

Introduction: Josiah remembers God.

“Then Hilkiah the high priest said to Shaphan the scribe, “I have found the Book of the Law in the house of the Lord.” And Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan, and he read it...Go, inquire of the Lord for me, for the people and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that has been found; for great is the wrath of the Lord that is aroused against us, because our fathers have not obeyed the words of this book, to do according to all that is written concerning us.”” (2 Kings 22:8,13, NKJV)

• In 1969 Dr Elton Trueblood a theologian was asked, “Sighting the final third of the 20th century, what do you think it offers the church? His response, “By the year 2000, Christians will be a conscious minority surrounded by an arrogant militant paganism.” The church has let itself sink into this place weakness. And the church can pray itself out of it.

- I. We Invited God In** What our founding fathers knew they invited in. Contrary to media and politicians.
- A. We invited God into our governmental structures.** “The Founders understood that Biblical values formed the basis of the republic and the republic would be destroyed if the people’s knowledge of those values should ever be lost.” David Barton pp. 337 Original Intent Therefore, a republic is the highest form of government devised by man, but it also requires the greatest amount of human care and maintenance. If neglected, it can deteriorate into lesser forms including: a democracy, anarchy, oligarchy (govt. by small council) or dictatorship. A republic protects the individual and the minority from big government. A democracy is rule by the majority (big government).
1. Noah Webster-“*Our citizens should early understand that the genuine source of correct republican principles is the Bible, particularly the New Testament, or the Christian religion.*” Pp. 336 Original Intent – David Barton
 2. Benjamin Franklin-“*A simple democracy...is one of the greatest of evils*” pp 335 Original Intent- David Barton
 3. John Adams-“*Remember, a democracy never lasts long. It soon wastes, exhausts, and murders itself. There never was a democracy yet that did not commit suicide.*” John Adams ibid.
 4. Noah Webster- “*A pure democracy is generally a very bad government. It is often the most tyrannical government on earth.*” Ibid.
 5. Noah Webster “The moral principles and precepts contained in the Scriptures ought to form the basis of all our civil constitutions and laws. All the miseries and evils which men suffer from vice, crime, ambition, injustice, oppression, slavery, and war, proceed from their despising or neglecting the precepts contained in the Bible.” P33 Rebirth.
 6. Ben Franklin summer of 1787 in Philadelphia in writing of Constitution of the United States. Weeks of difficulty and no progress. “*In the beginning of the contest with Britain, when we were sensible of danger, we had daily prayers in this room for Divine protection. Our prayers, Sir, were heard and they were graciously answered. All of us who were engaged in the struggle must have observed frequent instances of superintending Providence in our favor...Have we now forgotten this powerful friend? Or do we imagine that we no longer need his assistance? I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth: That God governs the affairs of man. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid? We have been assured sir, in the Sacred Writings that except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it. I firmly believe this... I therefore beg leave to move that, henceforth, prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven and its blessing on our deliberation be held in this assembly every morning.*”
- B. We invited God into our education.**

1. Samuel Adams “*Let...statesmen and patriots unite their endeavors to renovate the age by, educating their little boys and girls... and leading them in the study and practice of the exalted virtues of the Christian system.*”
 2. Noah Webster instructed students “*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 depend 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 laws; the public revenues will be squandered on unworthy men; and the rights of citizens 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.*”
- C. We invited God into our culture.
1. The Rhode Island Charter of 1683 – “We submit our persons, lives and estates, to the Lord Jesus Christ, the King of Kings and Lord of lord and to all those perfect and absolute laws of His given us in His holy word.” These “laws” were affirmed in the first paragraph of the Declaration of Independence nearly 100 years later!
 2. Daniel Webster—*The Christian Religion—its general principles—must ever be regarded among us as the foundation of civil society.* Ibid. p 164
 3. Patrick Henry—*The great pillars of all government and of social life...are virtue, morality and religion. This is the armor, my friend, and this alone that renders us invincible.* Ibid. p 164

II. We Are Ushering God Out

A. We forgot God

1. Thomas Jefferson, “*Can the liberties of a nation be secure, when we have removed the conviction that these liberties are the gift of God?*” p24 Rebirth
2. Deut 6:10-12 “**So it shall be, when the LORD your God brings you into the land of which He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give you large and beautiful cities which you did not build, 11 houses full of all good things, which you did not fill, hewn-out wells which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant — when you have eaten and are full — 12 then beware, lest you forget the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.** NKJV Deut 8:17 **And beware lest you say in your [mind and] heart, My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.** AMP
3. April 30, 1863 President Lincoln calls for a national day of pray. “*We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven. We have been preserved, these many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth, and power, as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior, wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become to self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, to proud to pray to the God that made us! It behooves us then to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness.*” P. 151 *Rebirth of America.*

B. We took prayer out of school.

1. America’s moral decline rapidly accelerated following one event – the U.S. Supreme Court’s removal of prayer from our nation’s schools. On June 25, 1962, 39 million students were

forbidden to do what they and their predecessors had been doing since the founding of our nation – publicly calling upon the name of the Lord at the beginning of each school day.

2. We have taken any reference to God from our history books, philosophy books, and literature books that would present God and/or Christians in a Biblical light. The purpose is to remove any reference to the Word of God from the thinking of future generations.
3. Bible vs Secular humanism.

C. We have taken the 10 Commandments from our courtrooms and schools for religious purposes.

D. In 1973 We redefined when life begins and fetus now became a tissue.

E. We are taking God out of our military. Men and women of rank are being court martialed.

1. Religious liberty groups have grave concerns after they learned the Pentagon is vetting its guide on religious tolerance with a group that compared Christian evangelism to "rape" and advocated that military personnel who proselytize should be court martialed. The Military Religious Freedom Foundation (Led by an atheist) is calling on the Air Force to enforce a regulation that they believe calls for the court martial of any service member caught proselytizing. President Mikey Weinstein and others from his organization met privately with Pentagon officials on April 23. He said U.S. troops who proselytize are guilty of sedition and treason and should be punished – by the hundreds if necessary – to stave off what he called a "tidal wave of fundamentalists."

F. Last week our Supreme court took God out of our understanding of marriage and family.

1. "The five justices who redefined marriage are not stupid. They are unwise, but not stupid. They know what the framers of the Constitution meant and what the 14th Amendment really means. They simply do not care. And they are bent on using their power to change America." Dutch Sheets

G. Why God must go:

1. God represents a system of beliefs that are absolute. Humanism is based on a belief system that is relative. It will always be evolving, changing, etc. There is no set surety in life. God's standard create boundaries for men. But man left to himself removes those boundaries and frees him to follow his own destructive desires.
2. When our nation embraced this philosophy (humanism), the Bible became merely a historical book of "suggestions," and the Constitution became nothing more than a historical document of old "ideas." Both became "outdated" sets of values, appropriate for generations past, but not relevant for today. Therefore, we needed to create our own guidelines, beliefs and boundaries, which, of course, would always need to be evolving.
3. The problem with all of this is that in reality, a changing standard is no standard. This has led to mooring-less chaos, unbridled sin, lawlessness, and rebellion. As occurred in Israel's early history, most Americans are now doing what is right in their own eyes (Judges 21:25). America is adrift in the devastating sea of self-desire, self-adulation and self-rule.

III. What Are We To Do Now?

A. I like what Dutch Sheets wrote:

1. The Bible is still God's standard. We don't abandon it. We embrace it.
2. There is an all-out attempt by politicians, educators and others to change America from a biblically based, Christian nation to a secular nation. We must be active in local government.
3. God will not be mocked (Galatians 6:7)
4. Sadly, America will experience further judgment. 1. As direct act of God. 2. As a consequence of our choices.
5. God is not finished with America.

B. We make an appeal to heaven!

- C. What is an appeal?
1. to make a serious or urgent request. To apply to a higher court for a reversal of the decision of a lower court.
 2. The first Continental Congress and George Washington understood first of all they were appealing to Heaven to reverse the ruling of the King of England and secondly as they took steps in the natural to reverse rulings in England, if it meant war then they needed God more than ever. Prayer + Action= Peace/Establishment.
- D. When are appeals to be made?
1. Appeals should be made immediately when threats are present. Don't wait.
 2. Appeals to heaven are made when believers understand who they are in Christ and reversals must be made in current rulings. It is appealing to a higher authority!
 3. Appeals to heaven are to be made when believers are under a threat by an opposing force.
 - a) Anything that is not life is a threat to believers.
 - b) If it steals, destroys, and kills it is not life giving.
- E. An appeal to heaven, is the intercession of a Believer on earth in agreement with heaven. Thy Kingdom come! Thy will be done.
1. Jehoshaphat 2 Chron 20:1-ff. Walked in the ways of David. Fasted and prayed.
 2. David. A man after God's heart. Called on God. Shall I attack?
 3. God is looking for his church to put on that mantel of intercession and Appeal to Heaven.
 - a) God is bigger than the threats!
 - b) The Kingdom of God is a higher law in the earth.

Conclusion:

- On this 239 year of the celebration of our independence, we must understand that our nation was built, strengthened and protected because our founding fathers invited God into the very core of its existence.
- We must also know that there is at work in our country a core of politicians, judges and educators that working feverishly to God out of our country.
- Our hope is to hold fast to our God and to His Word. Appeal to heaven with a cry of our heart and humble ourselves and pray and believe that once again God will come and heal our land.