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Publisher's new book reminds Americans of the blood spilt for our independence

Houston, TX—January 2008—On April 19, 1775, the “shot heard ‘round the world” rang out on a gloomy Massachusetts morning. But who fired it, and what was its provocation? In Nordskog Publishing’s new book, The Battle of Lexington—A Sermon and Eyewitness Narrative by Jonas Clark, pastor of the Church of Lexington, the publisher revisits the famous battle that triggered America’s fight for freedom.

“Our history books no longer tell the true story of Lexington, so we must,” says Rev. Christopher Hoops, who wrote the introduction to Nordskog Publishing’s book, *The Battle of Lexington*.

The Battle of Lexington comprises a sermon preached by Clark on April 19, 1776 one year after the famous battle took place, and Clark’s written eyewitness account of the battle as viewed by the pastor from a distance of “no more than 70 or 80 rods.”

The book begins with a background of Clark as told by Publisher Gerald Nordskog. As pastor, Nordskog writes, Clark typically preached four hour-long sermons every week. As animosities grew between the colonies and the British crown, Clark’s sermons emblazoned his parishioners to follow God’s moral law and answer the call for freedom.

Quoted in Nordskog’s introduction to Clark is a passage written in the mid 1800s by the Rev. William Ware: “The militia on the Common that morning were the same who filled the pews of the meetinghouse on the Sunday morning before, and the same who hung upon the rear of the retreating enemy in the forenoon and throughout the day. They were only carrying [Clark’s] preaching of many previous years into practice.”

Throughout the sermon, Clark makes it clear that it was because of the British soldiers’ initial shedding of the colonists’ innocent blood, contrary to God’s moral law, that made the ensuing battle and ultimately the war a righteous one. “And may this day be remembered to the glory of God and our own instruction and improvement, so long as we live,” Clark states toward the sermon’s end.

Following the battle narrative are extensive endnotes filling in background information, and an appendix containing four historic poems of this crucial time in the American Revolution, “Paul Revere’s Ride” by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, “Lexington” by Oliver Wendell Holmes, “Lexington” by John Greenleaf Whittier, and the “Concord Hymn” by Ralph Waldo Emerson.

The Battle of Lexington is a nugget of historical information relevant to students of American history, church leaders looking for Independence Day sermon material, and anyone interested in the birth of our country.

“America is perishing for the need of preachers who apply God’s holy Word to every area of life,” Hoops concludes in his introduction. “The Battle of Lexington should inspire every [person], in all stations of life, to stand and make a difference.”

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