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“As Long as Men Speak of Freedom”

“Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.”
Proverbs 29:18 KJV

"Let us raise a standard to which the wise and honest can repair." George Washington
(Spoken when asked to preside over Constitutional Congress.)

"The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today. Let us move forward with strong and active faith."
Franklin D. Roosevelt

“Those from among you shall build the old waste places; you shall build up the foundations of many generations; and you shall be called the Repairer of the Breach, the Restorer of Streets to Dwell in.”
Isaiah 58:12

Prior to the conception of our Nation there were gatherings or congresses that convened to establish foundational principles upon which they and future generations could develop and grow. The war that ensued was to form a Nation with these founding principles ... to establish a Nation under God. They desired to see a perpetuation of their commonly held 'vision.'

The Declaration of Independence, Bill of Rights, the Federalist Papers, etc., were all early writings of the 'vision' which have maintained their significance for well over two hundred years. The founding fathers saw 'unalterable truths,' such as individual rights to liberty, equality and property ... and sought to establish a vehicle through which these might be insured for future generations. These founding documents are for the protection of these 'eternal truths.' The preservation and furtherance of these 'unalterable truths' are ultimately imperative for our future destiny as well.

America's history reveals the powerful hand of God in its formation. The capture of Ticonderoga without a shot clearly echoes after the biblical accounts of wars in Israel. Colonel Ethan Allen ordered the surrender of Ticonderoga. The British captain replied,

“By whose authority do you make the demand?” Allen knew that it was the day appointed for the convening of Congress in Philadelphia and his resounding war cry was, ‘In the Name of Jehovah and the Continental Congress!’”

The Spirit of God hovered over the inception of this Nation ... during the savage winter at Valley Forge ... through the valiant crossing of the Delaware ... and in the decisive victory at Yorktown. Independence came at a tremendous cost of life, “*yet men did not love their lives to the death*”—they did not regard their personal loss to be compared to the establishing of a new Nation under God. Therefore they zealously fought for freedom and sealed these 'eternal truths' with their blood.

God had a purpose for some men to lead the cause for freedom and liberty. One such leader was George Washington. It seemed that nothing could happen to him outside God's will. One record clearly states that he had two horses killed under him and four bullets passed through his coat—in one battle! It was said that his tall stature attracted attention. An Indian Chief not only singled him out for death, but also ordered his warriors to do the same. Years “later the chief claimed that he fired a dozen shots at Washington ... and became convinced that he was under the protection of the Great Spirit.” And the truth is, God hedged him in on all sides and protected him until he fulfilled his divine purpose. Washington could not be killed in battle because it was not according to God's plan—he would never even be wounded in battle!

When God has a plan, it comes to pass. “*For I know the plans I have for you,*” declares the Lord. “*Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*” God has a plan for your life. He hedges you in, defending and protecting you for your future destiny. You can accomplish courageous exploits for God because He is your shield and your rear guard—He fights for you!

Washington quit the army after returning from the French and Indian War to serve in the Virginia Legislature, yet he was unanimously chosen over everyone else at the onset of the American Revolution for the position of Commander-in-chief of the Continental Armies. He had tremendous leadership ability with expertise in the tactics of war. Even though it was not his career choice, he rose to the challenge for the cause of freedom.

George Washington gave instructions to his orderly not to be disturbed during the darkest period of the revolutionary war. Washington wanted to pray. Valley Forge was a 'wilderness place' for the soldiers of the Continentals. “In its womb a starving and destitute group of soldiers were trained, disciplined, and reorganized. The men were without adequate shelter, food or clothing and lived in crude huts built by their own hands. Many died of starvation and cold and at no time were more than half of them fit for active service. The period was one of the darkest of the American Revolution but the suffering and hardship forged a mighty army by spring.”

On Christmas night, during a blinding snowstorm, Washington miraculously led troops across the Delaware River. The army overwhelmed the enemy in a surprise attack on Trenton. It could have been disastrous for the Continental Army if it were not for

divine intervention. The night before the battle the commander of the army in Trenton was playing a card game when a messenger came with a letter for him that he tucked into his pocket to read after the game—but forgot all about it! Had he opened the letter he would have found it was from a Tory warning him that the Americans were approaching the town!

Amazingly it only cost the Americans four lives, two of which froze to death. Yet in reality it was one of the most notable conflicts of the Revolution. Many consider it the turning point of the struggle. “The blow fell so quick and so sharp, and so brilliant and unexpected were its results, that it thrilled the country with new hope. Enlistments quickly increased and everywhere there was a stronger resolve to win the cherished independence.”

In the seventh year of the Revolution the continentals had a triumphant victory at Yorktown that sealed their independence. The Congress met the next day and decided to go as a body to a local church and there "return thanks to Almighty God for crowning the allied armies of the United States and France with victory." What began at Concord in the spring of 1775 terminated with the birth of a Nation—the treaty was signed in France in the fall of 1783 and the Nation formed under God celebrated newfound freedom.

On another battlefield about a century later, President Abraham Lincoln spoke a message to a hurting nation that was torn over slavery. His speech seemed more like a prayer. He held the fragile threads of our founding father's purpose for this nation in his hands and desperately hoped to tie the North and South together again as one nation under God. He spoke of a rebirth of freedom for this nation—entwining the essential strands of 'eternal truths' that gave liberty to *all* the people.

One generation gave their lives and their fortunes to ensure our future by founding a nation that destined liberty for *all*. And yet, if that liberty is withheld from some, then that nation cannot stand under its 'founding truth' because it has lost its purpose. Abraham Lincoln's primary concern for commemorating a portion of a battlefield for future generations was for remembering the 'eternal truths'—the basic principles of liberty. Sensing the enormity of the crisis that lay before the nation, he made a decision to ensure our future liberty endure for *all* the people.

Just as men gave their lives and their fortunes to ensure the initial liberty of this nation, men were fighting again to *maintain* that liberty—that *all* men are created equal with inalienable rights. On that solemn day commemorating the horrendous battle at Gettysburg, they were dedicating a portion of land as a memorial for the men who died there. The men did not die in vain if the founding principles were upheld—the 'eternal truths.'

No higher price can a man pay than his own blood. To give your life to secure the fate of future generations makes liberty and freedom priceless! These men were patriots—of the line of their fathers. A patriot ardently pursues the vision of his founding fathers. We

are patriots also if we are passionately seeking the 'vision' established for this nation. Those in the line of the fathers are remembered for the price they paid for our freedom. A patriotic generation knows the mighty sweep of spiritual events in our heritage and the history of how, when, and why "God shed His grace on thee!"

What other men and women have fought and died for becomes our inheritance if we become part of America's 'vision.' They gave us freedom. If we do not desire freedom and liberty for *all*—even the unborn, then our inheritance is useless and within a generation it can be squandered away. God shed His grace upon our nation to establish firm foundations. Unless we are one with Him in purpose, freedom will never be passed to another generation.

"Pilgrims landed in 1620 saying 'in the Name of God. Amen!' And we recall how Thomas Jefferson wrote in the Declaration of Independence. 'Endowed by our Creator,' Then we remember how Benjamin Franklin implored the constitutional convention: 'If no sparrow can fall far from the heavens without His notice, surely no nation can be built without His help.' And we should note how Abraham Lincoln, a few days before he went to Ford's theater on that fateful evening, issued a proclamation that put 'in God we trust' on the nickel. Written on the bell in the tower of Independence Hall is Pennsylvania the words from Leviticus: '*Proclaim freedom to all the world and all the inhabitants thereof.*'"

Many things have transpired in the last century to discourage the people of God and trouble us in rebuilding the old waste places. "*And this occurred because of false brethren secretly brought in (who came in by stealth to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage).*" The enemy even hired counselors against us to frustrate our purpose!

"When liberty is taken away by force it can be restored by force. (But) when it is relinquished voluntarily by default it can never be recovered!" Are we selling our freedoms to special interest groups? Are we being politically correct at the cost of losing moral righteousness? If we fail to value freedom for 'all'... if we legislate it for 'some' then it is a loss for everyone.

"Where there is no revelation (vision), the people cast off restraint; but happy is he who keeps the law." Proverbs 29:18

The 'vision' is a written plan of 'unalterable truths.' Without a plan or 'vision' the people lose heart ... we perish. And if we are not aware of our 'eternal truths' we have nothing to defend and are already nodding off to sleep—oblivious to any danger.

Is our nation in a stupor? Who are the astute men and women standing as watchmen over our nation? Who stands as watchman over America to speak direction? Over Canada ... South Africa ... or even England? Will they arouse the inhabitants of 'present'

danger? Are they willing to put their lives and fortunes on the line to advance the cause of freedom?

Watchmen sense peril (such as fire) because they are trained to spot the initial signs of impending danger. Most of us understand this and use smoke detectors in our homes. At the first scent of smoke an alarm is set off—awakening us to danger. Our families and homes are important to us. But some are so occupied with putting out little fires that they completely miss seeing the blazing infernal that is looming in the distance.

We need watchmen over our nations! ... men and women who stand by night to awaken the sleepy and arouse those in a stupor. Sometimes not even the sound of an alarm can pierce the false sense of security that lulled us into sleep. We need watchmen who peer into the future and interpret it according to the will of God and take action. Apostles and prophets that will put their lives on the line for the Word they proclaim.

We pray for the those who fearlessly walk in their measure of rule—not because they felt an inkling or saw something through a window, but because God ordained them as a prophet and watchman to the nation to *“hear a word from His mouth, and give the nation warning from God.”*

The nightmare has gone on long enough! Our time is now! *“Those from among us”* are courageous men and women who stand as watchmen in our darkest hours. Some of you watch through the night to spot danger. In the moment it happens you sound the alarm. You are not waiting to see if it gets worse or how bad it gets. You live in the moment and move in the adeptness of His Spirit. You valiantly sound the alarm to awaken the sleepy ... and you carry the day!

*How beautiful upon the mountains
Are the feet of him who brings good news,
Who proclaims peace,
Who brings glad tidings of good things,
Who proclaims salvation,
Who says to Zion,
“Your God reigns!”*

*Your watchmen shall lift up their voices,
With their voices they shall sing together;
For they shall see eye to eye
When the LORD brings back Zion.
Break forth into joy, sing together,
You waste places of Jerusalem!*

*For the LORD has comforted His people,
He has redeemed Jerusalem.
The LORD has made bare His holy arm*

*In the eyes of all the nations;
And all the ends of the earth shall see
The salvation of our God!*

Isaiah 52:7-10

Our time is now. "If we carry the day and turn the tide, we can hope that as long as men speak of freedom and those who have protected it, they will remember us, and they will say, 'Here (stood) the brave and here their place of honor.'" (Ronald Reagan)

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