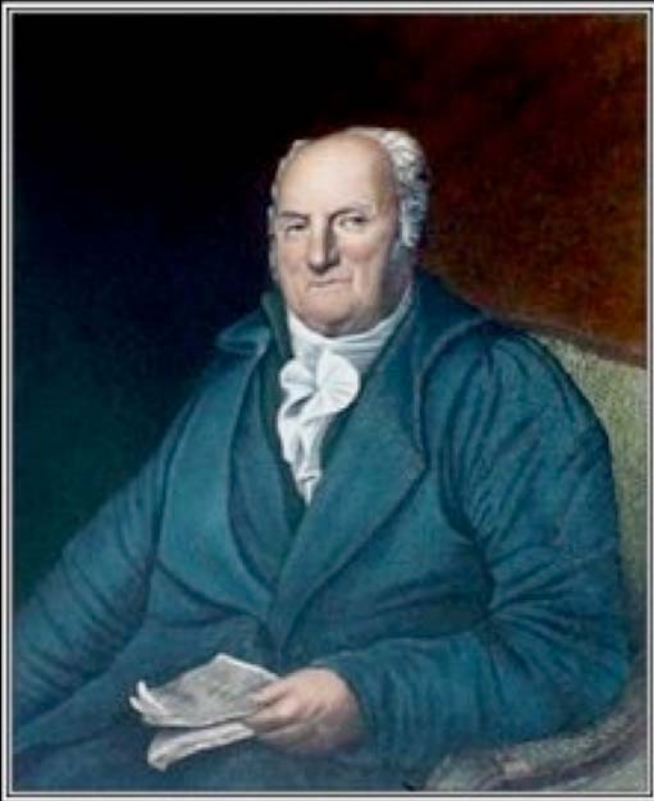
as it is honorable to the Gentleman, who has exerted himself to furnish it, at the evident risque of private fortune. We are, Gentlemen,

Your very respectful and humble servants,
WILLIAM WHITE,
GEORGE DUFFIELD.

Philadelphia, September 10th, 1782.

Resolved,
THAT the United States in Congress assembled highly approve the pious and laudable undertaking of Mr. Aitken, as subservient to the interest of religion, as well as an influence of the progress of arts in this country, and being satisfied from the above report of his care and accuracy in the execution of the work, they recommend this edition of the Bible to the inhabitants of the United States, and hereby authorise him to publish this Recommendation in the manner he shall think proper.

Ch. Thomson, Sec'y



“If the moral character of a people once degenerates, their political character must follow... These considerations should lead to an attentive solicitude to be religiously careful in our choice of all public officers... and judge of the tree by its fruits.”

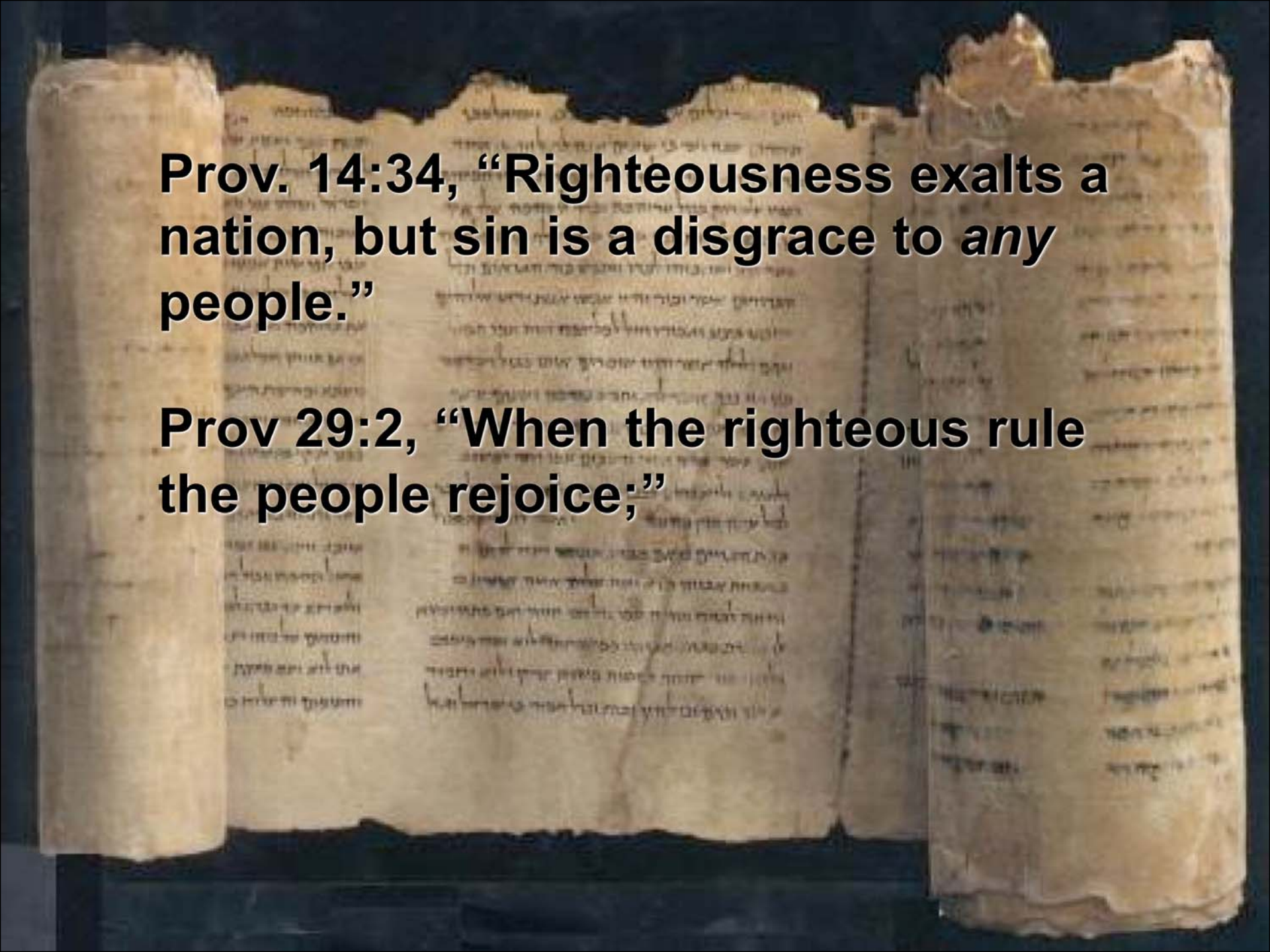
–Elias Boudinot, a President of the Continental Congress

“The general principles on which the fathers achieved independence were the general principles of Christianity.

Now 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.”

–John Adams





Prov. 14:34, “Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to *any* people.”

Prov 29:2, “When the righteous rule the people rejoice;”

Prov. 20:28, “Loyalty and truth preserve the king, and he upholds his throne by righteousness.”

Prov. 29:4, “The king gives stability to the land by justice, but a man who takes bribes overthrows it.”