

WHO IS AMERICA'S GOD?

Jeremiah 2:11 "Hath a nation changed their god?"

Introduction:

To understand our nation you have to understand the Church.

The Church:

In the beginning God...God was with Adam...seven generations later with Enoch...His great-grandson Noah...ten generations later Abraham...14 generations later David...26 generations later Joseph who took Mary to be his wife. She conceived of the Holy Ghost and gave birth to Jesus.

In Jesus' ministry He chose **12 disciples** who would become the founding fathers of the Church. All of them died and men like Augustine, Constantine, Papius, Clement, Alexandria and Eusebius preached from the old manuscripts of the apostles handed down from generation to generation.

The only Bibles were those written by monks who wrote and copied the originals day and night by light of candles. The Church had grown so large and so fast that it was a threat to the government, so the government started controlling the Church. It was outlawed to own a manuscript of the Bible.

But a little group of rebels were raised up called the **Clunies**. They started the Cluny reform. This action split the Church and got it in such a mess the government didn't want it, so it got back into the hands of the people. But when this happened only one man was in charge and they called him Pope. At this time there was only one Church. Due to lack of organization other groups started rebelling and starting new churches. Among these were the Crusaders, who actually organized an army to reform the organized Church.

The turning point came when **Martin Luther**, a monk, rediscovered the doctrine of salvation by grace and wanted to reform the Church. His followers decided to pull out and start the Lutheran Church. The Methodists, which were a group of preachers at Oxford who formed the Methodist Club, did the same. Another group called the Anabaptists pulled out. Their group split and started 21 different kinds of Baptist sects. Many didn't survive, but some are still around today.

But over in England they decided they would not have any of this, so the government declared there would be only one church called the Church of England. But a group within that church, called "the Pilgrims", decided the church was too loose and wanted to be stricter. They moved to Holland and were persecuted there. So they went back to England and worshiped in secret.

I. A Nation is Born

About this time an Italian seaman by the name of Christopher Columbus thought he had reached India, but instead he had discovered a new land. The French came to this land, but didn't settle it. The British came but didn't settle. The Spanish came but didn't settle. Finally these Pilgrims talked Columbus into letting them try.

102 people got on the boat. About 50 were pilgrims. In one year, all died except 47 who were pilgrims. The captain left with what skeleton crew he had left. The captain tried to talk the pilgrims into going back, but they stayed. Winter came and their food source ran out. They began to pray. Out of nowhere, an Indian brave showed up. As the story goes, the Indian brave was taken by a Spanish sea captain, educated and became a Christian. He returned to teach his tribe, but they had all died out, so he was all alone until he found those other Christians.

- A. Mayflower Compact
"In the beginning God..."
- B. The rest of the world was getting uneasy. France sent 8,000 troops on ships to kill them off and take over the land. They landed just off the coast of New England.
 - 1. Fog, wind, storm - God took His hand and pushed them 3,000 miles off course. 1,100 of them died from a strange tropical disease. The admiral committed suicide. The assistant Admiral wandered off into the jungle and was never heard of again. The rest went home confused and the victory was the Lord's.
- C. They wanted to be a free nation.
Thomas Jefferson, without a book or resource, went into a room and prayed. Then, in one and one-half days, wrote what we know as the "Declaration of Independence."
- D. George Washington, a Christian businessman in England, heard the news and by faith, left a beautiful home and took his family across the sea to become president of this new nation. By faith, a new nation was born.
 - 1. John Adams, Ben Franklin, led us through hard times. We won the revolution; we didn't have an army, but by using squirrel rifles and fishing boats and a whole lot of faith, we licked the British army and became our own nation.
 - 2. Connecticut was founded as a colony to teach the Word of God. New England was established by a group who came to enjoy freedom of worship.
 - 3. Abe Lincoln said, "We are under God and all men are created equal and deserve to be free." We survived the Civil War, World War I, the Great Depression, World War II, The Korean War, Viet Nam, Desert Storm and we will continue to overcome and march because we are a nation built by faith.

II. We have moved from being a nation of faith to being a nation of chaos.

- A. We used to be a nation that trusted God. Now we solve our problems a different way:
 - 1. Abortion clinics
 - 2. Pornography
 - 3. Substance abuse
 - 4. Rise of Satanism
 - 5. Humanism - "creation" taken out of science textbooks
 - 6. Family altar has been replaced by a t.v. set
- B. In the days of Egypt they had a god to offset the bad traits of other gods. You served the god of water to offset the terror of the sun god and so forth. In our country we serve the god of pleasure to offset the god of workaholism. We serve the god of entertainment because of the pressure from serving the god of money and materialism. We are caught in a cycle.
 - 1. That is why Islam is the fastest growing religion in America, but Christianity is the fastest growing religion in the world.
 - a. America must return to God.
- C. America's hope will not come from:
 - 1. A new election
 - 2. A new law

3. Another speech or the legislature
We must return to God.

D The Church in America needs to return to God. We need to assume an assertive role. It is sad when the world is progressing faster than the Church.

Conclusion:

In God we trust. America will come to God: either in love or as a result of judgment. "Every knee shall bow and every tongue confess..."