

Publisher's Preface

(Jesus said unto His disciples): "After this manner therefore pray ye,
Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done even in earth as it is in heaven"
(Matthew 6:9-10).¹

And Jesus came, and spake unto them, saying,
"All power is given unto me, in heaven, and in earth.
Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them
in the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the holy Ghost,
Teaching them to observe all things, whatsoever I have commanded you:
and lo, I am with you alway, until the end of the world, Amen"
(Matthew 28:18-20).

Dear Reader,

The Lord's Prayer and The Great Commission are the focus and goal of this wonderful book by my long-time personal friend, Ronald W. Kirk, our Theology Editor, an astute, wise, and knowledgeable Christian educator and scholar.

The crux of life is to pursue this prayer and this commissioning by our King Jesus, the Alpha and the Omega, in our daily walk and life's journey, in the enabling power of the Holy Spirit, and see what God can do in His perfect timing precept by precept in the days, years, and ages to come, until His will be done on earth as in heaven, with a matured and accomplished Church.

Do you want to know how disciples of our Master are to present our bodies a living sacrifice wholly unto the Lord to accomplish these worthy and heavenly purposes? (Romans 12:1; see also 1 Corinthians 6:13, 19-20). This is a guidebook to live by moment by moment.

As John Quincy Adams so aptly stated centuries ago:

Duty is ours; results are God's.²

1 Preface Scripture quotes are all from The 1599 Geneva Bible, republished by Tolle Lege Press, White Hall, WV, 2006.

2 In reply to a question. Quoted in *America's God and Country Encyclopedia of Quotations*, compiled by William J. Federer. [Hereafter, "Federer"] Coppel, TX: FAME Publishing Inc., 1994, 15, Endnote 45 on 714, citing David Barton, *The WallBuilders Report*, Summer 1993 (Aledo, TX: WallBuilders Press), 3.

Tonight, as I stand on our lighthouse roof-balcony here in Ventura Keys, overlooking the Pacific Ocean, peering at the fireworks sparkling up into the cloudy night's sky along our coastline, this Fourth of July Independence Day, I reflect upon these words from John Adams writing to his wife Abigail on July 3, 1776, after the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, and about its future anniversaries:

[This] will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America....
[It] will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary Festival....commemorated, as the Day of Deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty....from one end of the continent to the other, from this time forward forevermore.³

He further stated it may even be celebrated with displays of fireworks.

That day in America the people did proclaim their liberty and it rang throughout the entire world!—as the American Liberty Bell is inscribed: “[P]roclaim liberty in the land to all the inhabitants thereof” (Leviticus 25:10; see also 2 Corinthians 3:17).

The civilized nations of the world learned about civil-liberty-under-law from our country during our colonial and particularly our founding era and thereafter.

Also upon the signing of The Declaration of Independence in 1776 Samuel Adams proclaimed:

We have this day restored the Sovereign to Whom all men ought to be obedient. He reigns in heaven and from the rising to the setting of the sun, let His kingdom come.⁴

John Quincy Adams proclaimed, July 4, 1837 on the sixty-first anniversary of the Declaration of Independence:

Why is it that, next to the birthday of the Saviour of the World, your most joyous and most venerated festival returns on this day. Is it not that, in the chain of human events, the birthday of the nation is indissolubly linked with the birthday of the Savior? That it forms a leading event in the Progress of the Gospel dispensation? Is it not that the Declaration of Independence first organized the social compact on the foundation of the Redeemer's mission upon earth? That is laid the cornerstone of human government upon the first precepts of Christianity and gave to the world the first irrevocable pledge of the fulfillment of the prophecies announced directly from Heaven at

3 Federer, 9, Endnote 23 on 712.

4 Federer, 23, Endnote 70 on 716.

the birth of the Saviour and predicted by the greatest of the Hebrew prophets 600 years before.”⁵

I have celebrated annually observing fireworks displays, and the reading of and remembering of this great American document directed to the King of England, and shared with all of the world openly, listing our grievances and responses of patience and independence declared, this event eventually leading to the establishment of our honored and cherished United States Constitution. John Adams acknowledged in 1798 that,

Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is totally inadequate for the government of any other.⁶

On the bicentennial of the Declaration, I chaired the Los Angeles City Schools' Bicentennial Pageant as a volunteer appointed by the School Board, overseeing a large committee of educators and citizens (1975-1977). With the overall theme being the “Spirit of '76 in Education, it culminated in a huge “Happy Birthday America” festival-celebration at the L.A. Coliseum, a packed stadium with a three-ring circus, songs, marching bands, prayers, and patriotic historical readings. That event was held on May 29, 1976, and was shown on TV July Fourth.⁷

As I stand this Independence Day overlooking the Ventura harbor, I contemplate what a drastic change America has undergone, and for the worse, since that Bicentennial, in our declining Los Angeles area and American nation, as we have largely forgotten God and His commandments. Many of the congregations of America have cloistered themselves in their pews within the four walls of their churches, and ignored the full mandate of the Great Commission, though they may assume they have fulfilled it with some evangelism.

We have much to learn and to re-learn from our Founding Fathers, who established our nation on Biblical laws and principles with great

5 Oration at Newburyport. Federer, 18 (in later printings 19), Endnote 53 on 715.

6 John Adams quoted in the Foreword by William J. Federer, in *Answers from the Founding Fathers* by Jerry Newcombe, D.Min. Ft. Lauderdale: Truth in Action Ministries, 2011, 11. (See also *The Book That Made America: How the Bible Formed Our Nation* by Jerry Newcombe. Ventura, CA: Nordskog Publishing, 2009, 4th printing 2011.)

7 This event is available on CD and in a commemorative book by contacting Nordskog Publishing. Participants included: Mark Spitz, Sandy Duncan, James Irwin, Gloria Loring, Gerald Ford, Bob Docter, Roy Rogers and Dale Evans, Meredith Wilson, All City Honor Band and Chorus, and 80,000 students from the LA Unified School District, narrated by Jack Wagner and William J. Johnston, Superintendent of LA Public Schools.

study of history and historical writings. Are we impotent, apathetic, lazy, and lukewarm Christians, brethren? For certain we are unknowledgeable about the Cultural (Dominion) Mandate and what Jesus meant in teaching and discipleship to the nations: that is, not just the important privilege of evangelism pronouncing the gospel of Christ, but propounding how cultures are to live and obey God's ordained Laws in all they do as nations of the world.

Jesus answered him, saying, "It is written That man shall not live by bread only, but by every Word of God" (Luke 4:4).

For the whole Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable to teach, to convince, to correct, and to instruct in righteousness, That the man of God may be absolute, being made perfect unto all good works. (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

The Ten Commandments and the Two Greatest Commandments which summarize them—love God and love your neighbor (Matthew 22:37-40)—are to be lived out fully as the Lord admonishes us for all people for all time and for all nations, until "every knee should bow" and "every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is the Lord" (Philippians 2:10-11).

The Word says:

Be not deceived: God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh, shall of the flesh reap corruption: but he that soweth to the spirit, shall of the spirit reap life everlasting. Let us not therefore be weary of well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. While we have therefore time, let us do good unto all men, but especially unto them, which are of the household of faith (Galatians 6:7-10).

Now no chastising for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: but afterward, it bringeth the quiet fruit of righteousness, unto them which are thereby exercised. Wherefore lift up your hands which hang down, and your weak knees, And make straight steps unto your feet, lest that which is halting, be turned out of the way, but let it rather be healed. Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without the which no man shall see the Lord (Hebrews 12:11-14).

Our beloved nation is experiencing God's remedial or perhaps full judgment. But we can return to the Cornerstone of America by returning to Christ our Lord and the Holy Bible without reservation and know that we can reap in due season; eventually then the world will have a maturing and later an accomplished fulfilled world where the earth is full of His glory.

Again I turn to one of the Adams family to meditate on the future of mankind on earth if Believers are truly faithful consistently:

Suppose a nation in some distant region should take the Bible for their only law book, and every member should regulate his conduct by the precepts there exhibited! Every member would be obliged in conscience, to temperance, frugality, and industry; to justice, kindness, and charity towards his fellow men; and to piety, love, and reverence toward Almighty God.... What a Eutopia, what a Paradise would this region be.⁸

This could be and will one lengthy season be, as the Word of God promises, for not only a “region” but for a state, a nation, a continent, and an entire world committed to fulfilling the Great Commission while constantly praying that God’s will be done on earth, as in heaven. Hallelujah!

Digest this book and allow the Holy Spirit to convict you and encourage you to make a difference in your sphere of influence, family, friends, and neighbors. This is for those who seek to obey God in an eschatology (end times) of victory in Christ Jesus, the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. Amen. The Lord already reigns at the right hand of our Heavenly Father—let us be studious, active, faithful, persevering Saints on earth in our lives!

Do you want to be at least a tiny but important part of this exhilarating future? This requires a long-term outlook over generations, centuries, and perhaps millennia into the future. It is occupying now until all enemies become His footstool at the Second Coming of Christ—being salt and light in the world, advancing His kingdom on earth one person and one family and one nation and one day at a time.

Let Ron Kirk show us the recipe from Holy Scripture and what a beautiful thing the Lord can and will do through you and you and you and you.

Once more I turn to John Adams, in his speech March 4, 1797, upon succeeding George Washington, Father of Our Country, when Adams became our second President of the United States. As part of his inaugural address to the new nation of America, Mr. Adams gave this prayer:

And may that Being who is supreme over all, the Patron of Order, the Fountain of Justice, and the Protector in all ages of the world of virtuous liberty, continue His blessings upon this nation.⁹

8 John Adams, an entry in his diary on 2-22-1756. Federer, 5, Endnote 11 on 711.

9 Federer, 10, Endnote 28 on 713.

What would a transformed nation look like?

If revival comes to a nation, and it is followed by Biblical transformation, what would the society look like? One Christian from a developing nation described a transformed society as one: where the mind is without fear and the head is held high; where words come out from the depth of truth; where rain falls in its season, and the weather is predictable (without drought or floods); where the land has been healed, and plants and trees yield their fruit in season; where families own their own homes, land, and assets to generate sufficient household food and have security; where children are healthy and free from dangerous illnesses; where mothers and fathers not only love the Lord but each other and their children and teach them to love the Lord; where wages are fair and just; where the council of elders in each village and community is able to resolve all disputes justly at their own level. (Paraphrased by Stephen McDowell in *Biblical Revival and the Transformation of Nations*, Charlottesville, NC: Providence Foundation Biblical Worldview University, 2013, 58-59, from *Transform World Connections Handbook*, Luis Bush, editor, 2007, 21.)

Thy Will Be Done: When All Nations Call God Blessed

Thy kingdom come. *Thy will be done* in earth, as it is in heaven.
(Matthew 6:10, KJV)

And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art
in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come.

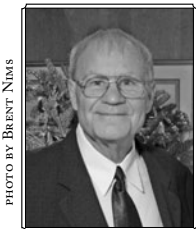
Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth. (Luke 11:2, KJV)

His name shall endure forever: His name shall be continued as long as the
sun: and men shall be blessed in Him: *all nations shall call Him blessed.*
(Psalm 72:17, KJV)

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Which was and which is and
which is to come....

Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory, and honor, and power:
for thou hast created all things, and for thy will's sake they are, and
have been created (Revelation 4:8,11).

AMEN.



Gerald Christian Nordskog

Ventura, California, July 4, 2013