

July 5, 2026 | 250th Anniversary

The Light and the Glory

Providence, Purpose, and America's Horizon

*"Blessed is the nation whose God
is the LORD."* — Psalm 33:12



The Emmaus Principle requires us to look back to see clearly ahead

Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we often understand God's hand only after the journey is complete. History is never merely the story of politicians; it is the unfolding of providence.



Recognize the Light.

(Where have we seen
God's providence?)

Return to the Light.

(Where must we take
responsibility today?)

Respond to the Light.

(Where is God calling
us tomorrow?)

Spiritual awakening forged a shared American identity long before political union

Step 1: Egalitarian Grace

Preachers taught that every person stood equally before God, regardless of birth or wealth.

Step 2: Ultimate Authority Restored

Citizens learned that earthly authority was not ultimate. Christ alone is Lord of the conscience.

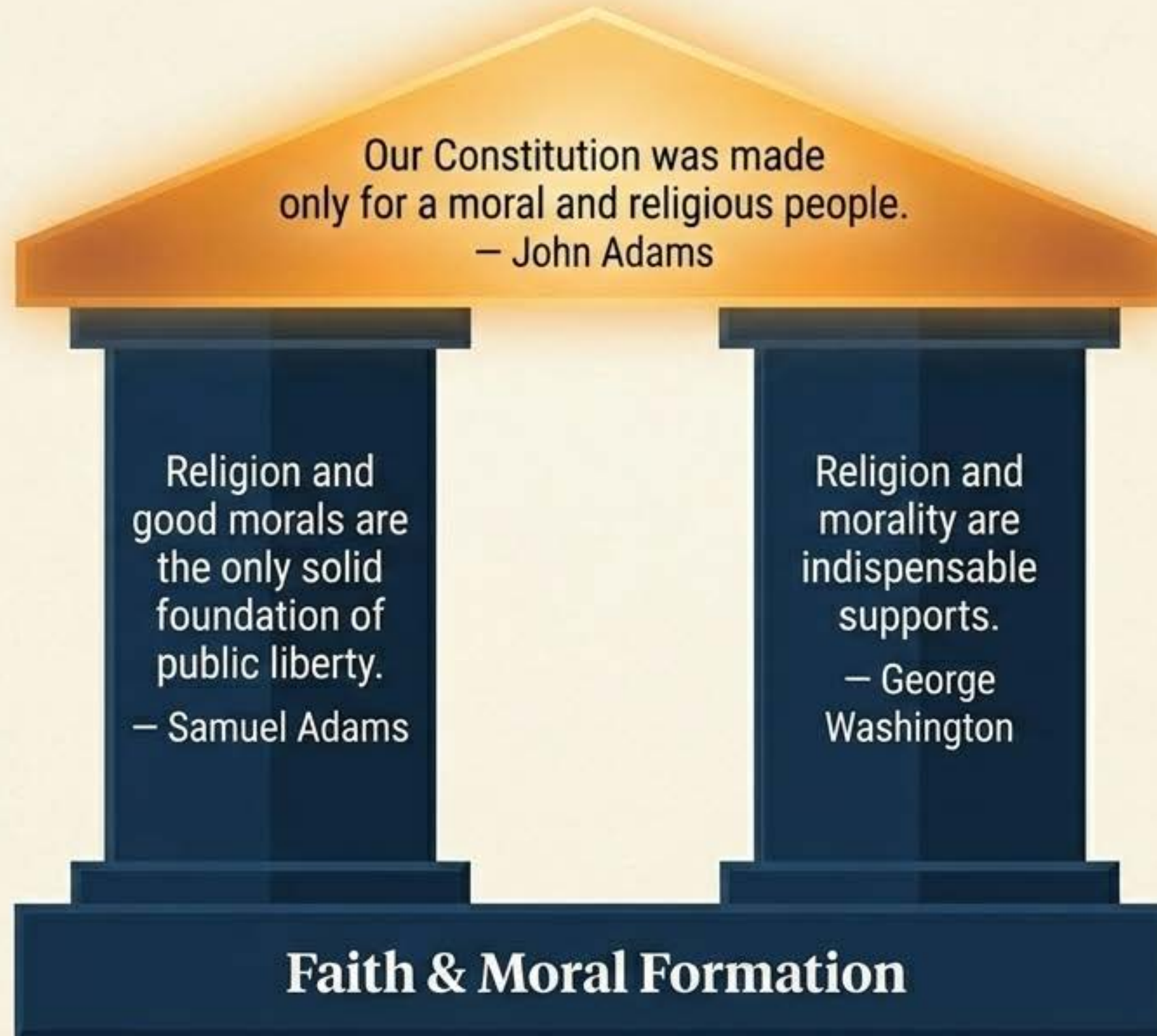
Step 3: Networked Colonies

Revivals created networks of churches, colleges, and relationships, uniting thirteen disparate colonies.

Step 4: Political Liberty

The realization that inherent rights come from God, not from governments.

The Constitution requires a prerequisite of virtue



Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.
— Proverbs 14:34

Providence is not proof of perfection; it demands gratitude rather than pride.

A healthy nation reverses the modern metric of success



The Modern Temptation (Adult-Centric)

Public policy defaults to asking,
What do adults want? Economic prosperity
is prioritized over generational stability.



The Biblical Baseline (Child-Centric)

Jesus placed children at the center.
We must ask: Do children have stable homes?
Are they taught virtue? Are they protected?

It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men. — Frederick Douglass

Economic success means nothing if children inherit confusion. (Deuteronomy 6:6-7)

Technology is a brilliant servant but a terrible master

The Servant (Benefits)

Worldwide access to knowledge



Language translation & AI tutoring



Individualized instruction for rural and disabled students



The Master (Dangers)



Distraction and shortened attention spans



Social isolation and excessive screen time



Outsourced thinking (e.g., students using AI to do work for better grades and free time)



Inability to discern truth from misinformation



Education develops the ability to think. No algorithm can substitute for wisdom; no AI can produce the fruit of the Spirit.

Every generation faces its own giants on the horizon



The Automation Horizon

Robotics, AI, and the redefinition of human labor.



The Economic Squeeze

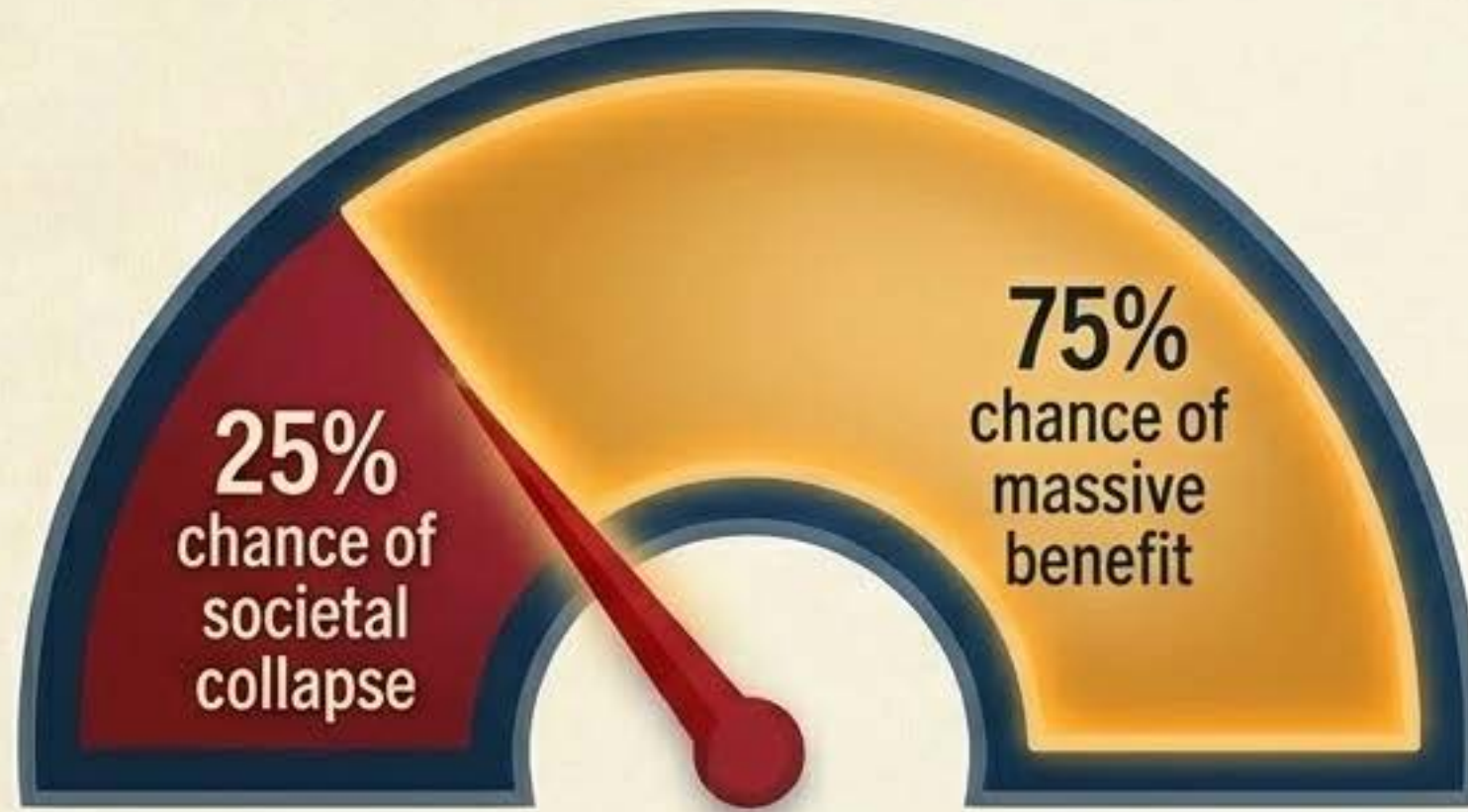
Runaway medical costs, inflation, and the pressure for systemic overhaul.



The Weight of Tomorrow

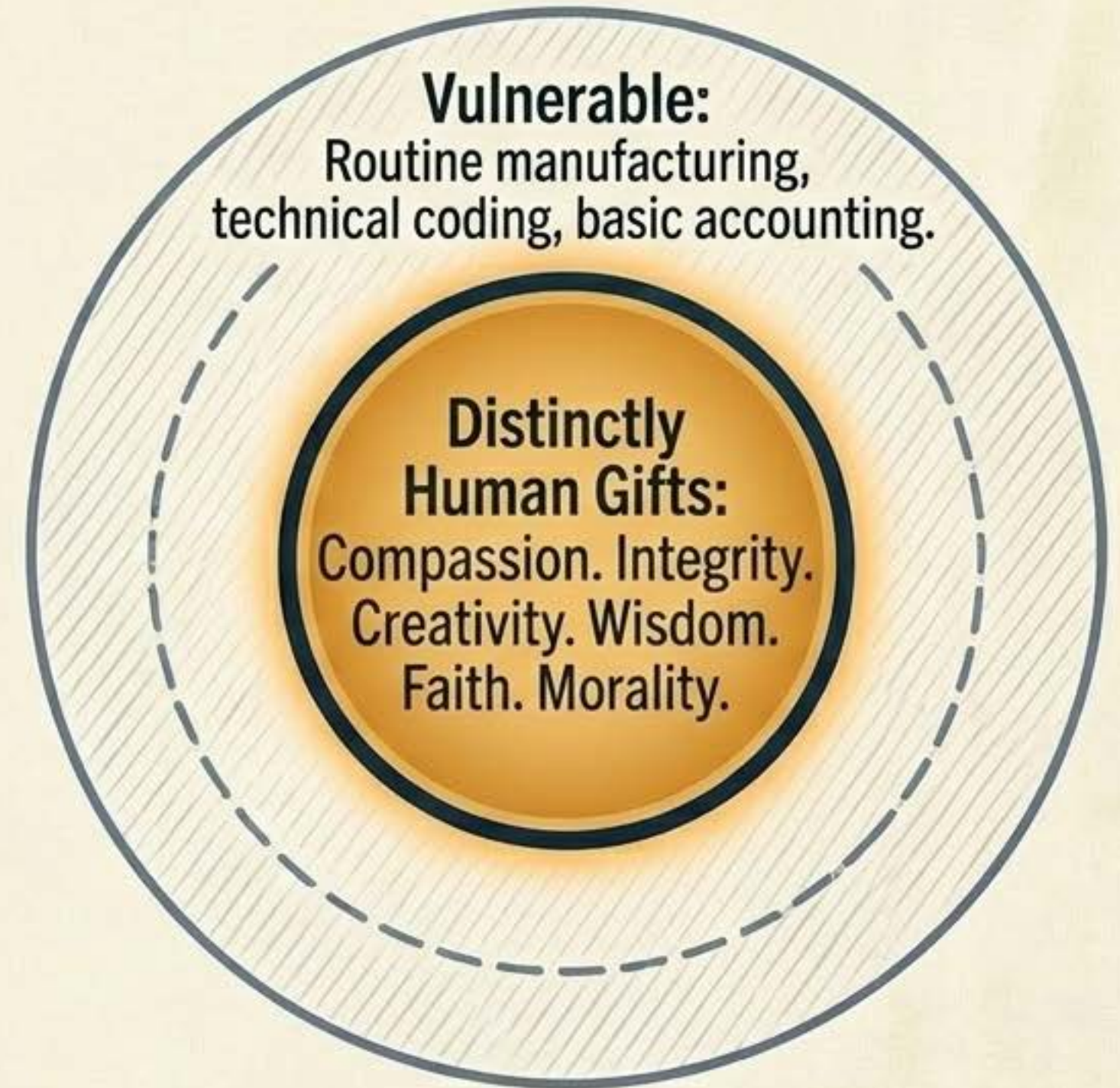
The compounding, localized burden of a \$38 trillion national debt.

The future belongs to character that cannot be automated



**Dario Amodei (Anthropic CEO)
forecast on AI impact.**

(Note: Claude 3 is already 80% self-programmed).

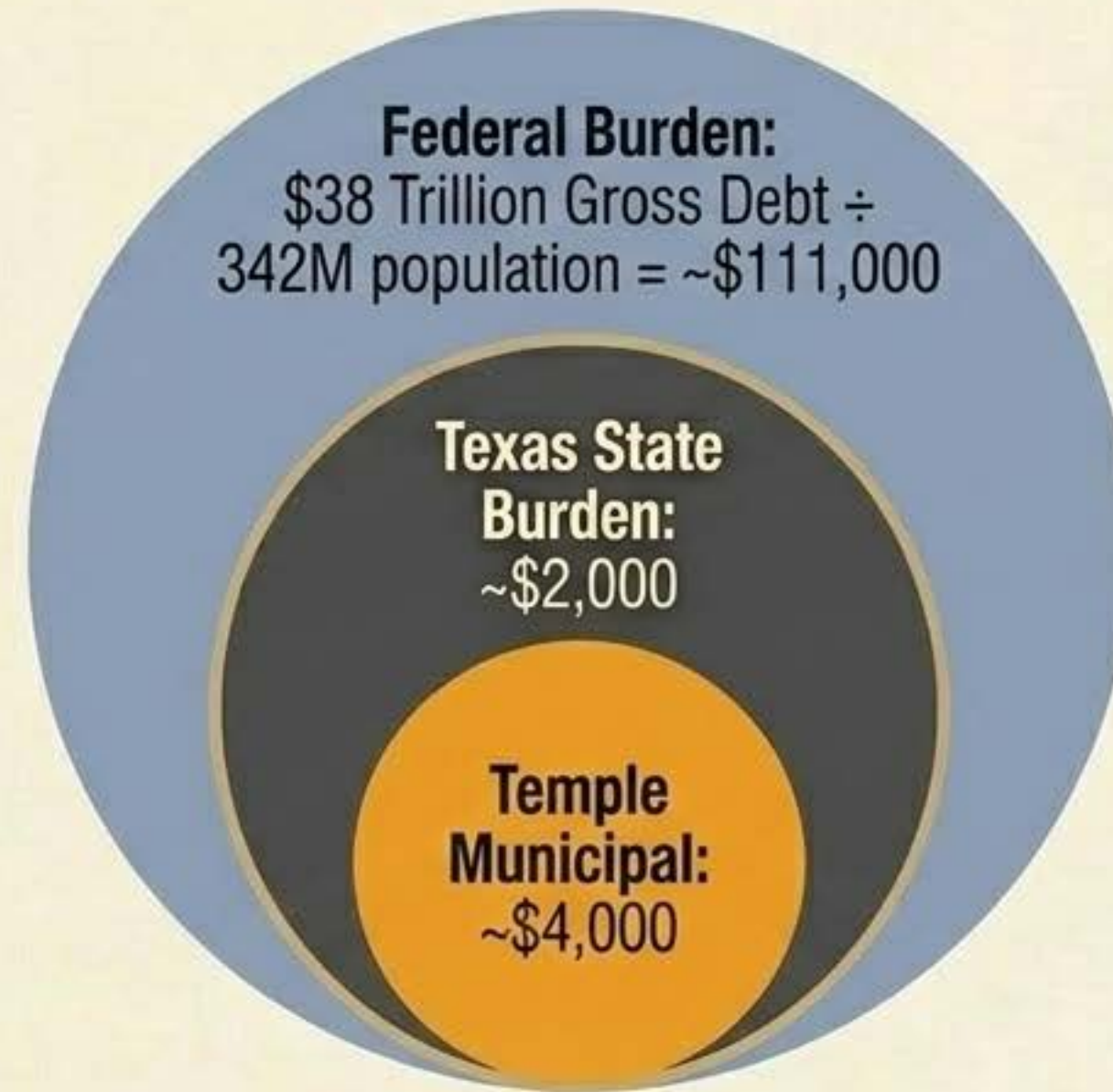


Aspire to live quietly... and to work with your hands. — 1 Thess 4:11-12. Technology must serve human dignity, not replace it.

Inflation and healthcare costs act as catalysts for systemic dependency



Borrowing from tomorrow eventually becomes today's responsibility



Beware of little expenses; a small leak will sink a great ship.
— Benjamin Franklin

The borrower is the slave of the lender.
— Proverbs 22:7

Bottom Line: ~\$117,000 estimated debt burden per citizen.

True revival is the necessary response to a nation's flaws

Refreshing

Repentance flows into
societal freedom
and healing.

Revival

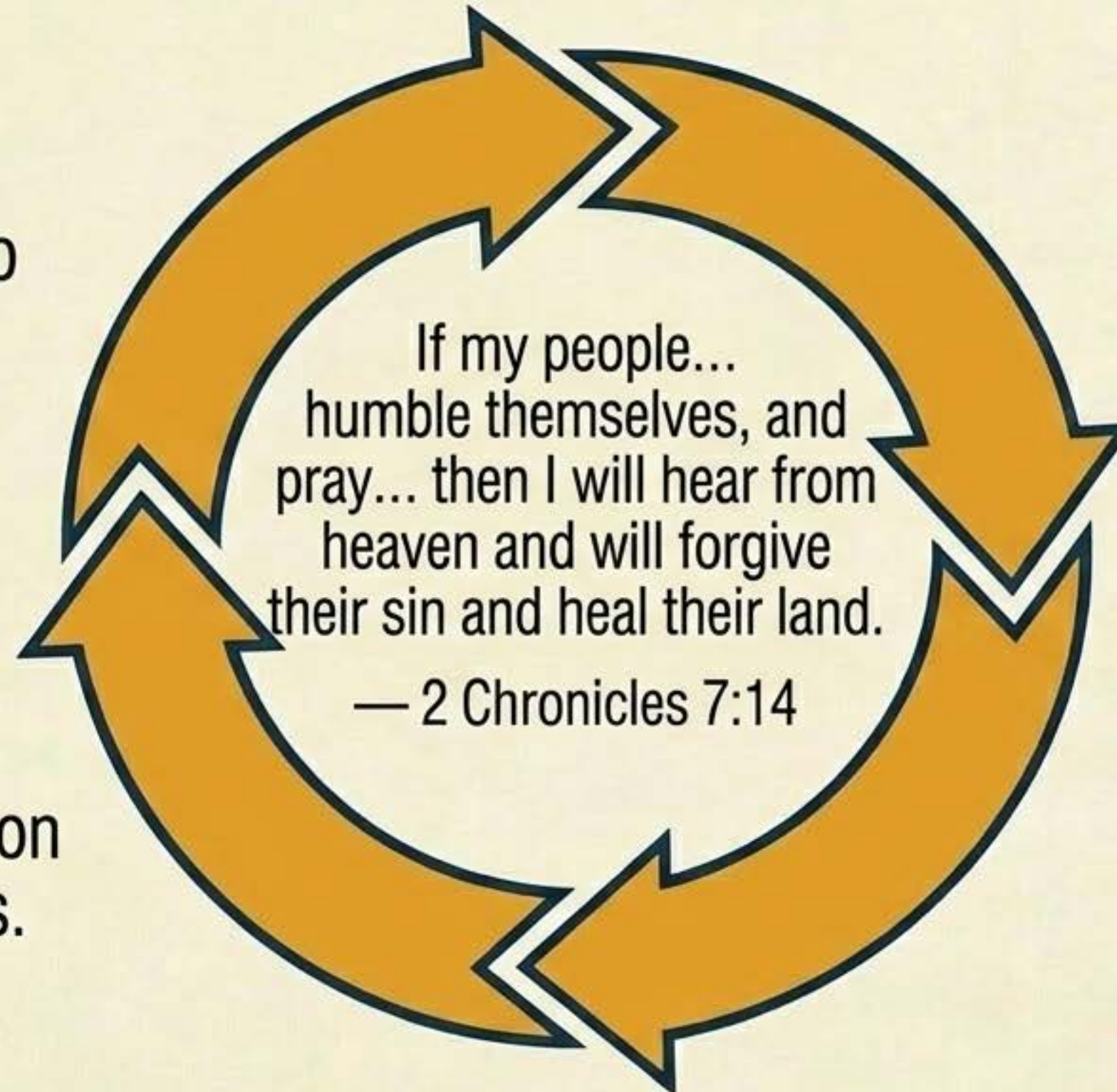
The Spirit moves upon
groups and nations.

Conviction

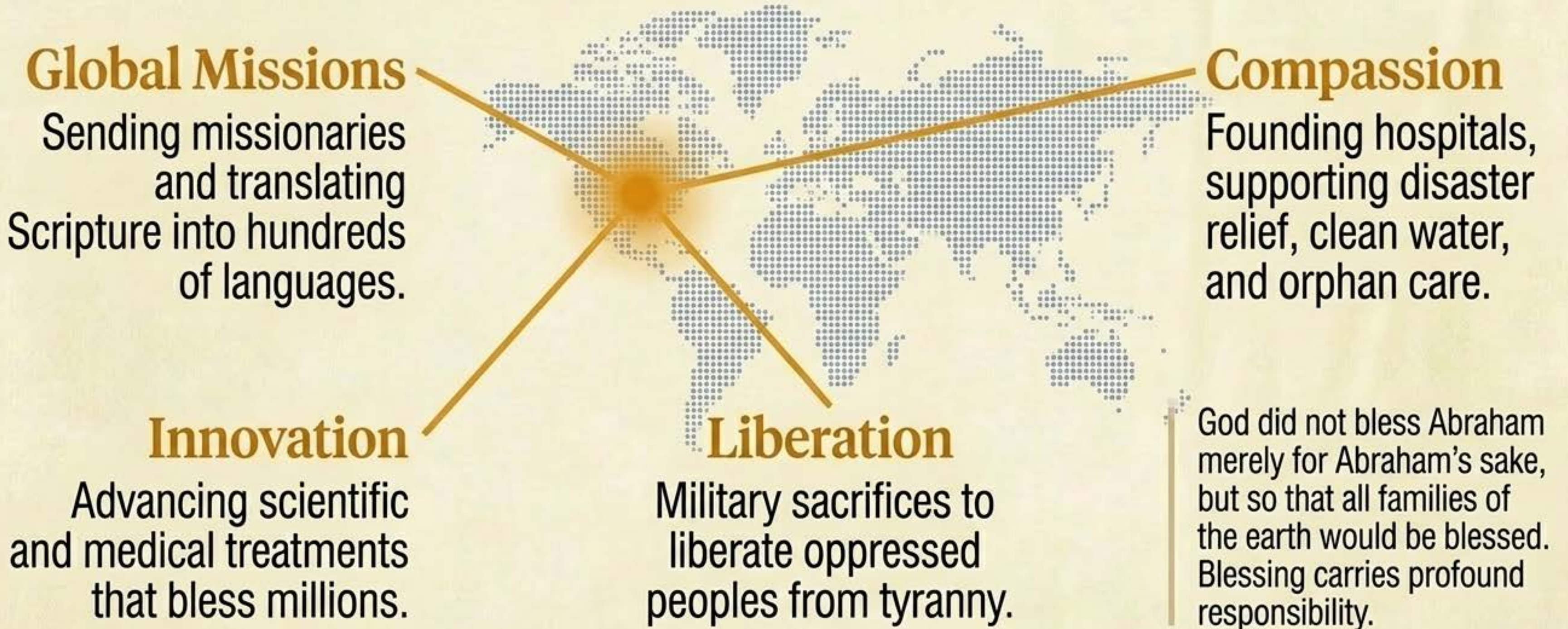
The Holy Spirit aligns
our view of sin with
God's view.

Repentance

Confessing and turning
away from sin as
individuals.



Blessed to be a blessing: The outward impact of American faith



True liberty does not begin in Washington; it begins at the empty tomb

The greatest contribution America can make to the world is not merely wealth, military strength, or technology. It is a people whose lives reflect the light of Christ. Jesus never commanded us to save civilizations; He commanded us to shine.

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.” — Matthew 5

Lord, bring revival to America and start with me. Continue to bless America—not so we may simply prosper, but so we may faithfully bless the nations in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

