

AMERICA, A CHRISTIAN NATION
Founded On the Word of God
2nd Chronicles 7:14

Introduction: 600 years ago, a Spanish monk named Ramón Lull, while preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ to Muslims on the African coast, was severely beaten and lay near death. Two Italian men sympathetic to Lull's Gospel message rescued him and put him on a ship toward Spain. As he lay dying in the bow of the ship crossing the Mediterranean, Lull uttered his last prophetic words. With all his strength, he pointed westward over the horizon and said, *"Beyond this sea which washes this continent we know lies another continent we've never seen, whose natives are ignorant of Christ, send men there, send men there!"* These haunting words lived on in the minds of these young Italians. One was Stephen Columbus, who was a direct ancestor of Christopher Columbus. As the words of Lull passed down through generations to Christopher, he became convinced that God chose him to fulfill this prophecy to spread the Gospel beyond the seas. He read *Isaiah 49:1-6*. After spending seven futile years in the royal court pleading his case, all concluded that it was all foolishness and impossible. However, the voice of God would not let him rest. He finally got the support of Queen Isabella of Spain and her husband King Ferdinand. When Queen Isabella commissioned Columbus she said, "It is hoped that by God's assistance some of the continents and islands in the ocean will be discovered . . . for the glory of God." In writing to the pope about Columbus' mission, she wrote, *" . . . to bear light of Christ west to the heathen undiscovered lands."*

In 1492, Columbus began his voyage to the Americas. When he landed in the new world on October the 12th, he christened the first island "San Salvador," or Holy Savior. He knelt and prayed this prayer: *"O Lord, Almighty and Everlasting God, by Thy Holy Word, Thou hast created the heaven, and the earth, and the sea; blessed and glorified be Thy Name, and praise be Thy majesty, which has designed to use us, Thy humble servants, that Thy Holy Name may be proclaimed in this second part of the earth."* Later, when he recalled his mission, he wrote, *"It was the Lord who put into my mind the fact that it would be possible to sail from here to the Indies. All who heard of my project rejected it with laughter and ridiculed me. There is no question that the inspiration was from the Holy Spirit, because He comforted me with rays of marvelous inspiration from the Holy Scriptures . . ."* No one should fear to undertake any task for the Savior, if it is just and if the intention is purely for His holy service. From the beginning, America was a nation of vision and destiny.

- A. In the founding of America as a nation in 1607, the Jamestown settlers stepped ashore at Cape Henry, Virginia. They immediately planted a cross and claimed the land for Christ. The charter of Virginia, granted by King James I, gave their purpose: *"Propagating of the Christian religion to such people as yet live in darkness."* The pilgrims followed a few years later and, like the Virginians who preceded them and the puritans who followed, considered themselves as missionaries. The Mayflower Compact of 1620 declares that the pilgrims came to advance the Christian faith for the Glory of God. The early settlers established the first law establishing grammar schools in 1642. Titled the *"Old Deluder Satan Law,"* it stated that since *"One chief objective of the Old Deluder, Satan, is to keep men from the knowledge of the Scriptures, as in the former time, children must be taught to read and write to ensure that everyone could learn the Scriptures."*
- B. For nearly two hundred years, all schools were Christian schools. Since 1691, school children learned the alphabet by studying the New England primer, which used Bible stories to teach reading and writing.
- C. The Northwest Ordinance, which was later signed into law by our U.S. congress, required all schools to be instituted for the purpose of teaching religion (from the *Journals of Congress*).
- D. The first institutions for higher learning were established as Christian schools. Harvard: *"Let every student be plainly instructed and earnestly . . . consider well, the main end of his life and studies is to know God and Jesus Christ which is eternal life."* The charter of William and Mary, founded in 1692, states its purpose: *"That the Christian faith may be propagated . . . to the glory of God."* In 1701, Yale was founded to *"propagate in the wilderness the blessed reformed, protestant religion . . ."* Founded in 1746, it had as its second president John Witherspoon, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, who placed his emphasis on incorporating Biblical principles in governing. In all, the first 106 of the 108 colleges were founded on Christian faith.
- E. George Washington, our first president and father of our country, prayed, *"Bless o Lord the whole race of mankind, and let the world be filled with the knowledge of Thee and Thy Son Jesus Christ."*
- F. It was Patrick Henry who said, *"It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religions, but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ."*
- G. Thomas Jefferson, third president of the U.S., said, *"God who gave us life gave us liberty."*
- H. Benjamin Franklin, signer of the Declaration of Independence, said, *"Whoever shall introduce into public affairs the principles of primitive Christianity will change the face of the world."*
- I. Samuel Adams, signer of the Declaration: *" . . . the Supreme Ruler of the universe, having been pleased . . . to establish the independence of the United States of America . . . that with true repentance and contrition of our heart . . . implore the forgiveness of our sins through the merits of Jesus Christ . . ."*
- J. Andrew Jackson, our 7th president, referring to the Bible, said, *"That Book, sir, is the rock upon which our republic rests."*
- K. On July 4th, 1776, 230 years ago, delegates to the Continental Congress voted to accept the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia's Independence Hall. On August 2nd, fifty-six men signed their names to this historic document, giving birth to a new nation. Here was their pledge: *"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."*

Conclusion: Neither time nor space allows me to give all the facts that pertain to our history. One thing is very clear and unambiguous - the United States of America was built on Biblical principles from the Word of God, and it was intended to be a Christian nation. The liberal view of America is a perverted one, and the idea that America should be a secular nation excluding God is a serious departure of our founder's intent.