

WHO STOLE OUR NATION?
PATRIOTIC CELEBRATION - 2010
PSALM 33:12; PSALM 9:17 - ©DR. LARRY L. THOMPSON (2010)

TODAY I AM ASKING ONE SIMPLE QUESTION ON THIS CELEBRATION OF OUR NATION'S BIRTH. I BELIEVE IT IS A QUESTION THAT DESPERATELY DESERVES AN ANSWER. I know that it is a question that if it is not asked we shall surely regret our indifference in the very near future. We no longer can afford the luxury of sitting back hoping things are going to get better when every day we see the evidence of a continuing decline of what has been one of the greatest nations in the history of mankind. The question that I believe deserves an answer is simply:

“WHO STOLE OUR NATION?”

I realize that some may question the title. You may respond, “No one stole our nation. It is still the good ole’ USA, the Red White and Blue...it is still America. It is by name but I promise you that it is not the same nation that I grew up loving and believing it was truly a “nation under God.” I believe that people who really care about this nation and especially those of you who are followers of Christ need to listen carefully to this message and pray that our passion be renewed in a spiritual sense **as we seek to take back that which has been stolen.** To face that challenge we must begin by examining two verses. **We have in these verses both a promise and precaution...**
PROMISE: “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people He chose for His inheritance.” Ps. 33:12 (NIV)

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord. As we will see in this message today, America certainly made the Lord her God from our inception. **However, there is another verse that serves not as a promise but a precaution: PRECAUTION: “The wicked return to the grave, all the nations that forget God.” Ps. 9:17 (NIV)**

We have witnessed the reality of this verse throughout the history of mankind. **Every nation that has rejected God has been rejected by God. One by one, the great empires have fallen and been destroyed. The average lifespan of the great Empires of the world has been about 200-300 years.¹**

Tom Brokaw bestselling book, **“The Greatest Generation”** is riveting and recounts not only the heroes of WWII **but also what made both America and this particular generation so great.** **Sadly, like our reputation, America is also losing at the rate of 850 Americans per day those wonderful men and women who made up that**

¹ http://goliath.ecnext.com/coms2/gi_0199-5749497/Empires-with-expiration-dates-empires.html

greatest generation.² So many of these brave soldiers gave their lives during World War II so that we might enjoy the freedom we celebrate today. **Today, we honor all who have served in the Armed Forces and those who continue to fight today in Iraq and Afghanistan.**

We know, America is not perfect, but most of us are here today because we love this nation. Honestly, **I have had the privilege of traveling over most parts of this world and there are many great nations but I can honestly say that if I were not born in America, I would have a desire to get here just as quickly as I possible and understand why people are trying to immigrate here from all over the world.** It is always interesting to me that **so many people from other nations say how much they hate us,** but are the very people who try to get here as fast as they can. **I just hope they realize that it's not the America we once knew. And so I ask the question again...**

WHO STOLE OUR NATION? If you are reporting a crime of something that has been stolen from you, **THE DETECTIVES WILL ASK YOU TO DESCRIBE WHAT WAS TAKEN.** I want to give you a description of the America I think has been stolen from us.

I. OUR SPIRITUAL CONSECRATION

If we are to recover the America that has been stolen then **WE MUST REFRESH OUR MEMORIES OF WHAT THIS GREAT NATION LOOKED LIKE AT THE TIME OF ITS BIRTH.** Scripture reminds us, "**Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord**" and we surely see evidence as we reexamination the birth of this nation. Allow me to remind you of what this great lady of freedom looked like: **SHE WAS DISCOVERED BY PEOPLE SEEKING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.**

Consider **CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS** who came to this new world. **Even his name, Christopher Columbus, means "Christ bearer."**³ When you study his life, you realize that **Columbus' main reason for looking for a new land was to find a people group where the gospel could be preached.**

In the **Mayflower Compact of 1620,** those brave souls who came here on a little tiny ship signed an agreement proclaiming, **"We are coming to America for the glory of God and the advancement of the Christian faith."**

The first public buildings that were built in the new world were churches for the worship of Almighty God. **In 1643, the New England Confederation was signed and they wrote a constitution that began with these words,** "Whereas we all came into

² http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Surviving_U.S._veterans_of_World_War_II

³ <http://www.blurtit.com/q594585.html>

these parts with one in the same end, namely to advance the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and to enjoy the liberties of the gospel in purity and peace.”⁴

In 1734 as preachers like Jonathan Edwards, John Wesley, and George Whitfield began to preach the word with such tremendous spiritual power and God continued to breathe spiritual life into the hearts of this young nation. Historically, we know time of spiritual revival as “The Great Awakening.” During that time people began to flood the churches to hear the gospel and our nation continued to be transformed. It was out of the Great Spiritual Awakening that God prepared the hearts of many of our leaders in the Revolutionary War.

Our founding fathers, George Washington and Quincy Adams had much to say about God and America. George Washington, the father of our nation, said, “Did we bring the Bible to these shores or did the Bible bring us? The breath of the ancient prophets filled the sails of tiny ships bringing pioneers to the new world. From these beginnings until now, the Bible has been a teacher to the best men, a rebuker to the worst men, and a noble companion to us all.”⁵

John Quincy Adams: “The highest glory of the American Revolution was this; it connected in one indissoluble bond the principles of civil government with the principles of Christianity.”⁶

Daniel Webster: “If there is anything in my thoughts or style to commend, the credit is due to my parents for instilling in me an early love of the scriptures. If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible, our country will go on prospering; but if we and our posterity neglect biblical instructions and authority, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us and bury all our glory in profound obscurity.”⁷

I think about **the horrific Islamic Terrorist attack of 9-11** as I read Webster’s quote and I cry out: **“Dear God, who stole our nation?”** **THESE FACTS DO NOT LIE!**

- In 1776, 11 of the 13 colonies required that a person had to be a Christian to be eligible to run for political office.
- In 1777, the Continental Congress voted to spend \$300,000 to purchase Bibles

⁴ <http://www.let.rug.nl/usa/D/1601-1650/england/nearconf.htm>

⁵ <http://www.eastfordbaptist.org/2007/03/e-vine-for-june-29-2006.html>

⁶ <http://thinkexist.com/quotation/the-highest-glory-of-the-american-revolution-was/629575.html>

⁷ <http://www.clearvisionbiblestudies.com/4july/DanielWebster.html>

for distribution in the nation.

- Our DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE declares, "...We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by the Creator with certain unalienable rights..."
- President Lincoln's GETTYSBURG ADDRESS states "...this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom..."
- 94% OF THE WRITINGS OF THE FOUNDING FATHERS OF THE U.S. CONTAINED QUOTATIONS FROM THE SCRIPTURES.
- EVERY STATE CONSTITUTION MENTIONS GOD.
- OUR NATIONAL ANTHEM written by Francis Scott Key (who was also director of the American Bible Society): "This be our motto - 'In God Is Our Trust'."
- "In God We Trust" was adopted by Congress in 1956. It is inscribed on our coins and currency.

EVERY PRESIDENT HAS USED THE WORD OF GOD TO PLEDGE THEIR OATH OF OFFICE CONCLUDING WITH THE WORDS, "SO HELP ME GOD." It was said that President Obama used Abe Lincoln's Bible opened to the same scripture as President Clinton used at his inauguration. Isa. 58:12: "Some of you will rebuild the deserted ruins of your cities. Then you will be known as a rebuilder of walls and a restorer of homes." (Isa. 58:12)

YET TODAY WE CONTINUE TO SEE OUR NATION'S LEADERS APOLOGIZE TO THE WORLD FOR OUR HISTORICAL AND SPIRITUAL FOUNDATION. To that I say NO! Again I must ask, "WHO STOLE OUR NATION?"

The historical buffs of American history will know what I am about to tell you: THE IDEA OF SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE is nowhere in the US Constitution. It does not exist. The phrase "SEPARATION OF THE CHURCH AND STATE" was coined from a letter, the principle framer of the Constitution and Third President, Thomas Jefferson, wrote to the Danbury Baptist Association assuring them that he would keep the Government out of the Church and NOT the Church out of the Government. The same time Jefferson wrote this letter, HE ALSO PRESIDED AS SUPERINTENDENT OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON, D.C. Can you guess what single textbook was required by him in every classroom in his district? THE BIBLE!! PRESIDENT JEFFERSON wrote these words in 1781 that now appear on his memorial in Washington, D.C.: "Can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are of the gift of God?"⁸ There is no such thing as a wall of separation of church and state unless you are reading Karl Marx Communist Manifesto.

⁸ <http://www.monticello.org/reports/quotes/memorial.html>

Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia said this in a speech to the Mississippi College School of Law on April 9, 1996: “Devout Christians are destined to be regarded as fools in modern society. We are fools for Christ’s sake. We must pray for courage to endure the scorn of the sophisticated world. One can be sophisticated and still believe in God. Reason and intellect are not to be laid aside where matters of religion and faith are concerned.”⁹

YET WE CONTINUE TO HEAR THE DEMANDS FROM EVERY BRANCH OF OUR GOVERNMENT TO KEEP OUR FAITH RESTRICTED INSIDE THE FOUR WALLS OF OUR CHURCH or our homes and to stay out of every sector of our nation and **I SAY THAT IS NOT THE AMERICA OUR FOUNDERS CREATED**...and I ask you... **“WHO STOLE OUR NATION?”** First there was SPIRITUAL CONSECRATION in the foundation of America.

II. OUR SPIRITUAL COMPASSION

Secondly, we need to look at the spiritual compassion of America’s history. JESUS DESCRIBED HIS MINISTRY IN THIS WAY: “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because He has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed,¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” Luke 4:18-19 (NIV)

As you look at the ministry of Jesus Christ you see the same ministry reflected in our and through our churches and synagogues throughout the history of America.

THIS GODLY COMPASSION IS NEVER MORE EVIDENT THAN IN THE WARS THAT WE HAVE FOUGHT. When America wins a war, she turns around and blesses the country she defeats. **WE REBUILT EUROPE, we REBUILT GERMANY, and we REBUILT JAPAN.** We **POURED MILLIONS INTO REBUILDING VIET NAM.** We do all the things that it says Jesus came to do. We preach the gospel to the poor, we heal the broken hearted, and we set the captives free. Now we do this not only through the physical aid and the comfort that we give to the nations of the world, but by the gospel that we preach. **IT IS ESTIMATED THAT AMERICA HAS SENT OVER 600,000 MISSIONARIES AROUND THE WORLD SINCE ITS INCEPTION TO PREACH THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST.** There is a spiritual compassion about America, not only in the way her soldiers fight and the way her soldiers give their lives for our freedom, **but in the way her people generously give themselves to the nations of the world.**

Our spiritual compassion is evidenced whenever there is a crisis in our world.

- **TSUNAMI:** **More than 130,000 Indonesians died in the 2004 tsunami.** 200,000 houses, 1,900 schools, and countless businesses were also destroyed. **Yet Christianity Today Reports:** “The hundreds of faith-based ministries from the

⁹ <http://www.rightremedy.org/tracts/7>

US responded immediately, determined to seize every opportunity to ease tensions of the Islamic-led government. More than 700 organizations piled into Sumatra in a ministry free-for-all unlike any seen since the fall of the Berlin Wall and the Soviet Union.”¹⁰

- **HAITI EARTHQUAKE OF JANUARY 12th 2010:** I personally had the privilege of seeing the impact of American Christians who have far surpassed what the majority of governments around the world have done. **Our own Michael Petty has spent 9 weeks in Haiti organizing relief work** and medical teams and providing supplies. **Witch doctors were encouraging the people not to receive help from Christians but the compassion continued.** Everywhere I looked it was **American Christians and faith based organizations that were the foot soldiers and the first responders.** Raymond Joseph, Haiti’s ambassador to the USA: “No one is tested beyond what the endurance would be; that is the message of God. So I know in this hour where Haiti is being tested so hard that there is a purpose for it, and it calls for the solidarity of all Christian brothers and sisters from all over the world to help get us out of this.”¹¹
- **WARS IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN:** **There is a spiritual compassion about America that you find in no other nation in the world.** That is why you find our soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan today fighting for the freedom of a people they don't even know. **Fighting in a place they didn't even know existed.** And today they face a new enemy; **the enemy of radical Islamic Fundamentalism.** An **enemy like no other enemy we have ever faced whose religious ideal is so very opposite of the faith that founded our nation.** A religion who’s Holy Book says **if you are not Islamic then you are an Infidel, and every person who does not believe in Allah must perish from the face of the earth.** And **they have declared war on America and yet our soldiers fight and give their lives in an Islamic nation so that we can enjoy our freedom.** Even in facing such a radical enemy **our government is rebuilding schools, hospitals and pouring billions of dollars into restoring what war has taken.** WHERE DID THIS SPIRIT OF COMPASSION COME FROM? **It originated in our Spiritual foundation based on the truth of God’s word and so I again ask with a heart demanding an answer: “WHO STOLE OUR NATION?”** Our Spiritual Consecration; Our Spiritual Compassion and finally...

III. OUR SPIRITUAL CONFESSION

TO ANSWER THE QUESTION “WHO STOLE OUR NATION” WE MUST LOOK FIRST WITHIN OUR OWN LIVES BEFORE WE ADDRESS WHAT WE SEE DECAYING BEFORE

¹⁰ <http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2006>

¹¹ <http://www.charismamag.com/index.php/news/25961-christian-aid-groups-mobilize-response-to-haiti-earthquake>

OUR EYES. Scripture declares in **Prov. 14:34**: “Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people.” Prov. 14:34 (NIV)

We are also called to make spiritual confession in 2 Chron. 7:14: “If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” 2 Chron. 7:14

WHAT IS OUR SPIRITUAL CONFESSION?

- **GOD HAS BEEN REJECTED**

Let's start with the fact that God has been replaced and we have chosen the secular path rather than the spiritual pilgrimage. The Supreme Court said we could no longer pray in schools. **However, do you know what the prayer was that they objected to?** “To the Almighty God we acknowledge our dependence on thee. We ask thy blessings up on our parents, our teachers, and our country, Amen.” In **Lemon v. Kurtzman ruling in 1971 the Supreme Court** established the so-called **"Lemon test"**: In order to be constitutional regarding any practice sponsored within state run schools or other public, state sponsored activities the individual or group must:

1. **Have a secular purpose;**
2. **Must not advance nor inhibit religion as its primary effect**
3. **Must not result in an excessive entanglement between government and religion.**¹²

The Supreme Court said you can't pray **ASKING FOR GOD'S BLESSINGS ON OUR PARENTS AND TEACHERS AND OUR COUNTRY**, and we wonder what has happened in the schools now, forty years later, why **we have to have a police force patrolling schools**, why **students are killing each other and killing teachers**. Why **teachers are fearful to provide instruction or discipline** because of legal suit or retribution from students. **WHO STOLE OUR NATION?** Forty years after we; a nation whose motto is “in God we trust,” kicked Him out of the schools and God has been rejected and we must make a spiritual confession of participate in corporate repentance.

- **THE BIBLE HAS BEEN REJECTED.**

In 1782, Congress approved the use of the Bible in schools and even paid \$300,000 for the Bibles for our public schools with tax dollars. In 1844, when someone sued to remove the Bible the Supreme Court ruled, “Why should not the Bible be read and taught as the Divine Revelation in the school? Where can the purest principles of morality be learned so clearly and perfectly as from the New Testament?”¹³

However, the Supreme Court removed Bibles and Bible Reading from the schools in

¹² http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/School_prayer

¹³ <http://www.choicesforliving.com/spirit/part4/america5.htm>

1963 in Abington Township v. Schempp.¹⁴

Once again WE are the ones who need to exercise spiritual confession and seek forgiveness for the direction our nation has drifted from her original roots. **Why should parents or churches worry about not having the Bible in School when the word is seldom if ever opened in our homes and is not followed in our churches or our Christian walk? Spiritual repentance and confession is needed...We play a part in allowing the nation to be stolen by our own indifference and spiritual rebellion!**

- **THE TEN COMMANDMENTS HAVE BEEN BANNED!**

The Ten Commandments continues to be removed from the courts and public buildings throughout our nation. **Courts have even ruled you cannot display nativity scenes in your yard.**¹⁵ Slowly but ever so surely, while the church has slept, these foundation on which America was built has been stolen from us until the America we have today would not even be recognized by George Washington or Abraham Lincoln.

- **THE SPIRITUAL HISTORY OF AMERICA HAS BEEN REWRITTEN.**

A study by the **Univ. of Houston of over 900 high school history textbooks revealed American history has been rewritten;** now from a humanist and globalist perspective. “Public school textbooks have intentionally emphasized globalism while degrading America's proud Christian heritage, and the faith of the founding fathers. Today, a generation of public school students can complete 12 years of elementary and high school training with virtually no understanding of the Christian heritage upon which the nation was founded and developed.” Historian and author, Dr. Catherine Millard¹⁶

- **VALUES HAVE BEEN RESHAPED.**

According to a **Barna Research** survey: In 1997, 50% of Christians and 25% of non-Christians said that there are moral truths which are absolute; unchanging, and not relative to the circumstances. Yet in the same survey taken in 2001 that number had dropped to only 22% of all Americans believed in absolute, unchanging truth.

The Los Angeles Times Sept. 17, 2002 reports:

- Only 44% of Christian adults believe in absolute moral truth
- Only 9% of Christian teenagers believe in absolute moral truth¹⁷

¹⁴ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abington_School_District_v._Schempp

¹⁵ <http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/f-news/1530444/posts>

¹⁶ <http://www.mfc.org/contents/article.cfm?id=191>

¹⁷ http://www.religioustolerance.org/chr_poll5.htm

The values that have long since been absolutes in our nation are being reshaped daily. **THEY CALL THIS MORAL RELATIVITY.** We are living in the time of the Judges in the Old Testament. The Bible says, “Every man did that which was right in his own eyes.” Judges 21:25

As the secularist liberal agenda continues to dominate our culture, **Christians, and Christian churches will become even greater targets for persecution** by both the government and secular media. It is so difficult to believe this is the same nation and again I ask: **“WHO STOLE OUR NATION?”**

IV. OUR SPIRITUAL CHALLENGE

If we are really concerned about answering the question, “WHO STOLE OUR NATION” then we must look carefully at the singular hope for America and not just read 2 Chronicles 7:14 but actually ACT IN OBEDIENCE TO THIS WORD: “If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” 2 Chron. 7:14 (NIV)

God is depending on His people to once again follow the example of our founding fathers and seek HIM FIRST. We must wake up. **THIS IS A MESSAGE TO BOTH EXTREMES ON THE RIGHT AND THE LEFT. THE EXTREMISTS FROM BOTH CAMPS MAKE UP LESS THAN 10% OF OUR NATION AND YET THEY CONTROL MUCH OF THE COMMUNICATION AND SEEM TO CONTROL MUCH OF THE NATION'S AGENDA.** We can't complain that someone stole our nation when we are afraid to act; to spiritual fight to recover what was stolen. SO WHAT MUST WE DO TO RECOVER A PRECIOUS GIFT OUR FOUNDING FATHERS ENTRUSTED TO US?

- 1. WE MUST PRAY CORPORATELY AND INDIVIDUALLY AND REPENT.** Pray for another spiritual awakening that would even dwarf that of Jonathan Edwards and the Great Awakening. We are desperate for God's presence and power in the lives of His people.
- 2. WE MUST PARTICIPATE.** We must let our **VOICE** be heard on issues that we know are contrary to God's word. We must **VOTE**. We must be willing to sacrificially give our time and our talent and our treasure to **RUN FOR OFFICE** or **HELP THOSE WHO SHARE OUR FOUNDING FATHERS DREAM BE ELECTED TO OFFICE.** We should **SIGN THE MANHATTAN DECLARATION** that declares **THERE ARE SOME ABSOLUTE TRUTHS THAT WE WILL NOT SURRENDER.** It is time for Christians to be followers of Christ to quit being used by both political parties and say as the angel said to Joshua when he asked, “Are you for us or against us.” The angel said “Neither. I am on the side of the Lord.”
- 3. WE MUST PROCLAIM.** If we don't communicate then we cannot complain when our voice is taken away completely. **In the New Testament a secular society**

told Peter and John to shut up and never speak about Jesus in public again. They beat them and set them free and the first thing these men did was go into the streets and say, **“We cannot be quiet we must speak about the things we have seen and heard.”** We must recapture the spirit not only of our biblical models but of our founding fathers who bravely said as Patrick Henry, a Christian from Virginia facing impossible odds in a war with the powerful British army boldly proclaimed: **“Is life so dear and peace so sweet to be bought at the price of freedom? I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!”**¹⁸

May God help us if we don't respond to the question of this hour...

WHO STOLE OUR NATION? We can begin by praying at this altar for His work in our own life and then in the life of this great nation.

¹⁸ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Give_me_Liberty,_or_give_me_Death!