

## Celebrating Our Christian Heritage

Modern claims that America is not a Christian nation are rarely noticed or refuted today because of the nation's widespread lack of knowledge about America's history and foundation.

With his recent statement, **President Barack Obama** is the first American president to deny that America is a Christian nation, a repudiation of what made America great and a refutation of the declarations of his presidential predecessors.

**The general principles on which our Founding Fathers achieved independence were the general principles of Christianity.**

Here are a few statements from some of the forty-three **previous presidents**, that Affirm that America is a Christian Nation.

**John Adams** said, "The teachings of the Bible are so interwoven and entwined with our whole civic and social life that it would be literally impossible for us to figure to ourselves what that life would be if these teaching were removed."

**Teddy Roosevelt** said, "America was born a Christian nation, America was born to exemplify that devotion to the elements of righteousness which are derived from the revelations of Holy Scripture."

**Woodrow Wilson** said, "American life is built, and can alone survive, upon the fundamental philosophy announced by the Savior nineteen centuries ago."

**Harry Truman** said, "Let us remember that as a Christian nation we have a charge and a destiny."

**Thomas Jefferson** was instrumental in establishing weekly Sunday worship services at the U. S. Capitol (a practice that continued through the 19th century). He said, "No nation has ever existed or been governed without religion. Nor can be. The Christian religion is the best religion that has been given to man and I, as Chief Magistrate of this nation, am bound to give it the sanction of my example."

In 1852-1853 when some citizens sought a complete secularization of the public square and a cessation of all religious activities by the government, Congress responded with unambiguous declarations about America as a Christian nation:

**House Judiciary Committee:** Had the people, during the Revolution, had a suspicion of any attempt to war against Christianity, that Revolution would have been strangled in its cradle.

**Senate Judiciary Committee:** We are Christians, not because the law demands it, not to gain exclusive benefits or to avoid legal disabilities, but from choice and education; and in a land thus universally Christian, what is to be expected, what desired, but that we shall pay a due regard to Christianity.

In 1856, **the House of Representatives** also declared: The great vital and conservative element in our system is the belief of our people in the pure doctrines and divine truths of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

## Defining a Christian Nation

*Supreme Court Justice David Brewer (1837-1910) explained: In what sense can America 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. On the contrary, the Constitution specifically provides that “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.” Neither is it Christian in the sense that all its citizens are either in fact or name Christians. On the contrary, all religions have free scope within our borders. America was “of all the nations in the world most justly called a Christian nation” because Christianity “has so largely shaped and molded it.”*

*Constitutional law professor Edward Mansfield (1801-1880) similarly acknowledged: In every country, the morals of a people whatever they may be, take their form and spirit from their religion.*

*Founding Father and U. S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall agreed: With us, Christianity and religion are identified. It would be strange, indeed, if with such a people our institutions did not presuppose Christianity and did not often refer to it and exhibit relations with it.*

## Will God Continue to Bless Our Nation?

*At this particular point in the history of Israel, in Nehemiah 8 & 9 God’s people were coming to the end of a long curse, or judgment. They desperately wanted the blessing of God and began to move in the right direction for it.*

*Nehemiah 8:1 And all the people gathered themselves together as one man into the street that was before the water gate; and they spoke to Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded to Israel.*

### Conditions for Blessings

*Nehemiah 9:1-3 Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the children of Israel came together, taking no food, and putting haircloth and dust on their bodies. 2 And the seed of Israel made themselves separate from all the men of other nations, publicly requesting forgiveness for their sins and for the wrongdoing of their fathers. 3 And for a fourth part of the day, upright in their places, they were reading from the book of the law of their God; and for a fourth part of the day they were requesting forgiveness and worshipping the Lord their God.*

**Here you have a people putting themselves by the prompting of God into a position to be blessed!**

***Bring the Book. Read the law of God. Confess that you have disobeyed it. And God will bless you.***

*Israel knew there was no mystery to the standards for blessing. Israel knew that even though they were a covenant people that possessed the covenant that was eternal, many blessings depended on their obedience. America is not a covenant nation. We're just another nation like many nations that have come and gone through history.*

**All national blessings depend on our national spiritual obedience.**

**Whether it is the church, we, as individuals, or as a nation, as we repent, God forgives and blesses.**

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