

LIVING DECLARATION

Can you get the words of the Declaration of Independence out of your mind? They are haunting words because they speak so deeply to our human condition. They echo the words and concepts conveyed in the Bible, as God reveals Himself to His creation.

1- BLUEPRINT FOR LIFE - The principles of liberty that led to the Declaration of Independence flow directly from the pages of Scripture. And for you to believe God's Word and to live God's Word will completely change one's life, just as it did 246 years ago and 400 years ago.

Christian pilgrims who left the old world, with its religious oppression and political tyranny, relied on the Bible to chart their path in the new world. Scripture leaves an indelible imprint in the many charters and constitutions they wrote more than 150 years before the American revolution.

They understood that to pray "*Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven*" is to obediently submit to God, not only as Creator and Provider, but as Lord and King.

2- GOD IS SOVEREIGN - God rules over all that exists because He is the eternal Creator. The rule and reign of God is what theologians refer to as the kingdom of God. The reality is that the Lord God reigns, regardless whether you submit to His rule or rebel against Him.

Isaiah 33 says, "*O Lord, be gracious to us. We wait for You, be our arm every morning, our salvation in time of trouble. The Lord is exalted, for He dwells on High, He will fill Zion with justice and righteousness. He will be the stability of your times, abundance of salvation, wisdom and knowledge. The fear of the Lord is Zion's treasure.*" Words of dependence upon God.

Verse 22 goes on to declare, "*The Lord is our judge, the Lord is our lawgiver, the Lord is our king; He will save us.*" This passage undergirds the three branches of government established in the U.S. Constitution, yet another evidence of the Bible in our nation's history.

3- GREAT AWAKENING - A world-changing period of spiritual revival began in the 1730's and continued for a generation as "the Great Awakening." One-half of the southern colonists and one-third of the inhabitants of New England came to personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

This was accompanied by widespread literacy, and people read not only the Bible and countless thousands of Christian sermons, as well as numerous books and pamphlets on every subject. Ordinary people could be heard in daily debate and discussion about deep theological and philosophical topics, including political systems and their current situation as colonists.

Perhaps people 400 and 246 years ago understood things better than many today. They applied the Word of God to every subject and every aspect of their lives. They understood not only spiritual liberty, but personal and economic and political liberty, and the sovereignty of God.

4- UNANIMOUS DECLARATION - All of this backdrop reached a crisis in 1776, in the American Revolution, as 56 representatives gathered to write and sign the Declaration of Independence, separating the government of the American colonies from the tyranny of Great Britain.

They concluded, "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." They appealed to God and His truth, recognizing Him as Creator, supreme Judge, and divine Providence, the sovereign over all mankind, in complete dependence upon Him.

5- LIVING DECLARATION - Their commitment cost many of them their lives and fortunes, but not their honor, which grounds the legacy of liberty that we enjoy today. Does their total trust in God's principles echo in the lives of patriots today? Our God-given freedoms are protected by prayer and personal action, as YOU must maintain and extend God's principles today.

A minority of patriots made all the difference then, and can do so now. If they could lay their lives on the line for the cause of liberty, can you follow suit? Will you? And how can you do less for the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, which undergirds these freedoms we enjoy today? Will you obey the Lord Jesus Christ, and be the salt and light of the world? Shine His light of truth and grace, to bring more people into the kingdom of God. Live out His truth, by His power within! ☐