

“AMERICA’S ONLY HOPE”

Psalms 33:1-22

On July 4th, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was signed in the city of Philadelphia. It marked America’s desire for independence from Great Britain and the birth of a new nation. That same document declared our nation’s dependence upon Almighty God . . .

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

. . . And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

The founders of this nation realized that government must recognize the rights God has given. In their

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minds, the role of government was to restrain evil and promote a strong moral framework. They lifted that idea from the pages of Scripture (**Romans 13:1-4; 1 Peter 2:13-17**). Christianity had a profound influence on the founders of this great nation and on the governing ideals of America. John Adams (2nd U.S. President) wrote the following in a letter to Thomas Jefferson on June 28, 1813 . . .

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

Dr. Benjamin Rush, a signer of the Declaration of Independence and a Ratifier of the U.S. Constitution made this statement . . .

I do not believe that the Constitution was the offspring of inspiration, but I am as satisfied that it is as much the work of

Divine Providence as any of the miracles recorded in the Old and New Testament.

Without a doubt, God has blessed this nation throughout its history. **The question that hangs over our heads today is this—*Will God continue to bless America?*** Think about it. Who would have ever believed that the day would come when this great nation would see . . .

- **Men claiming they could get pregnant**
- **Drag queens reading to children in libraries**
- **The rise of socialism and Marxism**
- **A viral movement to defund the police**
- **The radical left's support of Islam**
- **People cheering Charlie Kirk's assassination**
- **75 million babies aborted**

In the past, Christians in America seemed to always have the *home field advantage*. Now, believers tackle the cultural issues of our day on *the enemy's turf*. What has happened to us? I'll tell you. We've turned our back on God, and we are paying a price

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for it. We've come to a fork in the road. Our choice is simple . . .

If we choose to follow the Lord and obey Him, His blessings will return. If we choose to forsake the Lord and disobey Him, He will judge us severely.

This message has weighed heavily on my heart this week. As we get into the heart of the sermon, I want to drop this thought in your heart . . .

AMERICA'S ONLY HOPE IS THE LORD.

Hear the Word of the Lord . . .

Psalm 33:12... Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom He has chosen for His own inheritance.

This psalm applies to Israel first. God made a covenant with them, and He has never rescinded it. However, there is a strong sense that the principle of His blessing of a nation expands beyond Israel to other nations also.

Our desire for a future filled with hope and blessing will not be realized through republicans, democrats, a strong military, or a bustling economy. Only the Lord can truly bless this nation. He's our only hope and I say that for 3 reasons.

1. THE LORD'S POWER

Psalm 33:4–5... For the word of the LORD is upright, And all His work is *done* in faithfulness. 5 He loves righteousness and justice; The earth is full of the lovingkindness of the LORD.

As a nation we have abandoned the truth of God's Word in favor of doing what feels good. As a result, a strong sense of morality (right and wrong) has been lost. As a result . . .

- **God's design for the family is ridiculed.**
- **Sexual perversions are being celebrated.**
- **Corruption has seeped into the justice system.**
- **Gender affirming care is being given to minors.**
- **Parental authority is being dismantled.**

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Psalm 33:6-9... By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, And by the breath of His mouth all their host. 7 He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap; He lays up the deeps in storehouses. 8 Let all the earth fear the LORD; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. 9 For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.

By the power of the Lord's Word, the world and everything in it and around it was created. The Pacific Ocean covers 64 million square miles with an average depth of 14,000 feet. The Lord our God created it by speaking it into existence.

By the power of the Lord's Word, the stars were created and placed in their proper locations throughout space. The impact of the Lord's power should create within us a profound reverence and awe for Him (8-9).

We can't pull ourselves out of the quagmire we've fallen into. Here's the truth . . .

AMERICA'S ONLY HOPE IS THE LORD.

I say this because of the Lord's power. Secondly, I say this because of . . .

2. THE LORD'S PROVIDENCE

The doctrine of divine providence asserts that God is in complete control of all things. He governs the decisions and the destiny of the physical world and the spiritual world. This doctrine stands in direct opposition to the idea that the universe is governed by chance or blind fate.

Every nation is in His hands. He has the authority to plant nations and to pluck up nations. He has the authority to put a ruler into office and to remove them when He chooses.

Psalm 33:10–12... The LORD nullifies the counsel of the nations; He frustrates the plans of the peoples. 11 The counsel of the LORD stands forever, The plans of His heart from generation to generation. 12 Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, The people whom He has chosen for His own inheritance.

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I read these verses and I am amazed and in awe of God. **His providence and sovereignty extend to nations who reject Him (10-11).** This includes China, France, England, Iran, and the anti-God contingent that is fomenting the radical rebellion in our own country.

The Lord's providence and sovereignty extend to nations that choose to trust Him and obey Him (12). It results in blessing. "How does He know?" you might be wondering.

Psalm 33:13–17... The LORD looks from heaven; He sees all the sons of men; 14 From His dwelling place He looks out On all the inhabitants of the earth, 15 He who fashions the hearts of them all, He who understands all their works. 16 The king is not saved by a mighty army; A warrior is not delivered by great strength. 17 A horse is a false hope for victory; Nor does it deliver anyone by its great strength.

He knows their hearts. He knows what they do and why they do it. Nothing escapes His attention. By the way, He knows your heart, your actions, and your motives.

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World affairs are not ultimately decided in Washington, DC, in London, in the Kremlin, in Beijing, in Tehran, in Tel Aviv, etc. God is on His throne. John Phillips explained . . .

The God who guides the paths of the stars, who brings into being countless stars and their satellites, who tosses them into intangible space, who keeps them whirling and plunging at inconceivable velocities on prodigious orbits with such mathematical precision that we can foretell, years in advance, the visit of a comet or the occasion of an eclipse—that God also holds the destinies of the nations in His hands.

Oh, I've got to say it again. You must hear it. You must sense the urgency of this moment in time. . .

AMERICA'S ONLY HOPE IS THE LORD.

I say this because of the Lord's power. Secondly, I say this because of the Lord's providence. Thirdly, there is . . .

3. THE LORD'S PROVISION

Psalm 33:18–22... Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him, On those who hope for His lovingkindness, 19 To deliver their soul from death And to keep them alive in famine. 20 Our soul waits for the Lord; He is our help and our shield. 21 For our heart rejoices in Him, because we trust in His holy name. 22 Let your lovingkindness, O Lord, be upon us, according as we have hoped in You.

I want you to see that our Lord promises to give the hope of His lovingkindness to those who fear Him (18). “Hope” carries the idea of *waiting or looking forward to*. This hope does not point to a vague, pious wish. Our hope is anchored to the throne of our Lord’s grace and mercy and to the unfailing love of God.

Our Lord also promises to provide the help of His presence and the hedge of His protection we desperately need (20). We can’t pull ourselves up out of the mess we’re in. We need supernatural help and protection!

CONCLUSION

Like our forefathers who signed the Declaration of Independence, we must realize that our great nation has come to a very real fork in the road. We as individuals, as families, and as a New Testament church must drive a proverbial stake in the ground in effect saying that we are going to follow the Lord because we will not survive without His blessing!

It's going to require three characteristics . . .

- **Courage**—It takes courage to take a stand against evil when the enemy has home field advantage. It will take courage to stand up for Jesus and the gospel.
- **Conviction**—The only way we can follow through on this bold adventure is to have solid biblical convictions that we absolutely refuse to compromise.
- **Commitment**—Our commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ must leave no room for the powerless idols fashioned by the world, the flesh, and the devil. We must trust Jesus as our Savior

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and Lord. We must share the gospel with as many people as we can and we must do it as soon as possible. We must love our Lord with all of our heart, our soul, and our mind!

When our nation celebrated its bicentennial in 1976, W.A. Criswell preached a sermon entitled "Leading America Back to God." He closed with these words . . .

I am part of a nation.... And the nation cannot repent unless I repent. The nation cannot believe unless I believe. The nation cannot be baptized unless I am baptized. The nation cannot turn to God unless I turn to God. The nation cannot be saved unless I am saved. The devotion and the fire and the flame must start with me.