
Last Song: “Great Are You Lord”

Prayer: Dale

2 Chronicles 20:1-23

¹After this the Moabites and Ammonites, and with them some of the Meunites,^[a] came against Jehoshaphat for battle. ²Some men came and told Jehoshaphat, “A great multitude is coming against you from Edom,^[b] from beyond the sea; and, behold, they are in Hazazon-tamar” (that is, Engedi). ³Then Jehoshaphat was afraid and set his face to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. ⁴And Judah assembled to seek help from the Lord; from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the Lord. ⁵And Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the Lord, before the new court, ⁶and said, “O Lord, God of our fathers, are you not God in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. In your hand are power and might, so that none is able to withstand you. ⁷Did you not, our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel, and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend? ⁸And they have lived in it and have built for you in it a sanctuary for your name, saying, ⁹‘If disaster comes upon us, the sword, judgment,^[c] or pestilence, or famine, we will stand before this house and before you—for your name is in this house—and cry out to you in our affliction, and you will hear and save.’ ¹⁰And now behold, the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir, whom you would not let Israel invade when they came from the land of Egypt, and whom they avoided and did not destroy— ¹¹behold, they reward us by coming to drive us out of your possession, which you have given us to inherit. ¹²O our God, will you not execute judgment on them? For we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.” ¹³Meanwhile all Judah stood before the Lord, with their little ones, their wives, and their children. ¹⁴And the Spirit of the Lord came^[d] upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, son of Benaiah, son of Jeiel, son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, in the midst of the assembly. ¹⁵And he said, “Listen, all Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: Thus says the Lord to you, ‘Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God’s. ¹⁶Tomorrow go down against them. Behold, they will come up by the ascent of Ziz. You will find them at the end of the valley, east of the wilderness of Jeruel. ¹⁷You will not need to fight in this battle. Stand firm, hold your position, and see the salvation of the Lord on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.’ Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed. Tomorrow go out against them, and the Lord will be with you.” ¹⁸Then Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell down before the Lord, worshiping the Lord. ¹⁹And the Levites, of the Kohathites and the Korahites, stood up to praise the Lord, the God of Israel, with a very loud voice. ²⁰And they rose early in the morning and went out into the wilderness of Tekoa. And when they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, “Hear me, Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem! Believe in the Lord your God, and you will be established; believe his prophets, and you will succeed.” ²¹And when he had taken counsel with the people, he appointed those who were to sing to the Lord and praise him in holy attire, as they went before the army, and say, “Give thanks to the Lord, for his steadfast love endures forever.” ²²And when they began to sing and praise, the Lord set an ambush against the men of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah, so that they were routed. ²³For the men of Ammon and Moab rose against the inhabitants of Mount Seir, devoting them to destruction, and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, they all helped to destroy one another.

Now church, I want you to see the words of the key verses we just read. (You’ll see these again.)

- ¹² For we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you
- ¹⁵ for the battle is not yours but God's

- ²⁰ Believe in the Lord your God, and you will be established; believe his prophets, and you will succeed
 - ²¹ Give thanks to the Lord, for his steadfast love endures forever
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God caused King Jehoshaphat and Judah to win! They were outnumbered, the odds were against them...but, they won and they GAVE THANKS TO THE LORD! Church family, who are we giving thanks to on Thursday? **God**. We give thanks to the Lord...not Buddha? Not Confucius? Not Muhammad? Not the government? To God! To the Lord of the universe.

Today, we're going to remember God, because to a large degree, we've forgotten Him in our country...but, I'm going to seek to show us today that we were indeed founded as a nation by men and women who loved God and established our country on Christian principles. Now, I know people want to say we weren't, but they're lying to you. We were and I'm going to show that to you...**particularly our young people**...because they ARE NOT BEING TAUGHT THIS...like my generation was taught this.

Some of you, like me, remember when you were in school and we dressed up like these children...



as little pilgrims and Indians and we had plays and school gatherings in the gym to remember our Christian heritage and founding as a nation on the principles of Scripture. We used to say the pledge of allegiance and up until I was in the fifth grade, we even read the bible and opened class in prayer to God.

Today, it seems we have a “great horde” that has overtaken this country with their secular humanism...and their “woke ideology,” and it’s in every institution, including the very fabric of our nation. Remember church...we’re the nation that has:

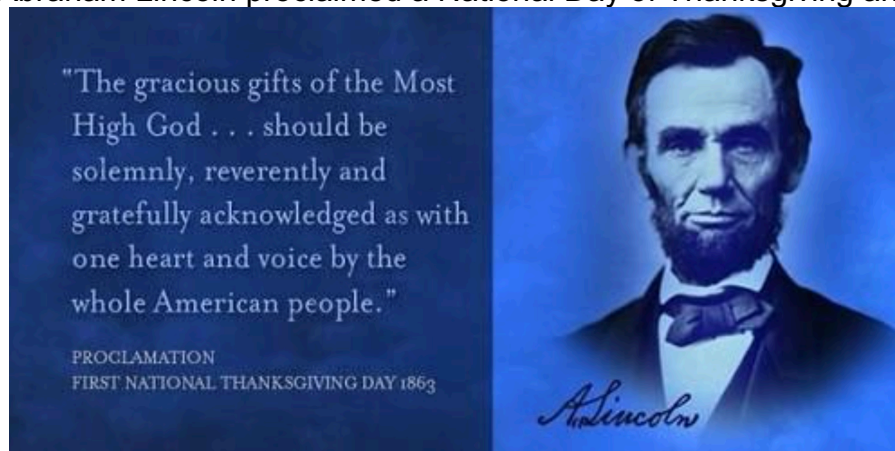


“In God We Trust” on our money... But that fact means nothing, if we can't say that from our hearts! You see, God has been removed from the public square; and thus, we're left with a nation that has grown more and more pagan with every passing year.

Some are saying: “Conservatives lost the Senate because they stuck to their guns on abortion.” I'll say this...I'm in this for the long game. I'll take having a conservative Supreme Court, overturning Roe v. Wade and saving babies over winning a Senate battle any day!

I get it, it's true, we can begin to feel like the people of Judah...we can feel powerless and it can seem so overwhelming and we can easily become paralyzed by fear...but the battle is the Lord's. And I'm going to remind us of that this morning. So, I hope you'll listen carefully as I take a few minutes to remind us of why we will celebrate this uniquely Christian Holiday called Thanksgiving on Thursday.

In 1863 President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a National Day of Thanksgiving and Praise and said:



“The gracious gifts of the Most High God...should be solemnly, reverently, and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and voice by the whole American people.”

The MOST HIGH GOD, not to Muhammad, Buddha or Confucius. So, we celebrate Thanksgiving and give thanks to our heavenly Father every year on the fourth Thursday every November.

Church, the reason the Pilgrims left England is because they were tired of being told by the government, principally King George, how they could worship and live. They wanted to worship freely and not be told by the government how they could worship. The Pilgrims left England because of political and religious persecution. And this is why politics and religion will always be intertwined, and is why keep saying this:

Politics→Policies→People

You see Church, to some degree I feel like I'm living in exile today. Our country feels very pagan in so many ways. But, I want you to see what God told Jeremiah to tell the people who were exiled in pagan Babylon...as we are more and more pagan in America...

Jeremiah 29:7

7 But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

You understand, we are to seek the welfare of the country in which we reside and that's these United States of America. And church, you and I have to understand something about any country, about any society, about any government. Listen...every society, country and government is formed around a core worldview and the values coming from that worldview. And it's that worldview and those values that will guide the policies of a nation.

But, I get it...those calling the shots in our country today say they're "neutral" and have no religion but that's simply not true! They do have a religion...secular humanism and I state emphatically, their idea that they're "neutral" is a **myth and a lie.**

For you see, the progressive leaders of our day are guided by a worldview and set of principles that are: anti-God and anti-Christian. You understand, just as a Christian should act as a Christian no matter what office he or she holds. So will a Buddhist. So will a Muslim, and so will a secularist. They will hold true to their principles. Their current gods...(because they have their own trinity)...is DEI.



Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. You toe the line on those three gods or you will be cancelled, de-platformed, fired, maligned, shouted down, or worse. Yes...it seems...

- ***12 For we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you***
 - ***15 for the battle is not yours but God's***
 - ***20 Believe in the Lord your God, and you will be established; believe his prophets, and you will succeed***
 - ***21 Give thanks to the Lord, for his steadfast love endures forever***
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Church, this country was built on Christianity and at least three “Great Awakenings,” awakenings that were Christian, (and by and large), were led by the younger generations of that time. Here they are:
First Great Awakening: 1740-1742, led by Jonathan Edwards and George Whitfield
Second Great Awakening: early 1800’s, led by many, including Charles Finney
Third Great Awakening: 1857-1859, a prayer meeting in New York City that spread nationwide
Fourth Great Awakening: Late 1960’s – early 70’s, the “Jesus Movement”

It was the First Great Awakening that led to the Revolution. In fact, Ben Franklin said during the first great awakening:



“I could not walk through the streets of Philadelphia in the evening without hearing prayers and hymns streaming through the open windows of homes.” Revival swept this country and it swept right into Independence Hall in Philadelphia where the founders were literally laying the foundations of our country. See this picture...

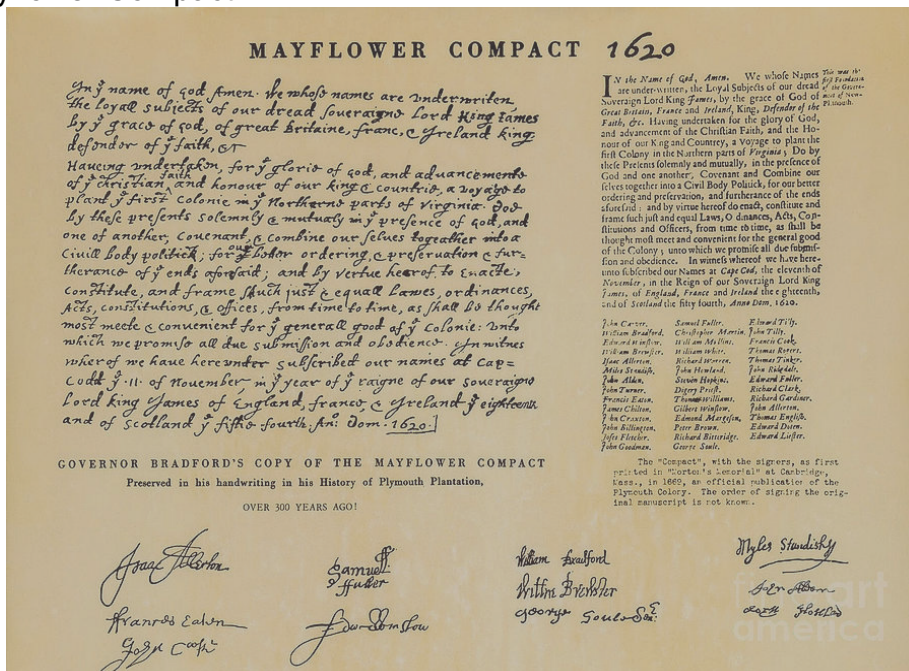


It was Ben Franklin who urged his colleagues to bring in a pastor in to lead in prayer when the delegates to the First Constitutional Convention in 1787 came to an impasse. Prayer to whom? God! And it was TO GOD that the Pilgrims gave thanks to at the first Thanksgiving in 1621...see the depiction.



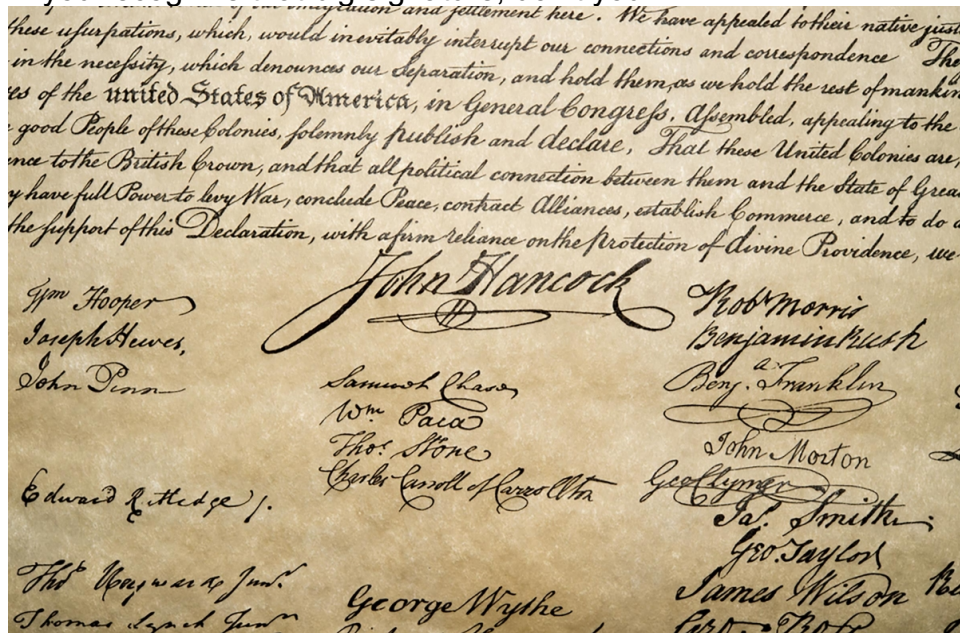
Now let me describe that to you. The first “Thanksgiving” came at the end of a very difficult year. It was 1620 and 102 Pilgrims boarded the Mayflower in southwest England and sailed across the Atlantic, and between sickness on the ship and the horrible conditions of the first winter, almost half died. And so, as they celebrated the first “Thanksgiving feast,” they were thankful to be alive. That feast lasted three days, and was attended by 53 Pilgrims and 90 Native American Indians.

Well, the Pilgrims realized they needed a form of government; and so, they wrote what came to be known as the “Mayflower Compact:”



a 200-word document which was dedicated to the “Glory of God” and the “general good of the colony.” It was this document that would become the precursor to the principles found in the Declaration of Independence and the US Constitution. And those principles are: faith in God, the natural equality of mankind, government by consent, and the rule of law. Little wonder, then, that John Adams referred to the Mayflower Compact and the Pilgrims’ arrival as the “birth of our nation.”

Speaking of the Declaration of Independence, did you know 53 of the 56 signers were Christian. BTW, take a look...you recognize that big signature, don't you?



That's John Hancock's signature on the Declaration of Independence. He was a member of Congress and Governor of Massachusetts. He said:

"I pray the spiritual kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ may be continually increasing until the whole earth shall be filled with His glory." John Hancock

Oh, the "woke police" and the CRT agitators and the 1619 project folks, they don't like it when you quote real history...not revisionist history. Oh church, Thanksgiving and the founding of this country were undeniably rooted in Christianity. And may I remind us what Scripture teaches us about nations:

Proverbs 14:34

Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.

Proverbs 29:2

When the righteous increase, the people rejoice, but when the wicked rule, the people groan.

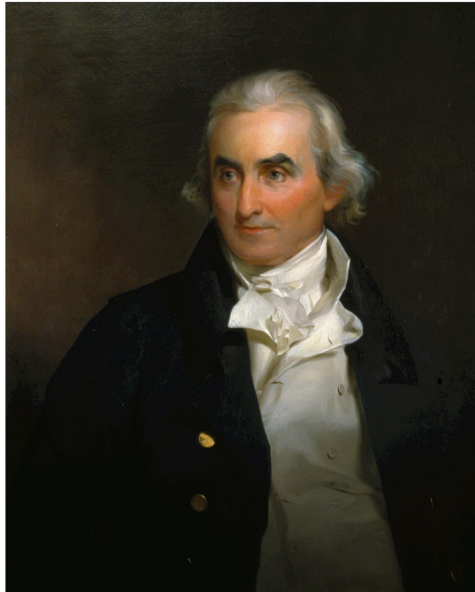
Psalms 9:15-17

¹⁵ The nations have sunk in the pit that they made; in the net that they hid, their own foot has been caught. ¹⁶ The LORD has made himself known; he has executed judgment; the wicked are snared in the work of their own hands.

Psalms 33:12

¹² Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!

Oh, we were most definitely and undeniably founded on Christian principles and that's why we'll give thanks to God on Thursday! More evidence: William Patterson, a signer of the Constitution...



he was placed on the Supreme Court by George Washington (for two decades). He said, ***“The key to sound government is through the leadership of the Holy Spirit when reading God’s Holy Word.”*** William Patterson

Noah Webster...this man... (think of Webster’s Dictionary):



considered the “Father of American Education,” said, ***“[T]he Christian religion is the most important and one of the first things in which all children under a free government ought to be instructed. No truth is more evident than that the Christian religion must be the basis of any government intended to secure the rights and privileges of a free people.”*** Noah Webster

He would be kicked out of the NEA today. But some say, “Oh, what about the wall of separation of church and state in our constitution.” Folks, it’s not there folk. We’ve been lied to. Listen, in 1801, a group of Baptist churches in Danbury, CT were seeing that the legislature was favoring other denominations. So, in October 1801, they wrote a letter to Thomas Jefferson complaining, that their religious liberties were potentially going to be stripped from them by the legislature. They asked for his guidance. President Jefferson replied in January of 1802 with this letter:



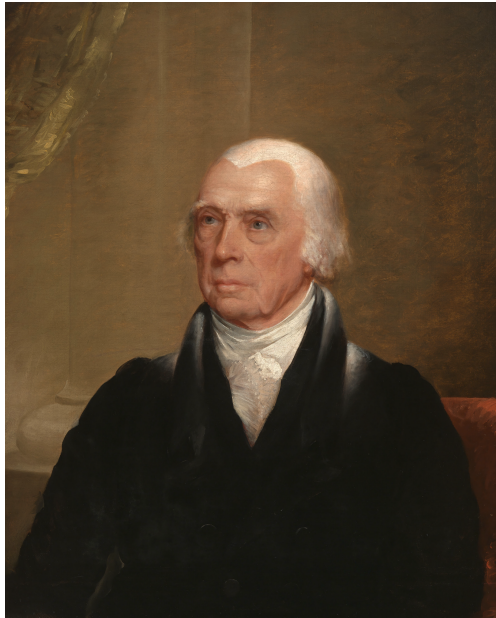
As you can see, it's not a long letter. Only three paragraphs. Here's the key paragraph:
“Believing with you that religion is a matter which lies solely between Man & his God, that he owes account to none other for his faith or his worship, that the legitimate powers of government reach actions only, & not opinions, I contemplate with sovereign reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature should ‘make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,’ thus building a wall of separation between Church & State.” Thomas Jefferson Jan. 1, 1802

Do you see? IT'S ALL ABOUT THE STATE STAYING OUT OF THE CHURCH...not the church staying out of the state. Church family, liberty is God's idea...not mans. It was Jesus who came to set us free! Free from ourselves...free from sin. Do you actually believe those in power in Washington today don't have an agenda when it comes to God...oh they do...they say **they are God**...they say: we will make the laws. Isaiah 33:22 says this:

Isaiah 33:22

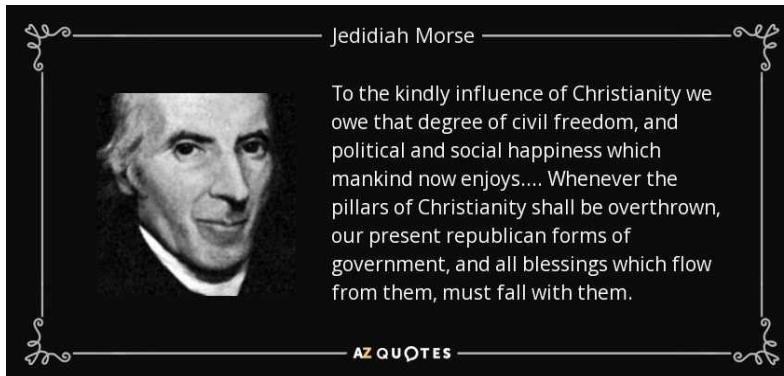
22 For the LORD is our judge; the Lord is our lawgiver; the LORD is our king; he will save us.

James Madison understood this:



He would become our 4th President (the President after Jefferson, from 1809-1817) and it was Madison who was a major architect, with Jefferson, of our Constitution. He said this:
“We have staked the whole of all our political institutions upon the capacity of mankind for self-government, upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves, to control ourselves, to sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God.” James Madison, 4th US President

The 10 Commandments folks...not the Koran...not the Book of Mormon, not the writings of Buddha, Gandhi or Confucius...the TEN COMMANDMENTS. Jedidiah Morse, known as the Father of American Geography, said...



“To the kindly influence of Christianity, we owe that degree of freedom and political and social happiness which mankind now enjoys... Whenever the pillars of Christianity shall be overthrown, our present republican forms of government—and blessings which flow from them—must fall with them.”

Did you know even in our “North Carolina Preamble” speaks of Almighty God. Written in 1868 it says:
“We the people of the State of North Carolina, grateful to Almighty God, the Sovereign Ruler of Nations, for our civil, political, and religious liberties, and acknowledge our dependence upon Him.” North Carolina Preamble, 1868

The Psalmist was right when he said in Psalm 127:1...

Psalm 127:1a

Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.

Yes, today church family, we can feel a lot like the people of Judah in Jehoshaphat's day. We can feel dismayed, because the elites run everything. They run mainstream media and all of social media, Tik Tok is having such a powerful over our children, Big Tech controls even what we see in our search engines and we can feel outnumbered and intimidated as they seek to control us and indoctrinate our children to their godless, pagan agendas. They want control the way America looks and how America thinks.

And so here we are today...where our kids are being taught at 5-years-of-age that there is no biological sex or that by their skin color, they are either an "oppressor" or are "being oppressed;" that's CRT...and understand this, CRT in a nutshell is this: You call everything and everyone a racist until you control that institution.

Can you see how far we've fallen from the first Thanksgiving in 1621...from this...praying to God in thanksgiving...



to the place where we have to look over our shoulder to pray in public...that it's wrong to stand for the National Anthem or respect our police...that it's wrong to love this country and to want to see it prosper? No, see it again...

Jeremiah 29:7

7 But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

Dr. Al Mohler is right. He describes our role as Christians:

“Christians are told to work for good and for God’s glory in this fallen world—because we are commanded to. Our ultimate citizenship is in heaven—the city of God—but we are also now citizens of earthly kingdoms, and not by accident. This means Christians do have a political responsibility and that politics does matter. Governments matter. Laws matter. Elections matter. Everything matters. But how are we to think about this responsibility? What motivates and guides us? The answer is love. Love for God and for your fellow man.” Dr. Albert Mohler, *The Gathering Storm*

Church, God's sovereign plan for time and eternity will not be thwarted, not in this country or anywhere around the world. He is in 100% in control today! So, there shouldn't be any anxiety in us. No despair. Our job is to continue to contend for the faith and to be a thankful people, seeking to love and win: men and women, boys and girls to Jesus!

Today, I sought to remind us of the fact that we were indeed a nation founded on Christian principles and that's why we will give thanks to God on Thursday. But, church, WE NEED ANOTHER SPIRITUAL AWAKENING IN THIS COUNTRY! You say it can't happen again? Maybe. But anything is possible with God...and His ways aren't our ways and His thoughts aren't our thoughts... See this:
Jesus is on the throne, so we march on!

Yes, it seems we're surrounded by a great horde...now living in a culture and our country that have grown so confused...but, the church can't be confused, because we have the truth. We must live out the Word of God. We must not be afraid to contend for the faith and to speak truth in love...with compassion, with kindness, with respect...but we must be crystal clear that the Bible is THE authority for all of life...that's our responsibility, as followers of Christ! The culture is confused, but we're not! Jesus said... "I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against us."

I'm going to ask you now to do something different...it's been a different day...please come forward...we're going to pray for our country and give thanks to the Lord!

As you come, hear these words, one last time:

- ¹² For we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you
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