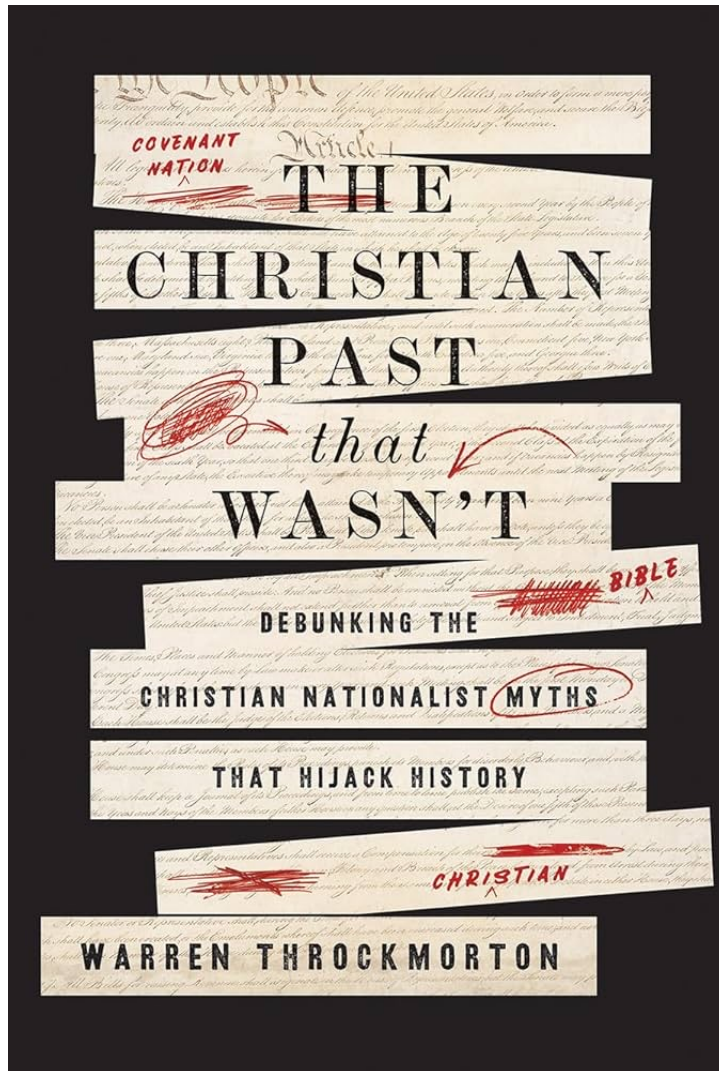
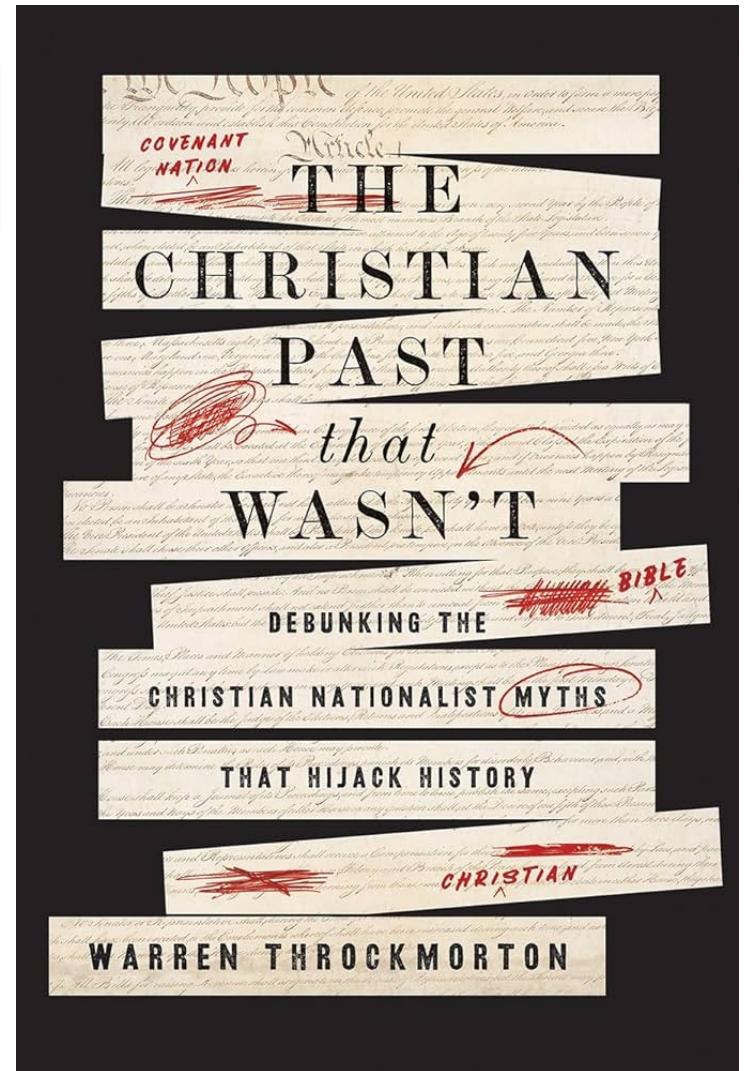




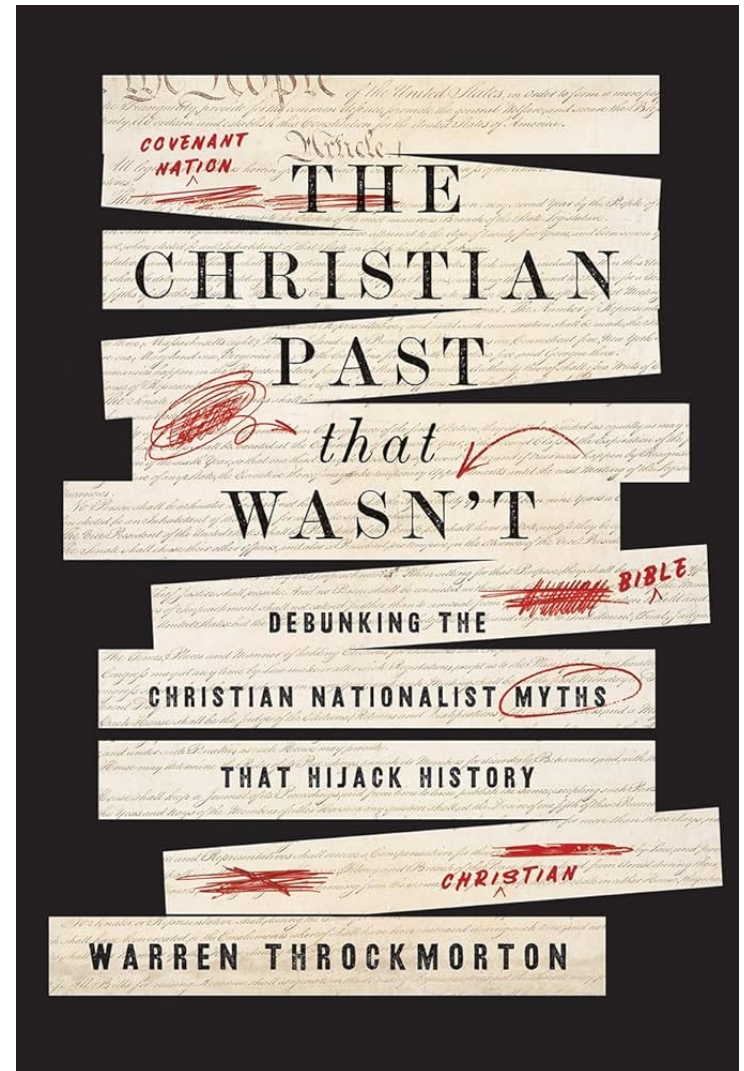
THE SEVEN MYTHS of CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM

1. America = Covenant Homeland
for European Protestants

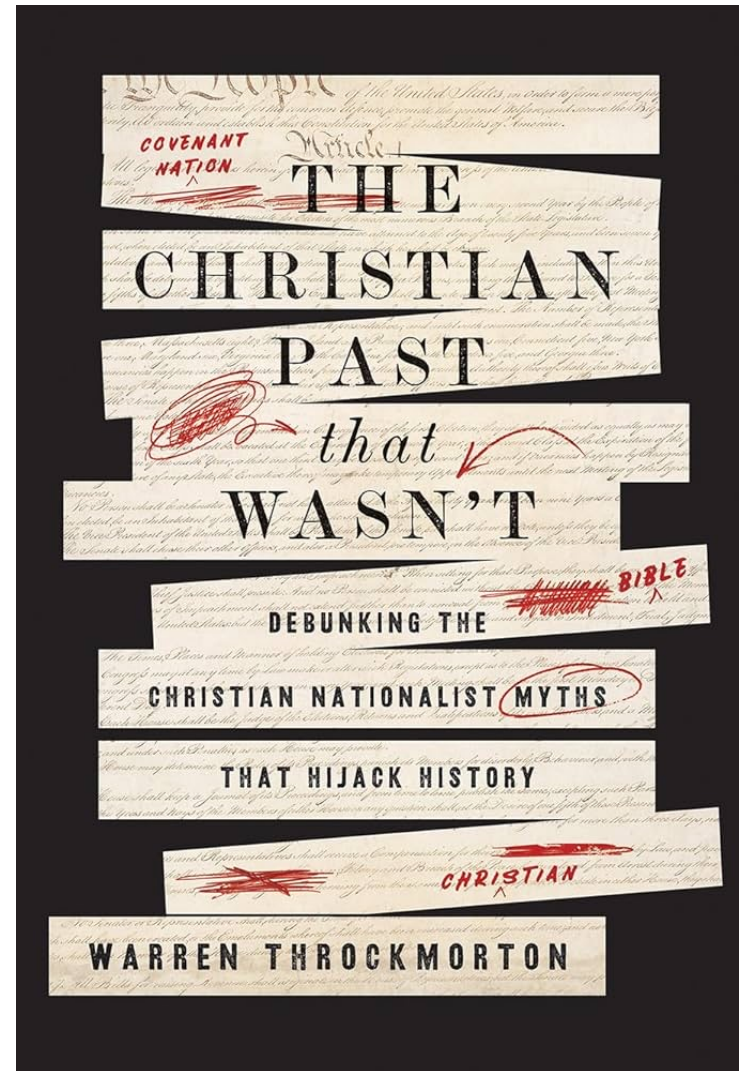
***TRUTH: no such covenant
ever existed, nor exists today***



Christian nationalist storytellers embellish actual events and craft new ones to create a narrative for a Christian past that wasn't...there is no historical record for a so-called covenant dedication prayer (from 1607), but even if (one pastor prayed such a prayer) that wouldn't be binding today.



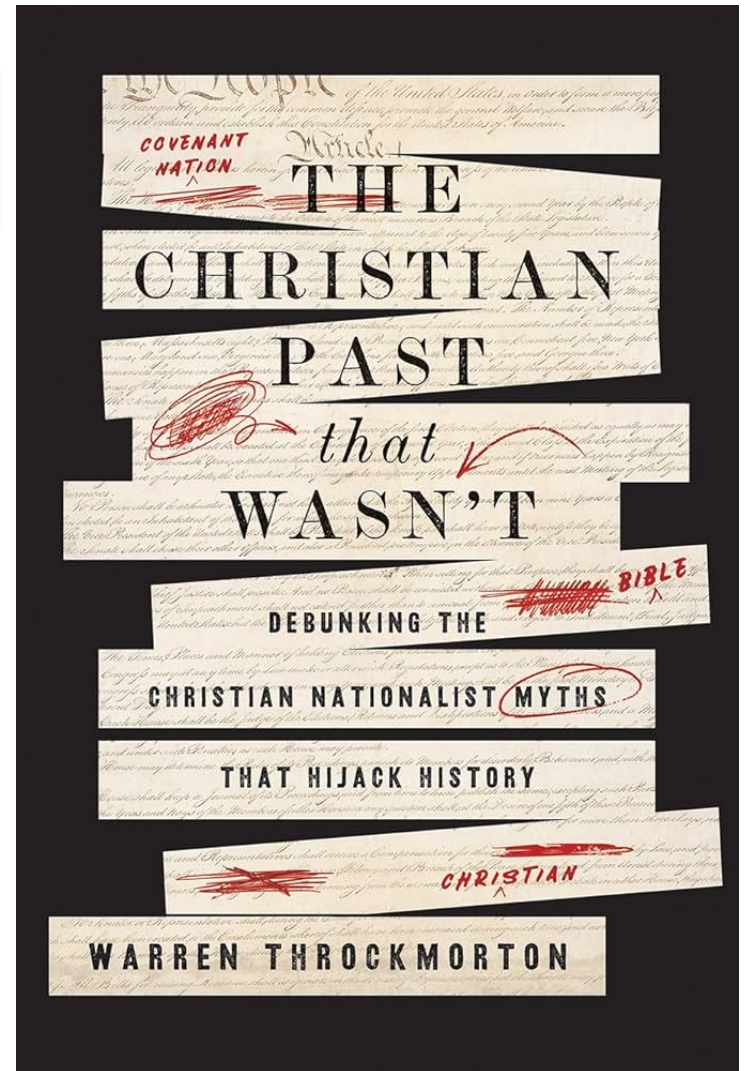
Nothing is recorded (anywhere) about George Washington (ever) mentioning the God of Israel or the name of Jesus or any specific covenant...and no official act of Congress dedicated the nation to God. There is no evidence for the supernatural or covenantal claims of Christian nationalists.



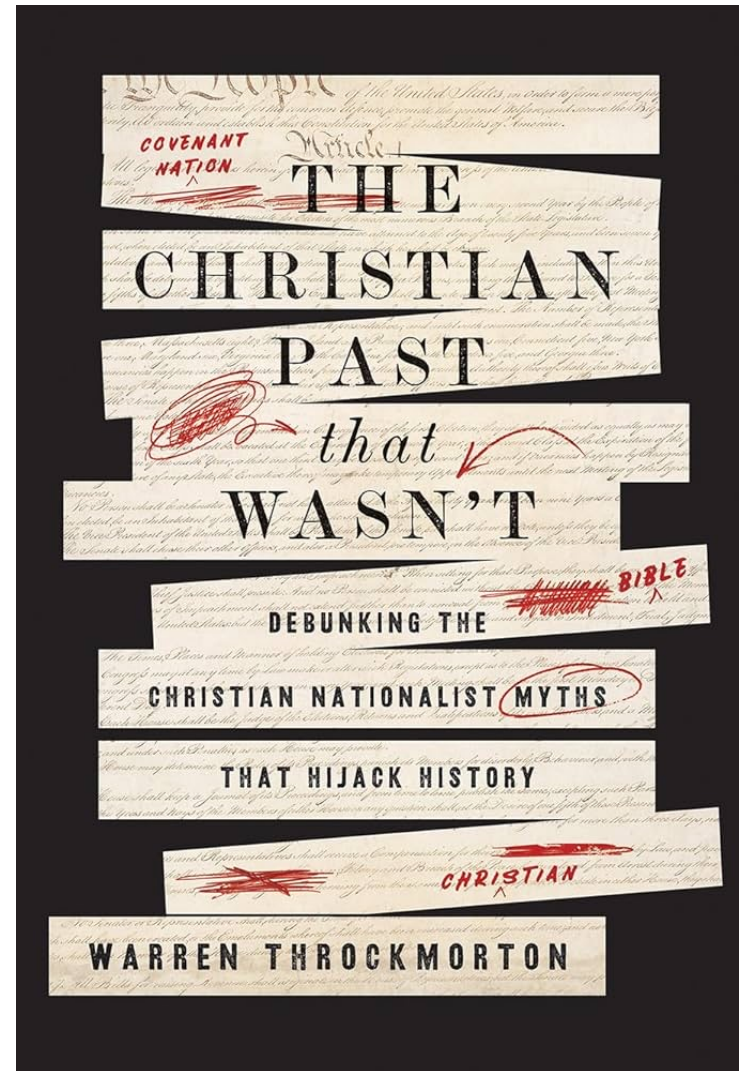
THE SEVEN MYTHS of CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM

1. America = Covenant Homeland
for European Protestants
2. American = Christian nation
b/c Colonies had state church

***TRUTH: no, not all, and...
that ≠ “Christian nation”***

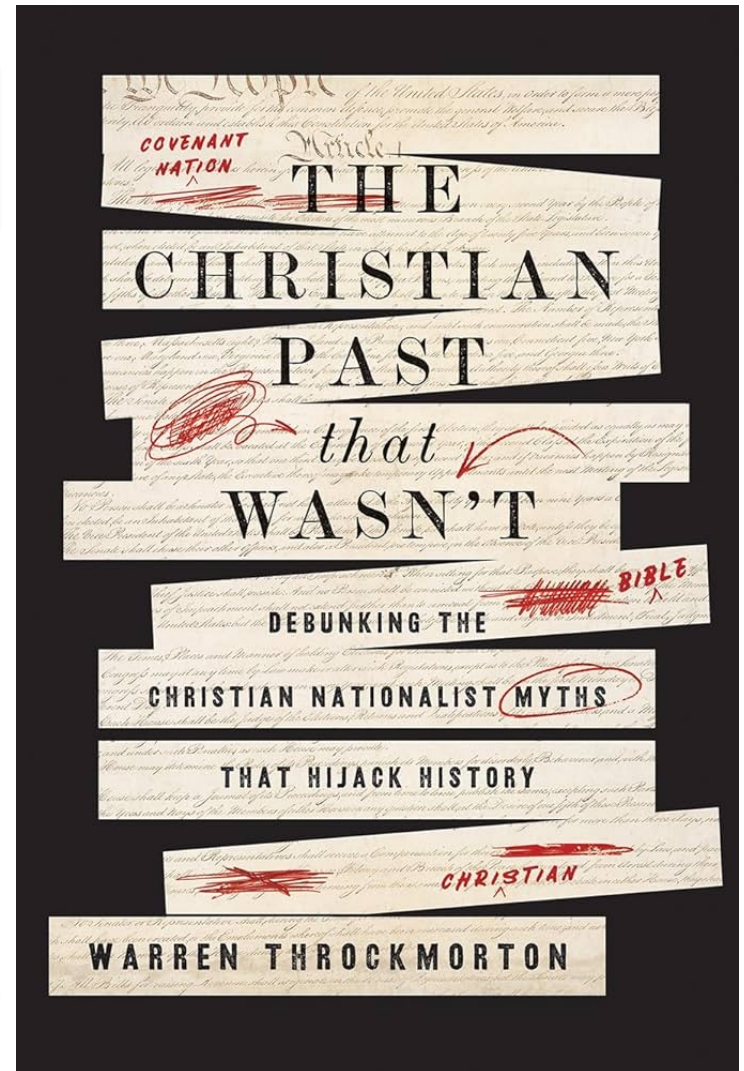


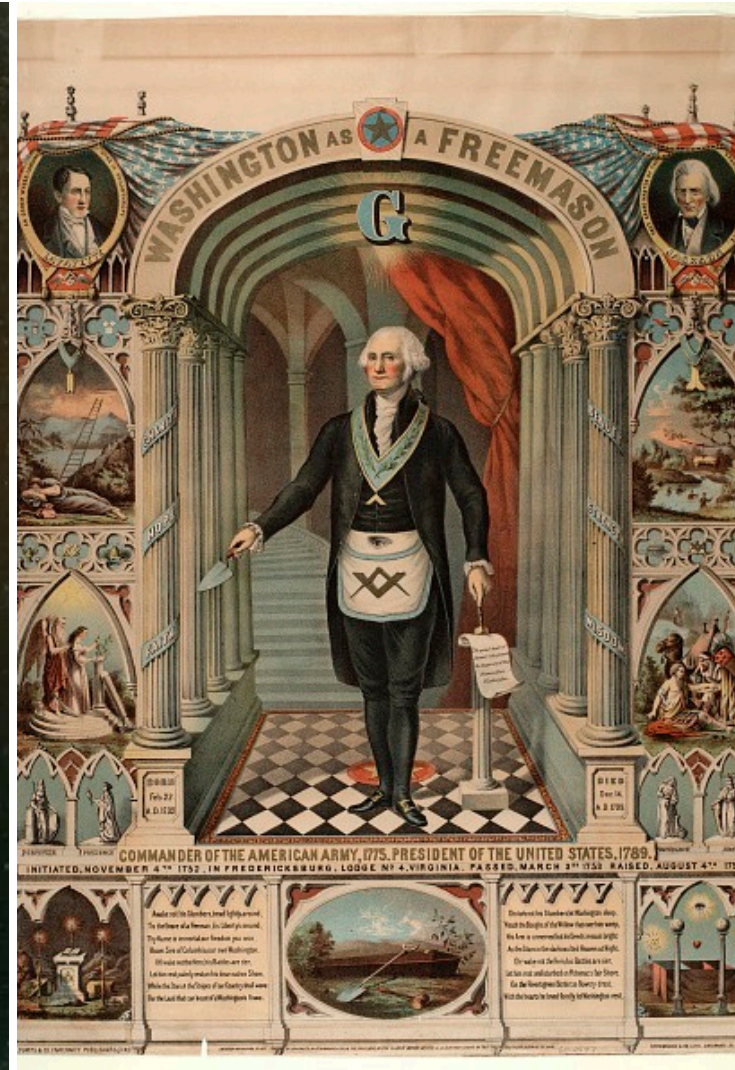
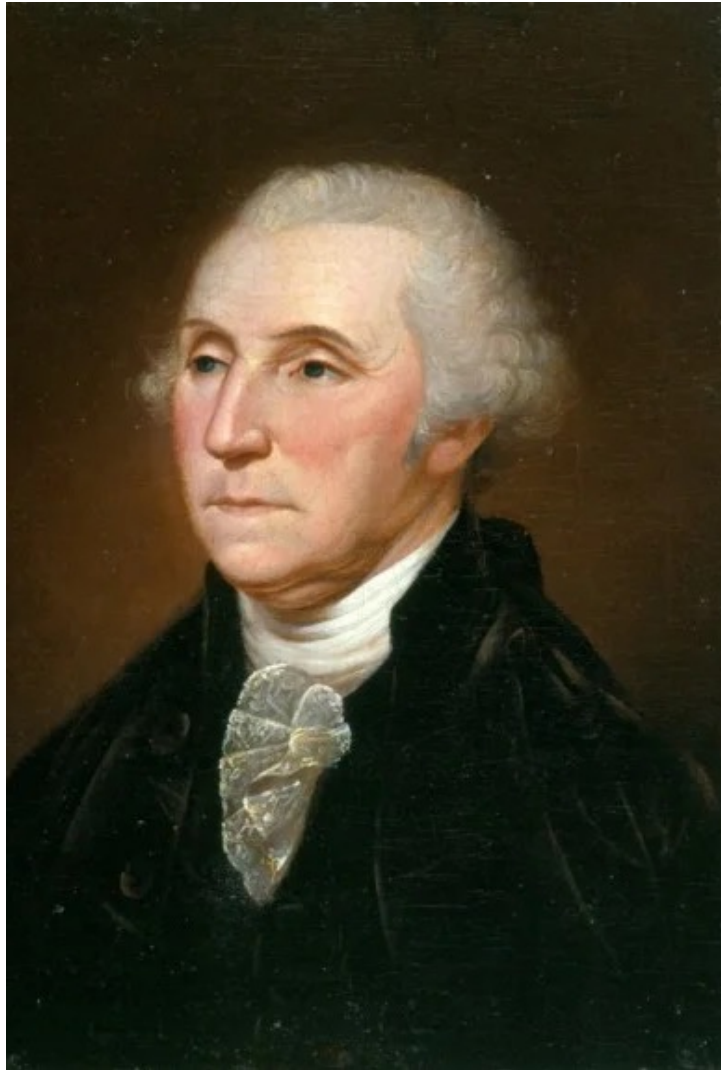
All states disestablished Christianity by 1833...the 14th amendment, ratified in 1868, contains a due-process clause (protecting citizens from a state establishment of religion as well as a federal establishment.)



THE SEVEN MYTHS of CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM

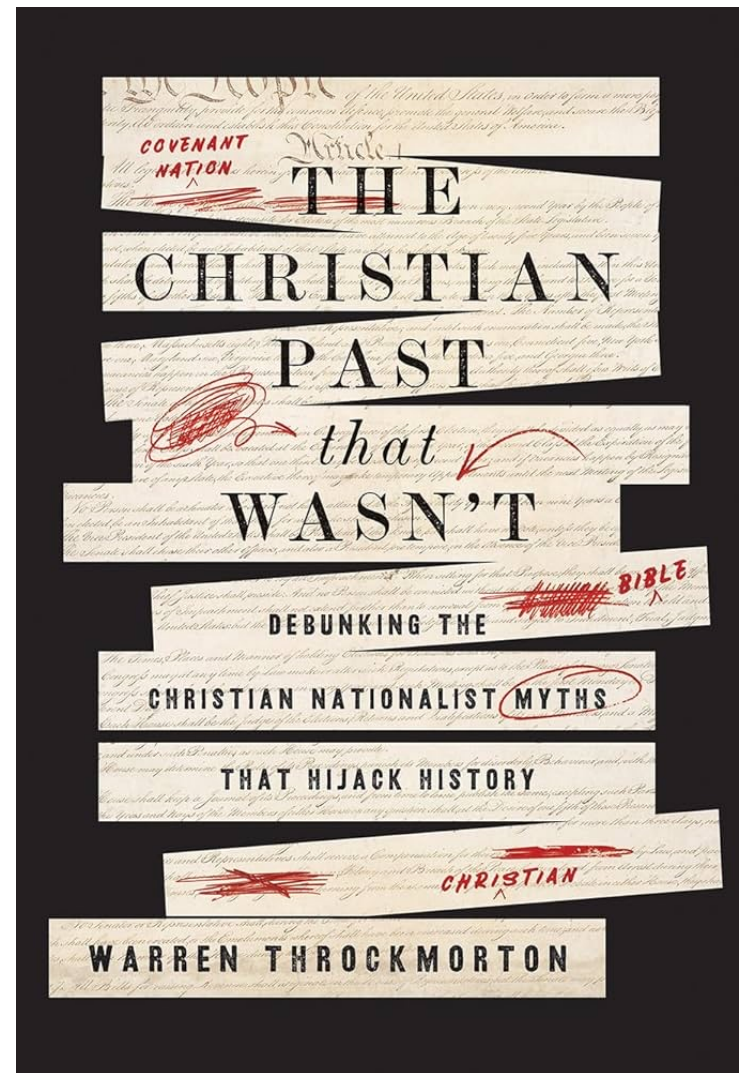
1. America = Covenant Homeland
for European Protestants
 2. American = Christian nation
b/c Colonies had state church
 3. America = Christian nation b/c
Founders = orthodox Christians
- TRUTH: no, they weren't, and...**



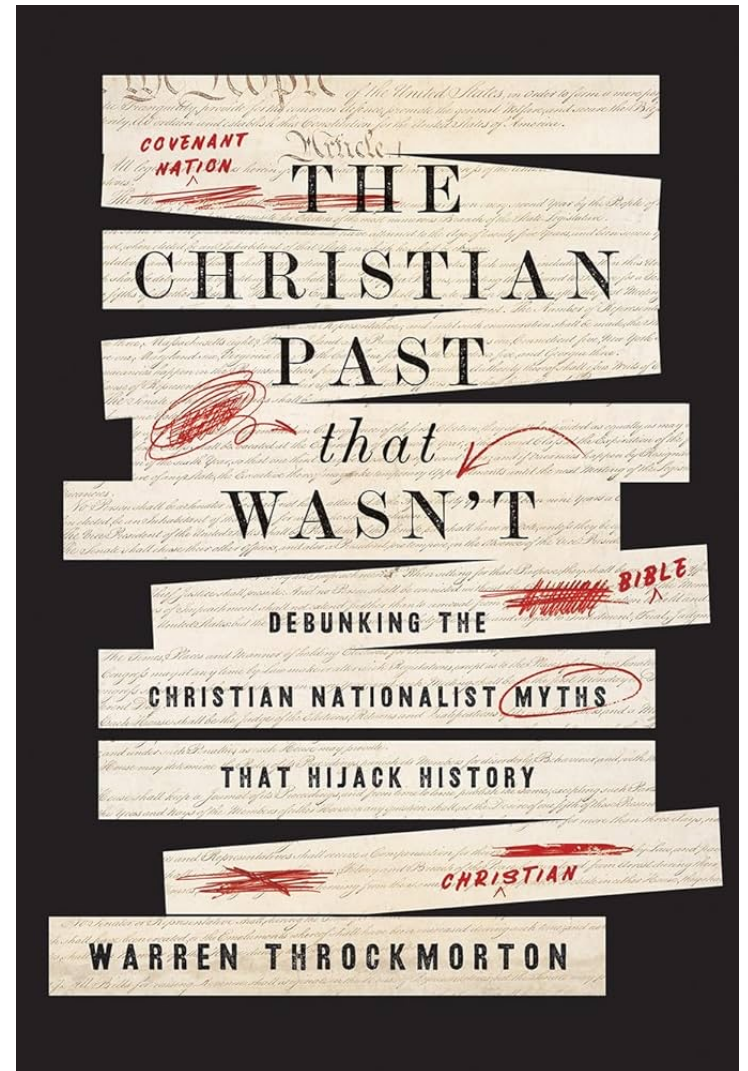




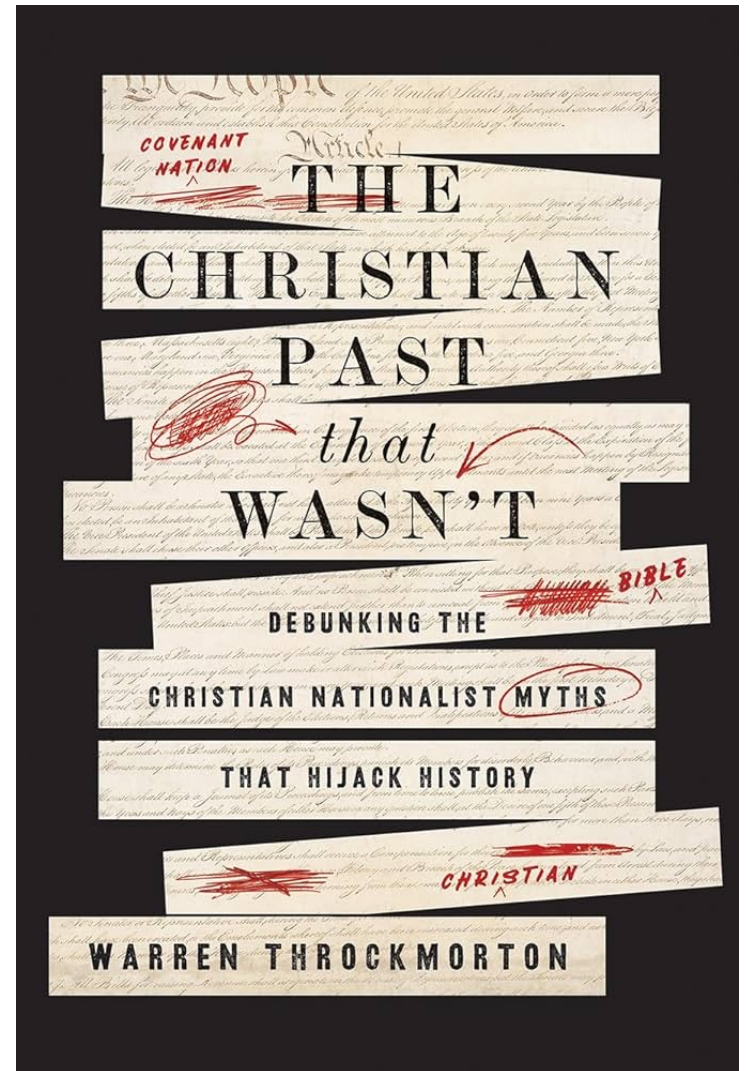
It is possible to be correct about the religious views of the founders but incorrect about their views on separation of church and state. (Also:) in the main, the founders were not orthodox Christians, (rather, they were best described as believing in) *theistic rationalism*.



Theistic rationalism is a hybrid belief system mixing elements of natural religion, Christianity, and rationalism, with rationalism as the predominant element...many of the founders were willing to define God in whatever way their reason indicated and to jettison Christian beliefs (accordingly)...



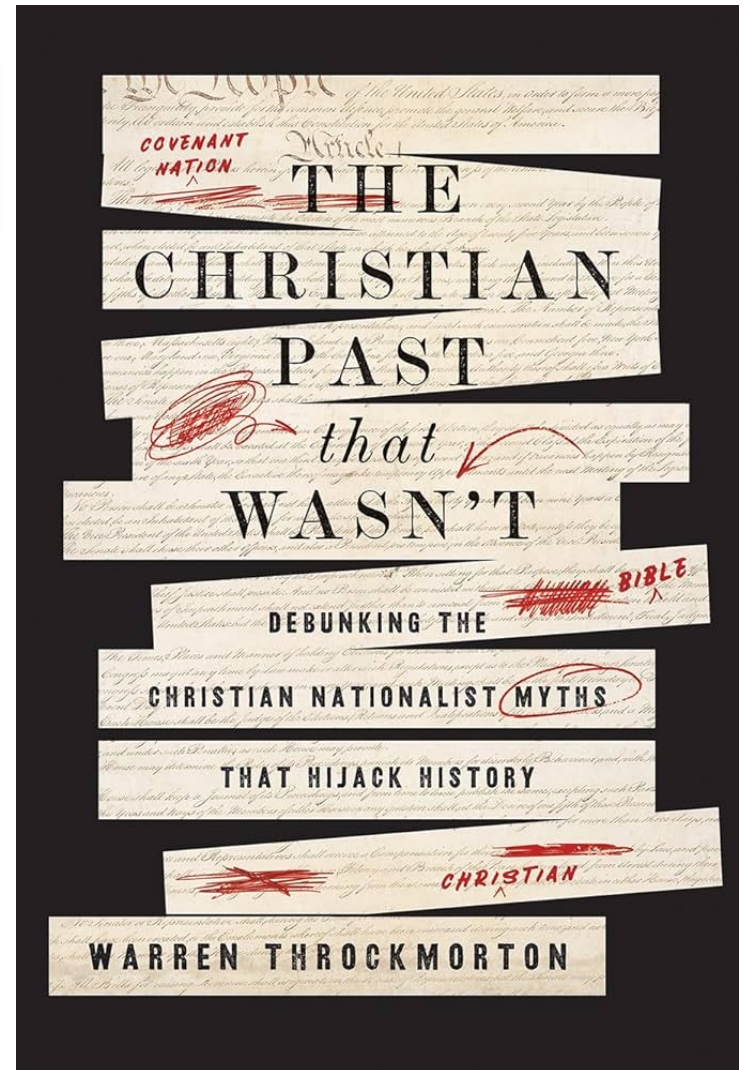
Washington never gave any indication he believed in the Trinity, the deity of Christ, or the resurrection (and John Adams and Thomas Jefferson didn't believe in them either.)



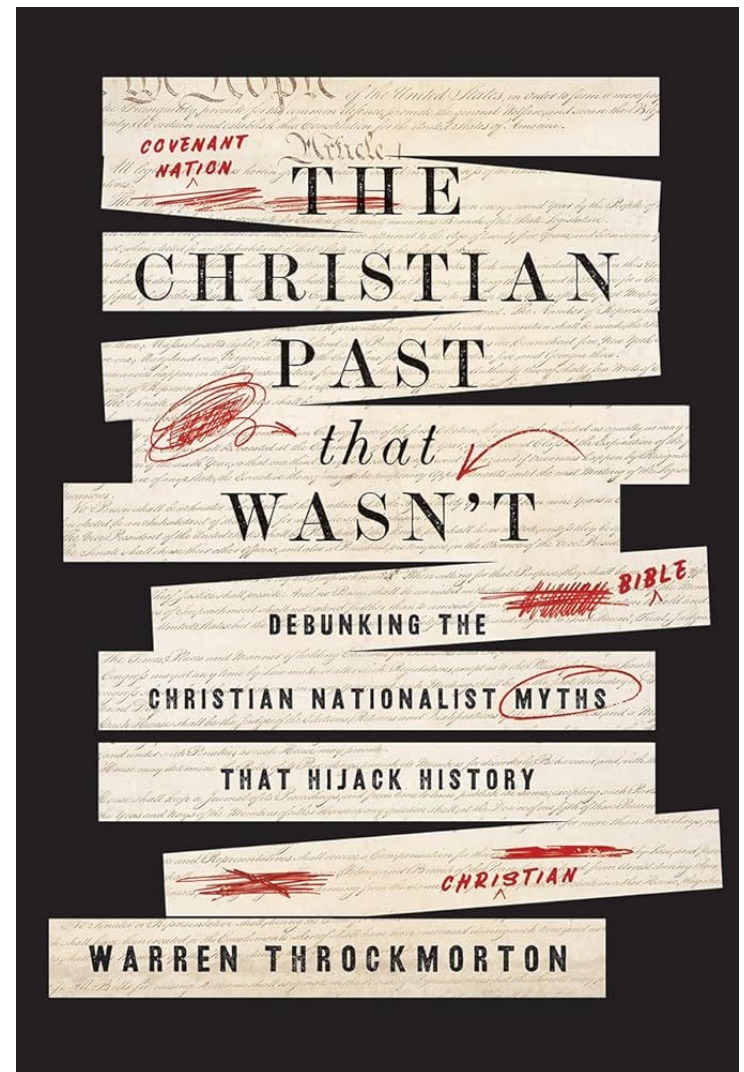
THE SEVEN MYTHS of CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM

4. The Founders created
a Christian government

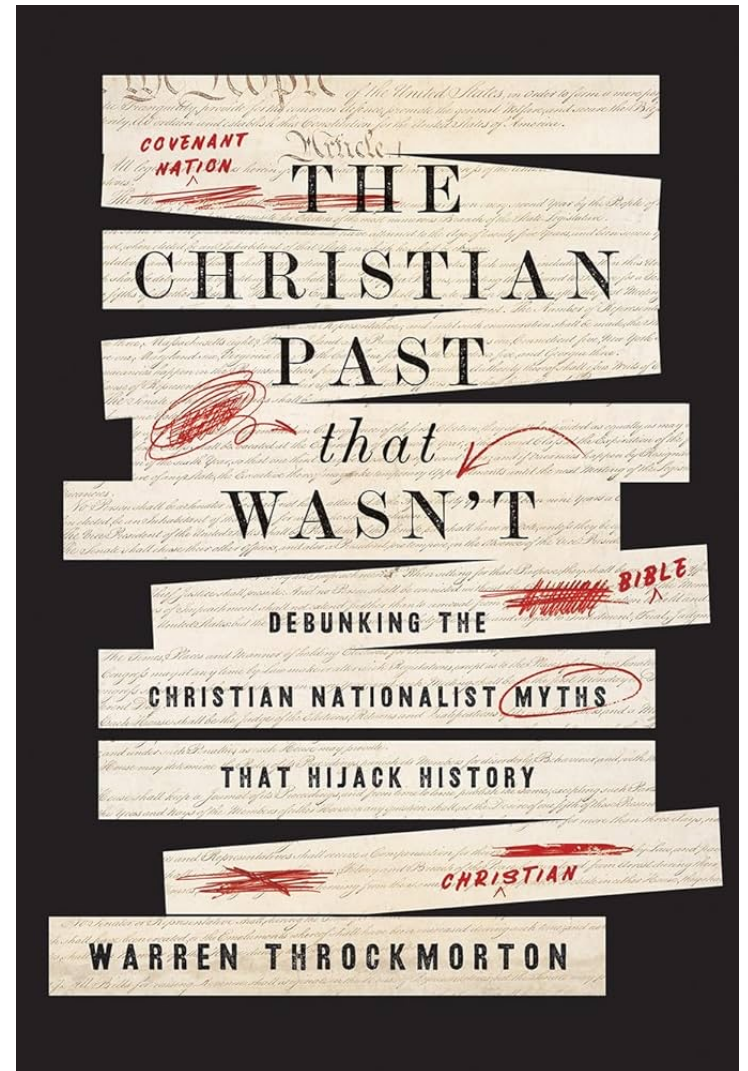
***TRUTH: no, they really didn't;
in fact, quite the opposite***



There is nothing directly prescriptive about the Declaration (of Independence), meaning it contains no laws with penalties for violation (so even if it did mention or reflect biblical Christianity, that wouldn't make it legally binding or legally equivalent to the Constitution.)



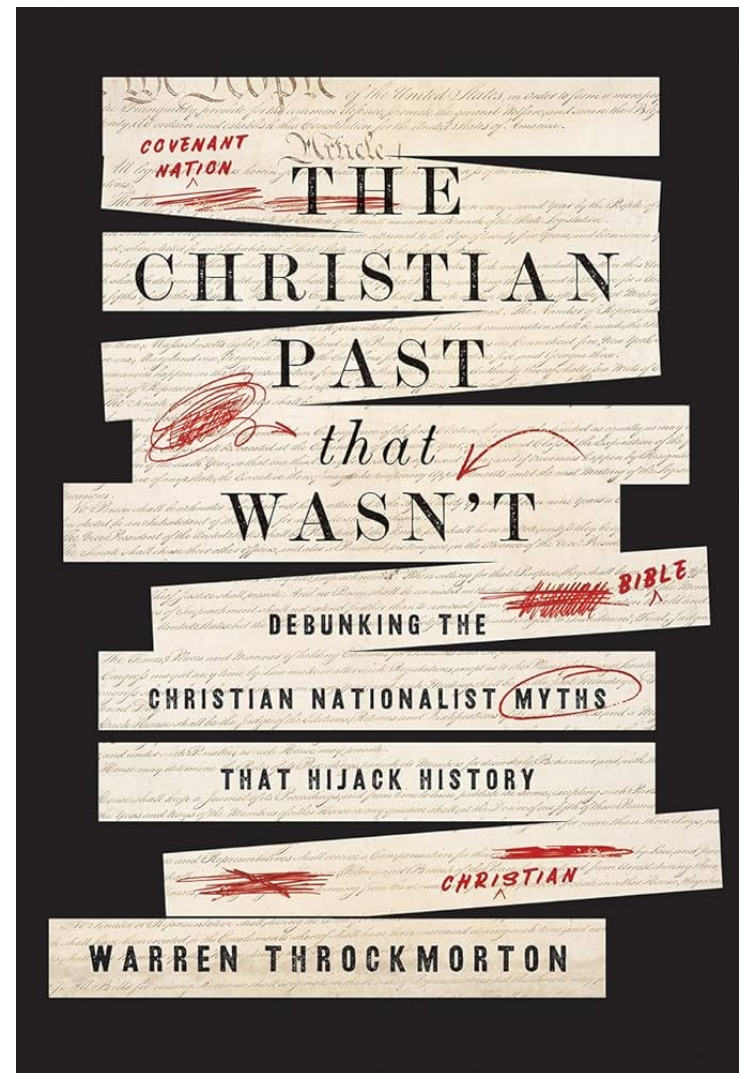
The First Amendment explicitly laid out what kind of nation we're meant to be. It's not unclear...the first clause of the first amendment bars government from any law establishing religion.



**CONGRESS SHALL
MAKE NO LAW
RESPECTING AN ESTABLISHMENT
OF RELIGION
OR PROHIBITING THE FREE EXERCISE THEREOF
OR ABRIDGING THE
FREEDOM OF SPEECH
OR OF THE PRESS
OR THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE
PEACEABLY TO ASSEMBLE
AND TO PETITION THE GOVERNMENT FOR A
REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES**

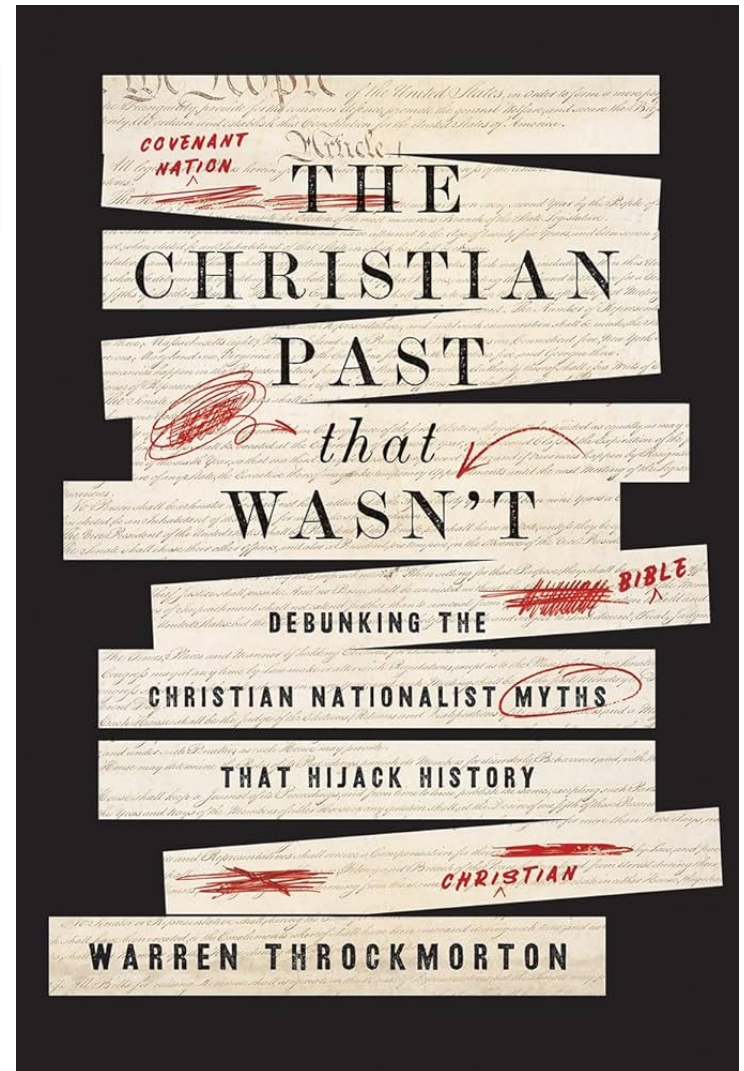
FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION | THE BILL OF RIGHTS | DECEMBER 15, 1791

The First Amendment explicitly laid out what kind of nation we're meant to be. It's not unclear...the first clause of the first amendment bars government from any law establishing religion. And that is exactly what the separation of church and state is. It's the very definition of it.

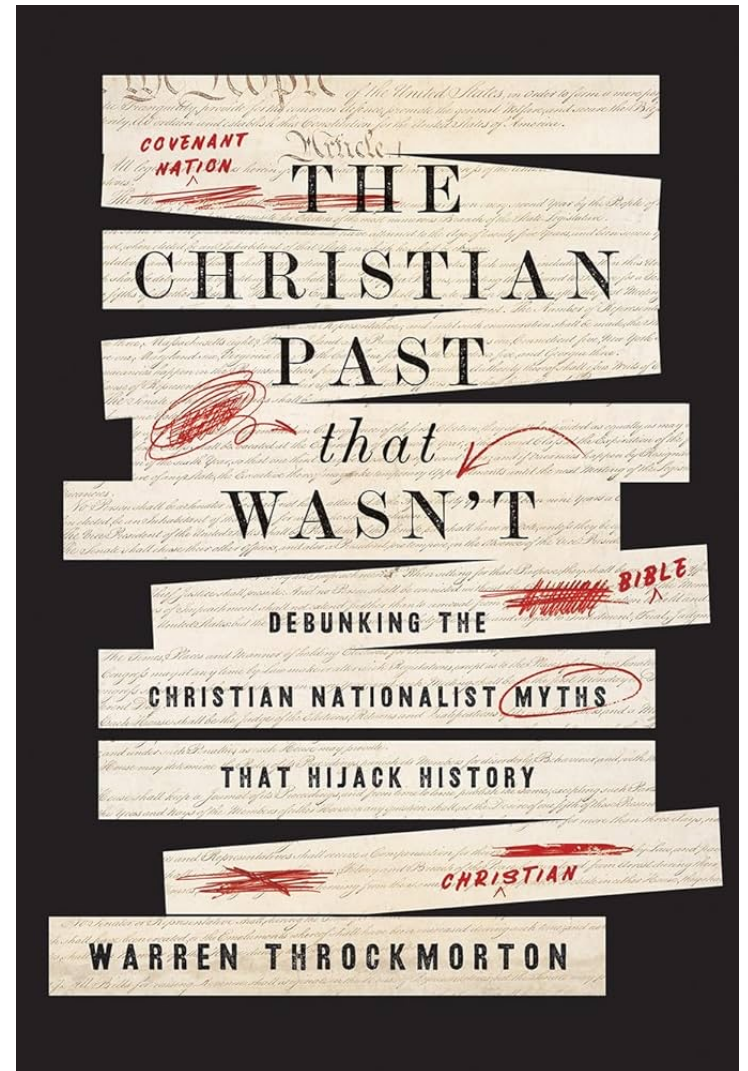


THE SEVEN MYTHS of CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM

4. The Founders created
a Christian government
5. The charter documents are
based on the Bible/Christianity
***TRUTH: no, they really aren't,
and no evidence speaks to it***



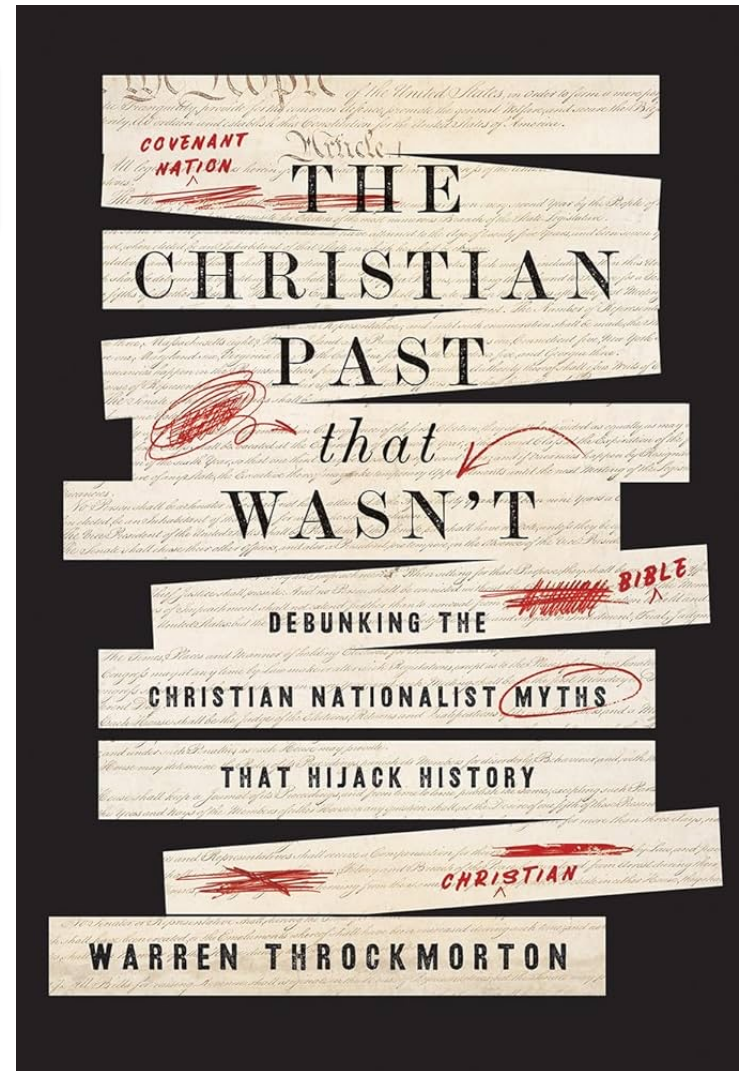
The Constitution contains no reference to God or religion other than to forbid a religious test for public service in Article VI. There is no reference to, or citing of, the Bible...(and) the measure to forbid any religious test for public service was passed unanimously (at the Constitutional Convention.)



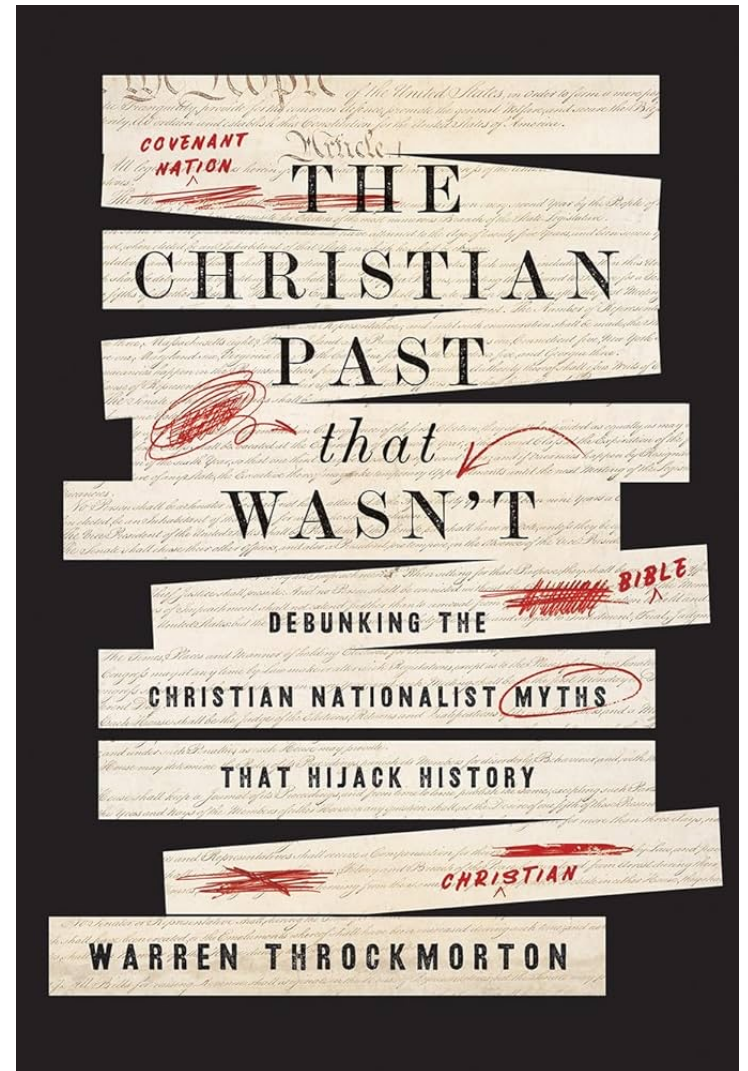
THE SEVEN MYTHS of CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM

4. The Founders created a Christian government
5. The charter documents are based on the Bible/Christianity
6. Our virtues justify our sins

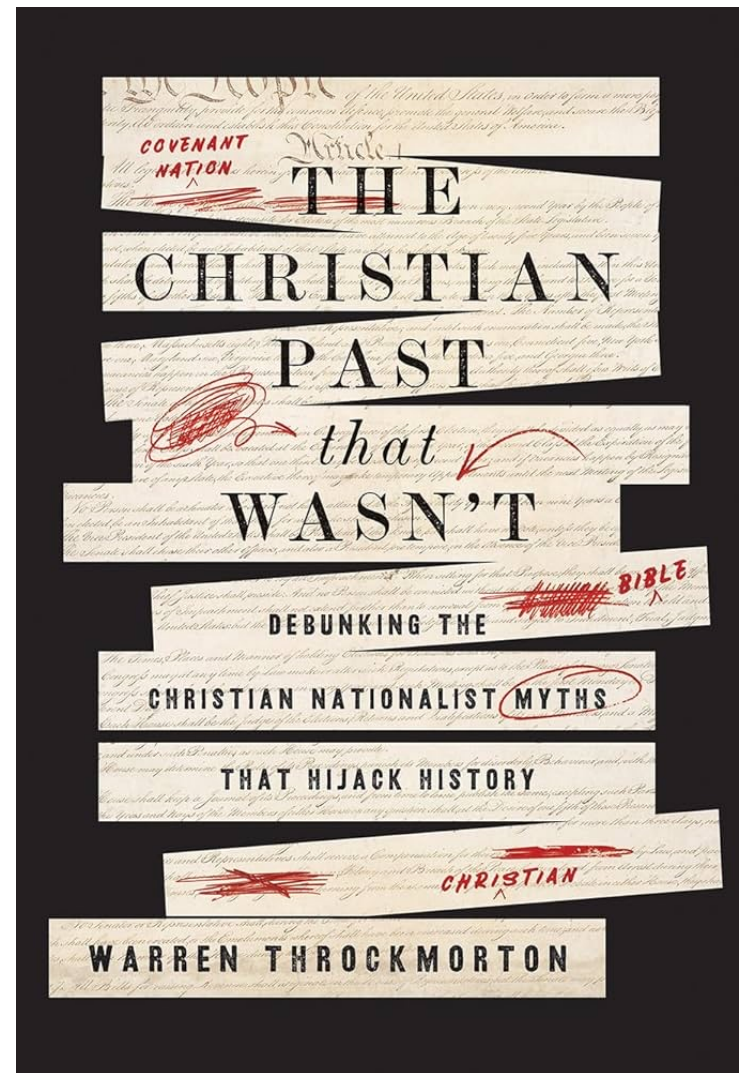
***TRUTH: no, they really don't,
in any way/shape/form***



Cognitive dissonance is most painful when the dissonant information disputes how we see ourselves. When people do something inconsistent with what is important to them, they are motivated to reduce the dissonance in a way that justifies what they did...



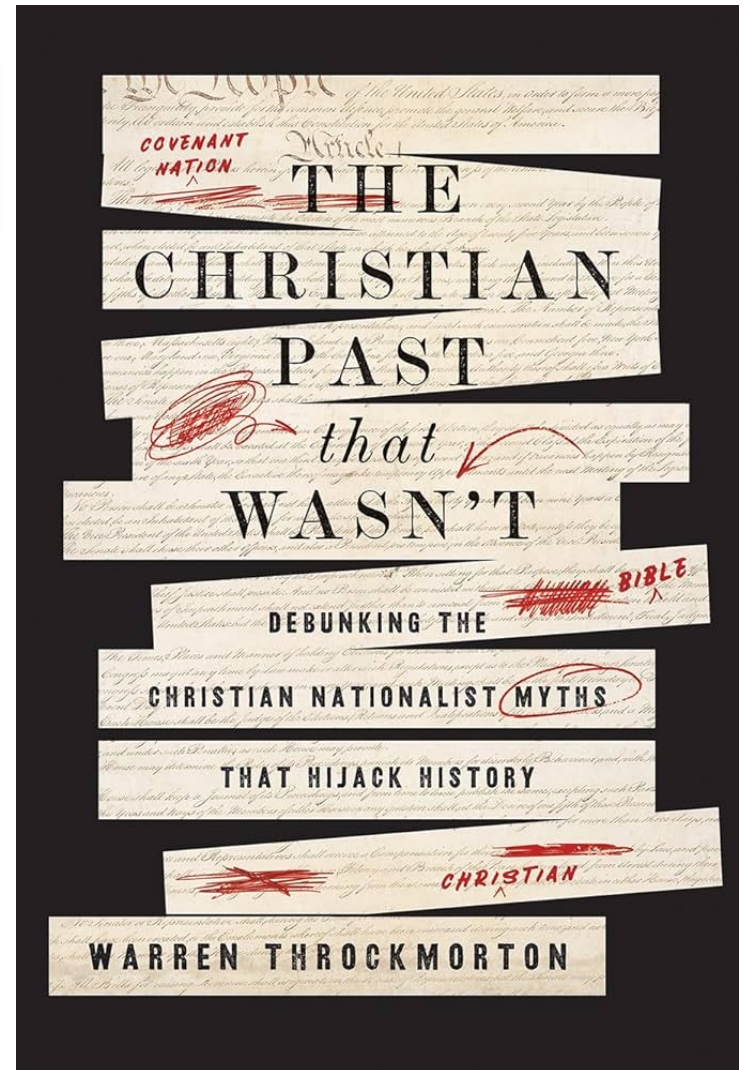
The alternative is to change one's self concept or one's central belief. Christian nationalists want to see themselves as members of a good religion and a good nation, so one must either change the history or change the religion to (create such a narrative...)

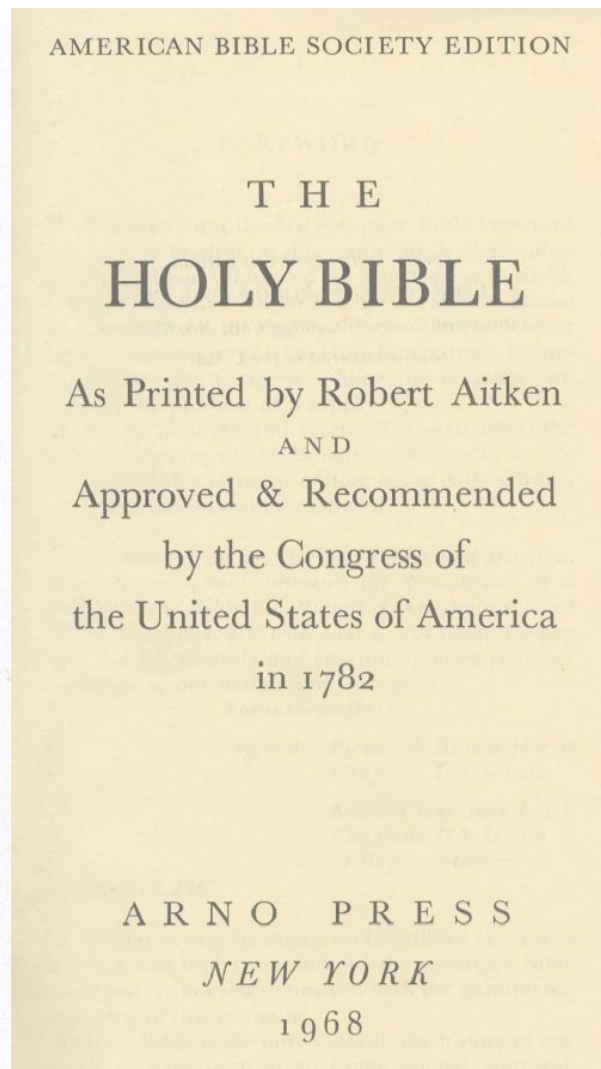
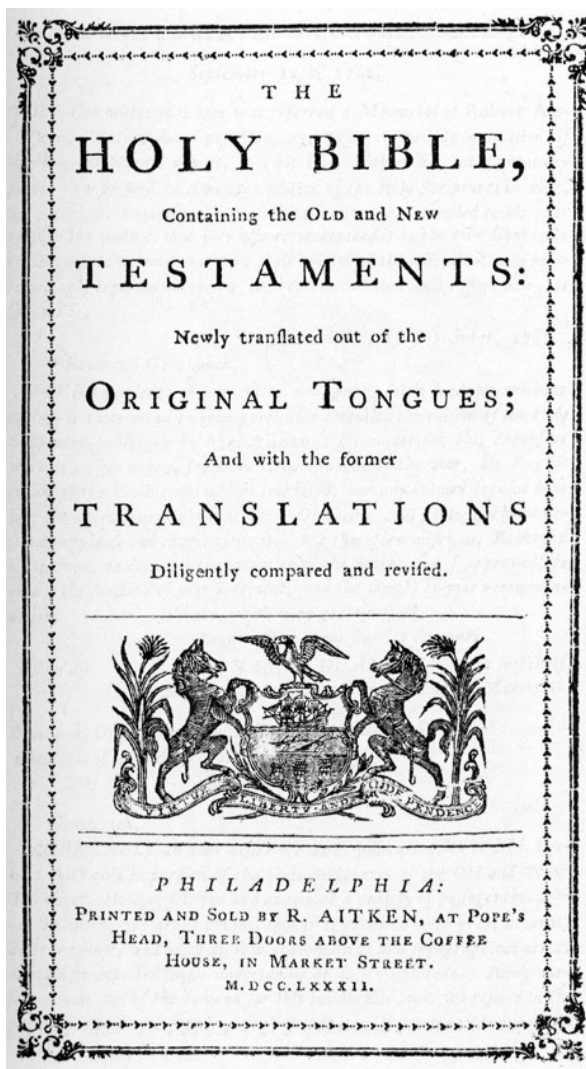


THE SEVEN MYTHS of CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM

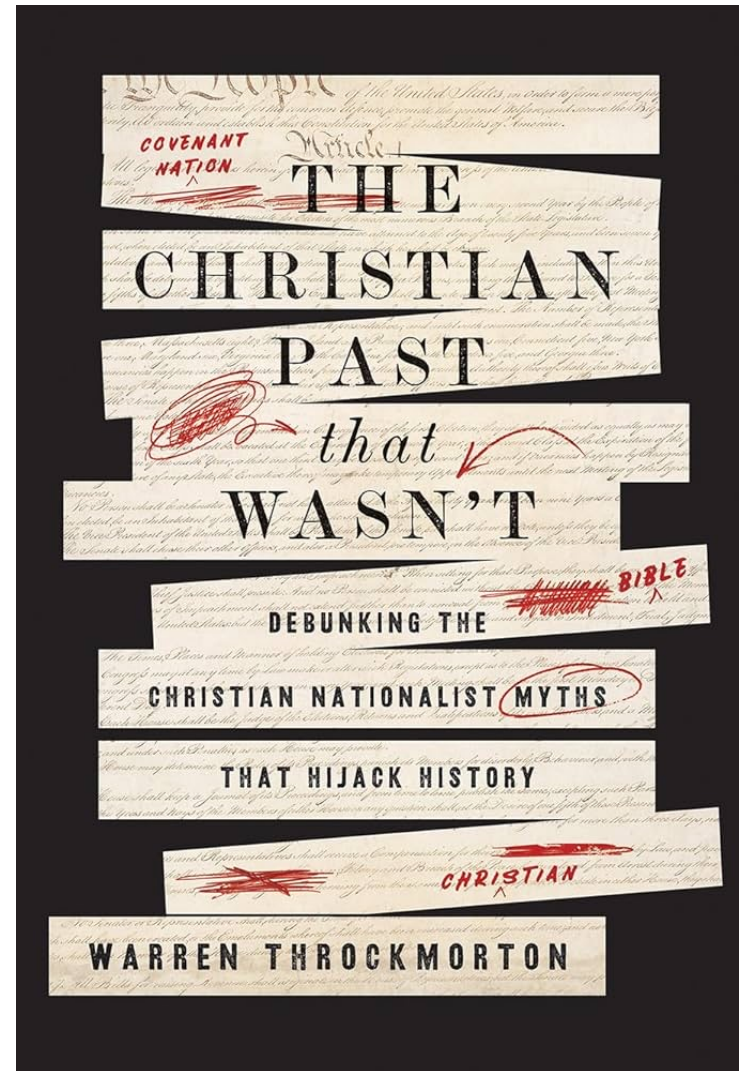
7. Christianity should be promoted in public education

TRUTH: expressly violates the 1st Amendment AND creates no-win scenarios for teachers

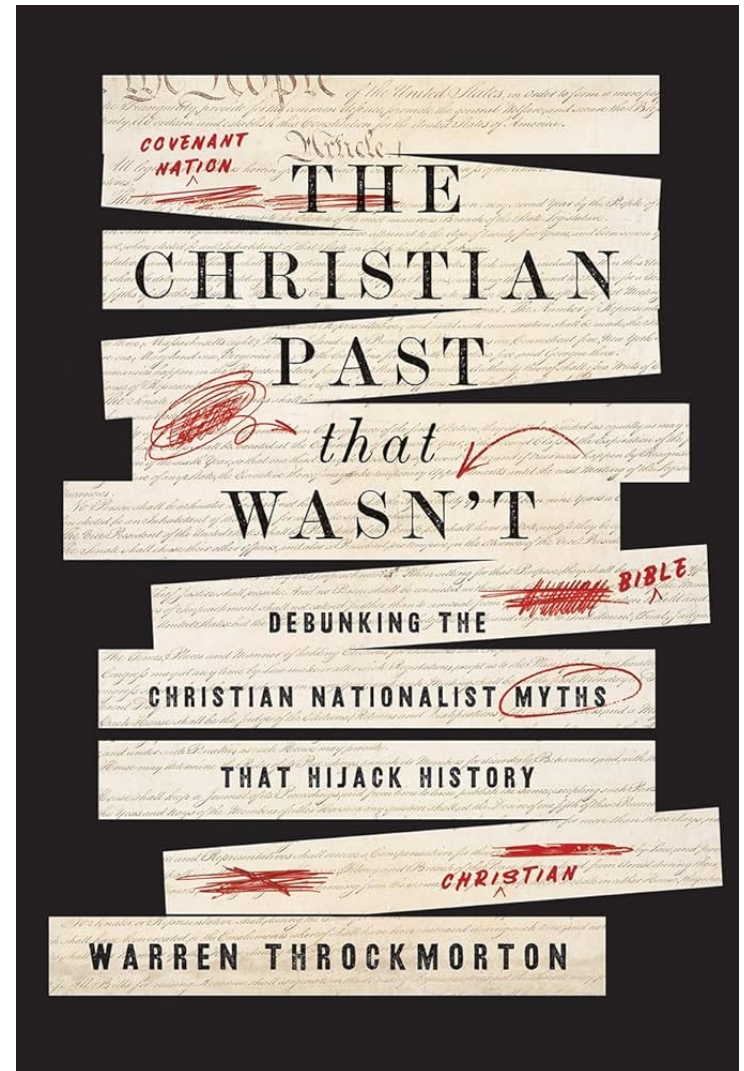




- Congress never printed the *Aitkin Bible*, nor direct for it to be printed, nor provide any funds for it to be printed
- Congress never recommended the *Aitkin Bible* be used in schools, nor did they identify him (nor anyone else!) as the official Bible vendor of the new nation



- The Bible was never taught in public schools “universally”
- Jefferson never recommended school children read the Bible
- Founders weren’t unified on their views on the subject
- There is zero direct correlation between test scores or public violence and prayer being removed from public schools



Almighty God, King of all creation,
who created order out of chaos,
and calls us to strive for peace
that is not like the peace brought by empire.
Teach us to drop the weapons we carry
in our hands, in our hearts, and on our tongues.
Enable us to destroy the weapons of oppression
by the power of your grace and love. Amen.

Closing Prayer



May the peace of Christ go with you
wherever he may send you
May he guide you through the wilderness
and protect you through the storm
May he bring you home rejoicing
at the wonders he has shown you
May he bring you home rejoicing
once again into our doors.

Benediction

