

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. — Whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Prosperity. Prudence, in this and in all other cases, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by overthrowing the forms to which they are accustomed.

But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their duty, when they feel the necessity of reform, not to throw off the Government, and to endeavour to guard against future repetitions of similar infractions, and to require redress of the grievances by petition or complaint. — But when the frequent repetition of injurious and oppressive acts, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their duty, when they feel the necessity of reform, not to throw off the Government, and to endeavour to guard against future repetitions of similar infractions, and to require redress of the grievances by petition or complaint.

He has refused his assent to laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good. — He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would accept of the same by representation in the Legislature. — He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would accept of the same by representation in the Legislature.

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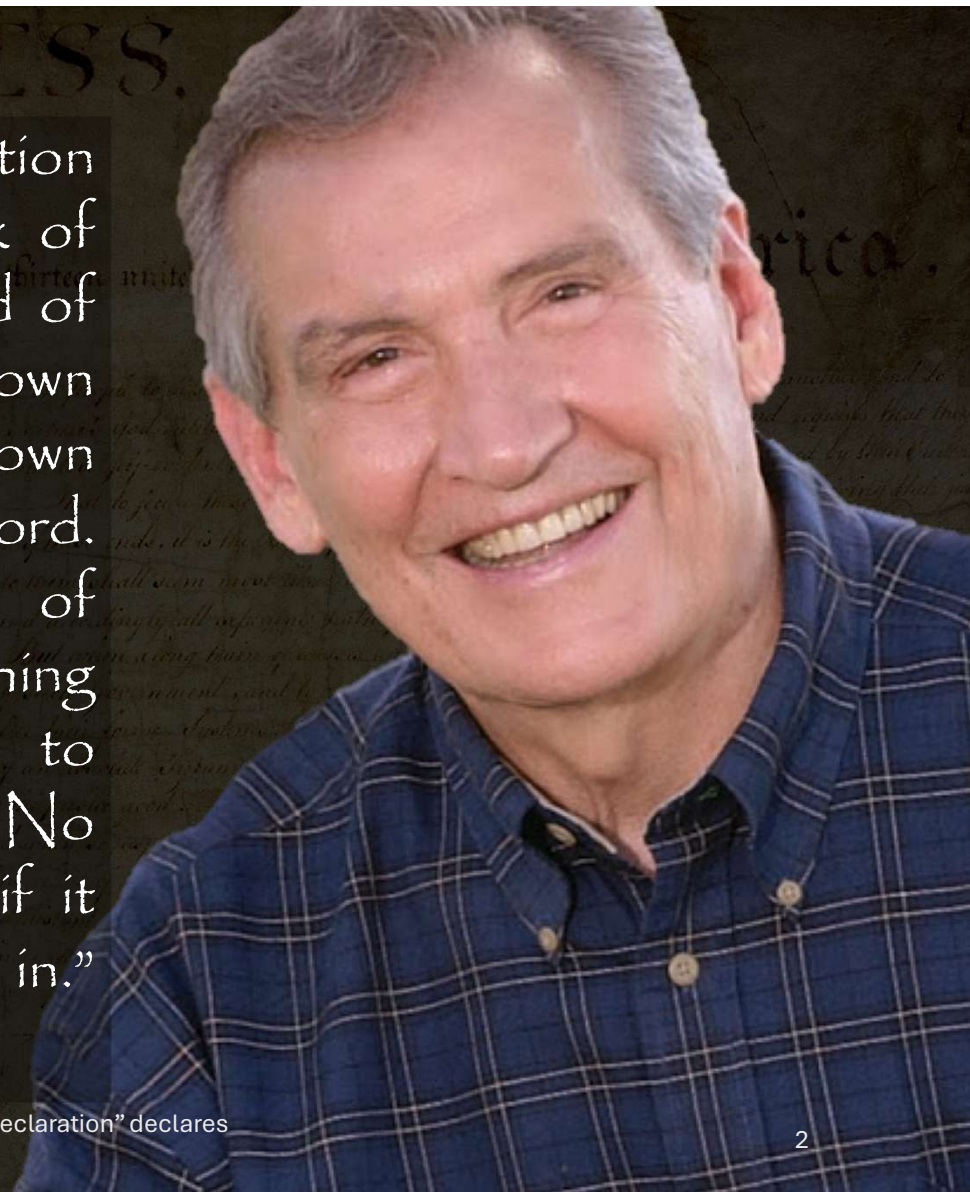
What the "Declaration" declares Part 4

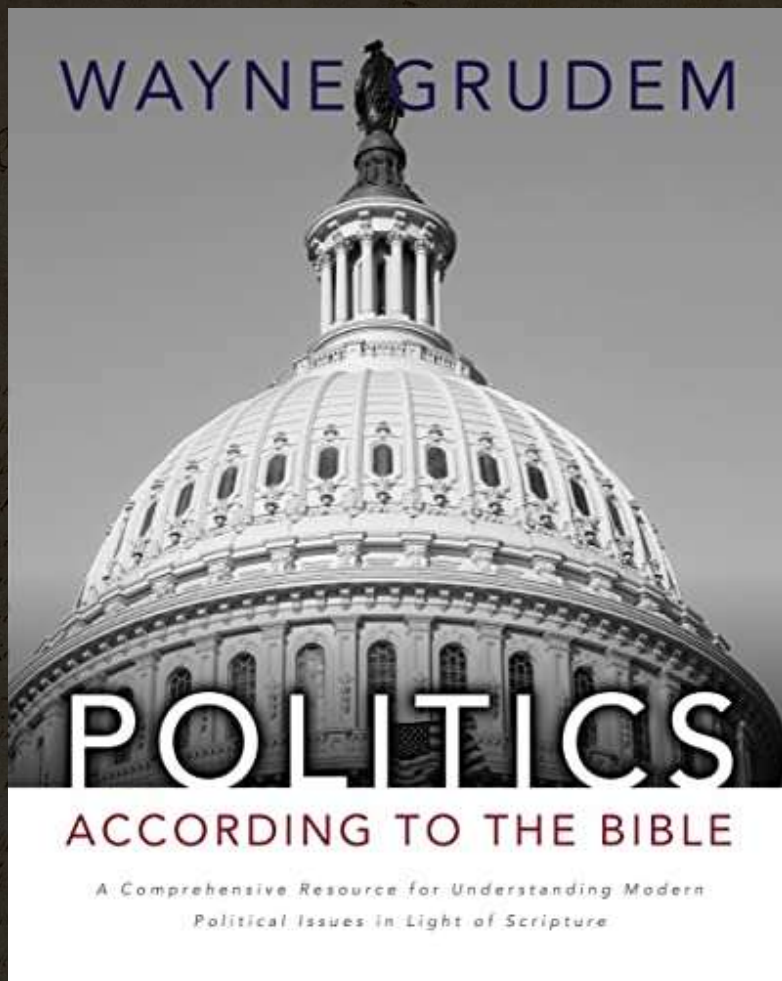
IN CONGRESS,

“People are forgetful; from one generation to the next. In the time of the Book of Judges, they had forgotten the Word of God. ... Everyone was choosing their own way to live – they were following their own desires instead of the way of the Lord. There was no fixed standard of morality. We are seeing the same thing today. We’ve gone from authority to relativism and from truth to pragmatism. No longer do we ask if it’s true; we ask if it works. ... This is the culture we live in.”

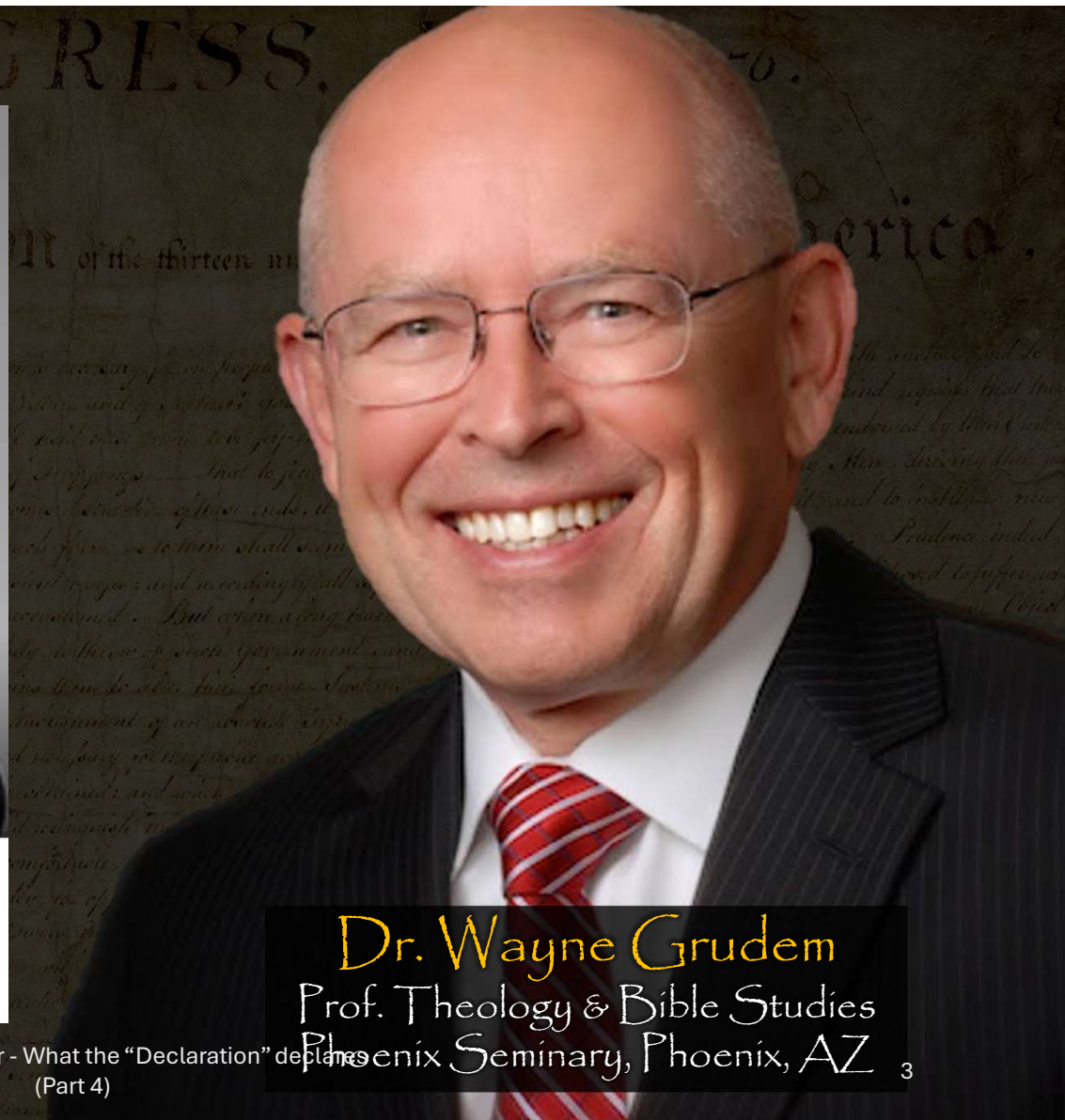
Adrian Rogers

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The Framers were not rebels, ignoring proper governmental authority & spoiling for a fight

They did not want to separate from England – their “mother country”

They believed they had exhausted all options for a peaceful solution

They believed they had a *right* and a *responsibility* to stand against tyranny




They believed that submission & cooperation are not always
the biblical options

They were convinced that the real issue was not submission,
but *unlimited* submission

They did not understand Paul to be teaching *unlimited*
submission in Rom 13

The founding preachers did not preach *unlimited* submission



They appealed to the “Laws of Nature and of Nature's God”

Sir William Blackstone & John Locke identified “Nature's God” as the God of the Bible & “The Laws of Nature” as His laws

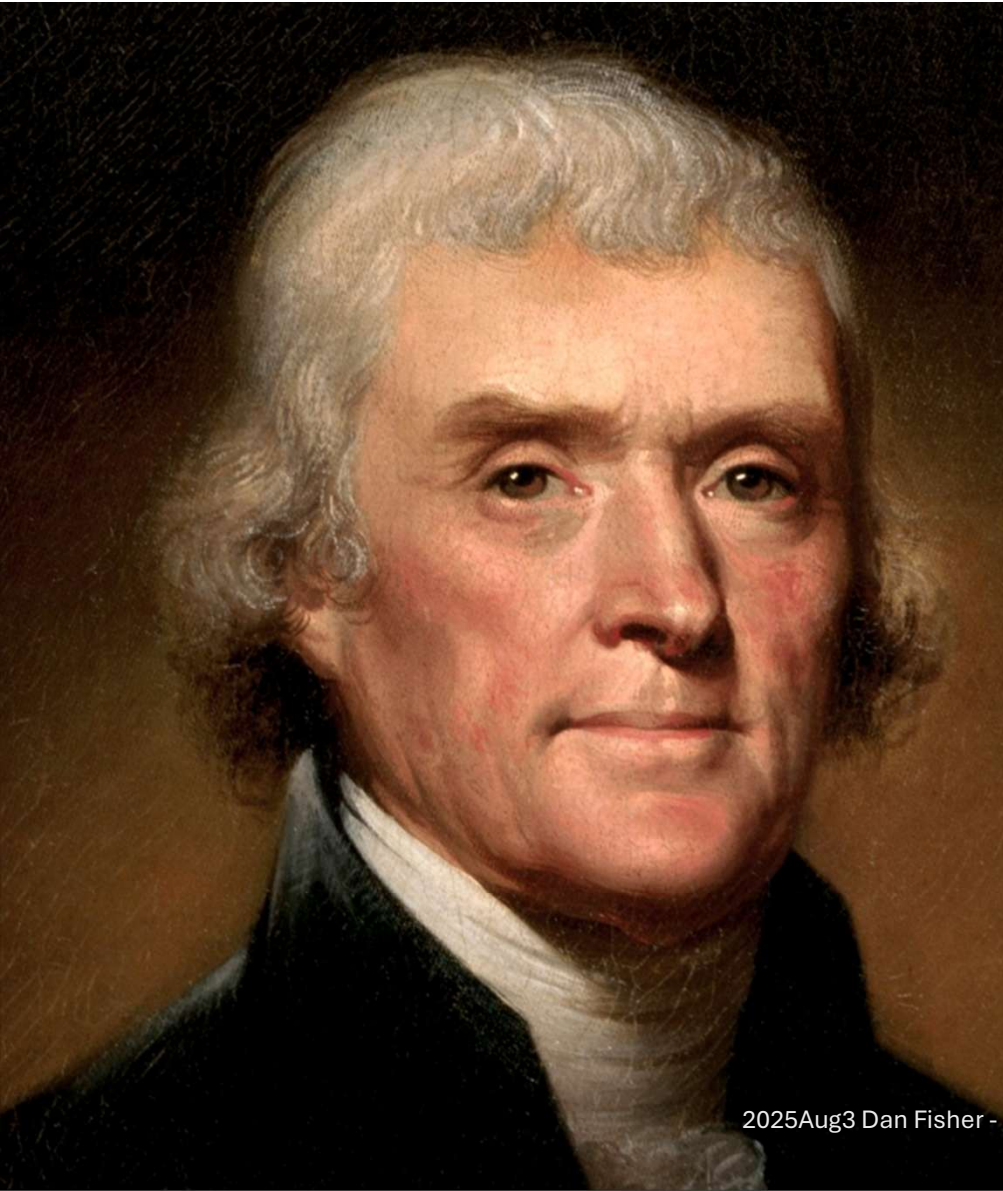
They presupposed a Creator rather than a universe formed by random chance/evolution

They believed God designed both natural laws and spiritual laws into creation

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“We hold these truths to be self-evident”



Jefferson originally called these truths "sacred and undeniable" but the wording was changed to "self-evident" by Benjamin Franklin. This change shifted the emphasis from a religious or divine basis to a foundation in reason and natural law.

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1. All men are created equal
2. All men are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights – among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.
3. Governments are instituted among Men to secure these rights
4. Governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed
5. When Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

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Gen 1:26-28 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." ²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Ps 139:14 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.

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Image of God = Latin: *Imago Dei*

The Jewish and Christian concept that humans were created in the likeness of God and possess inherent dignity and value as a reflection of their Creator

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Rom 2:11 For God shows no partiality (no respecter of persons, KJV)

Gal 3:26,28 for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. ... ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

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2. "All men are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights – among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

He has refused his assent to laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good. He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large bodies of people, unless those people would acquiesce in the claims of a tyrannical crown. He has called together legislative assemblages in places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the seat of government, for the sole purpose of defrauding them of the rights of representation. He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large bodies of people, unless those people would acquiesce in the claims of a tyrannical crown. He has called together legislative assemblages in places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the seat of government, for the sole purpose of defrauding them of the rights of representation. He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large bodies of people, unless those people would acquiesce in the claims of a tyrannical crown. He has called together legislative assemblages in places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the seat of government, for the sole purpose of defrauding them of the rights of representation.

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- “Life”

Gen 2:7 then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

Jn 10:10 I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

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- “Liberty”

Lev 25:10 And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants.

2 Cor 3:17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

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“He has waged cruel war against human nature itself, violating it's most sacred rights of life & liberty in the persons of a distant people who never offended him, captivating & carrying them into slavery in another hemisphere, or to incur miserable death in their transportation thither. this piratical warfare, the opprobrium of infidel powers, is the warfare of the CHRISTIAN king of Great Britain. determined to keep open a market where MEN should be bought & sold, he has prostituted his negative for suppressing every legislative attempt to prohibit or to restrain this execrable commerce: and that this assemblage of horrors might want no fact of distinguished die, he is now exciting those very people to rise in arms among us, and to purchase that liberty of which he has deprived them, & murdering the people upon whom he also obtruded them; thus paying off former crimes committed against the liberties of one people, with crimes which he urges them to commit against the lives of another.”

<https://www.loc.gov/exhibits/declara/ruffdrft.html>

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- IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.
- pursuit of Happiness (pursuit of property)

Ex 20: The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America

8th Commandment: "You shall not steal"

10th Commandment: "You shall not covet"

Deut 19,27; Prov 22-23: "You shall not move your neighbor's boundary stone which the ancestors have set."

Leviticus

Parable of the talents

Acts 5:4 While it remained unsold, did it not remain **your own**? And after it was sold, was it not at **your disposal**?

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3. "Governments are instituted among Men to secure these rights"

4. "Governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed"

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Num 11:16-17 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Gather for me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them, and bring them to the tent of meeting, and let them take their stand there with you. ¹⁷ And I will come down and talk with you there. And I will take some of the Spirit that is on you and put it on them, and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, so that you may not bear it yourself alone.

Deut 1:13,15 Choose for your tribes wise, understanding, and experienced men, and I will appoint them as your heads.' ... ¹⁵ So I took the heads of your tribes, wise and experienced men, and set them as heads over you, commanders of thousands, commanders of hundreds, commanders of fifties, commanders of tens, and officers, throughout your tribes.

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1 Sam 8:4-7,9 Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah ⁵ ... Now appoint for us a king to judge us like all the nations.” ⁶ But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, “Give us a king to judge us.” And Samuel prayed to the Lord. ⁷ And the Lord said to Samuel, “Obey the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them. ... ⁹ Now then, obey their voice; only you shall solemnly warn them and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them.”

1 Sam 8:11-18

- he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen and to run before his chariots
- he will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and some to plow his ground and to reap his harvest, and to make his implements of war and the equipment of his chariots
- he will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers
- he will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive orchards and give them to his servants
- he will take the tenth of your grain and of your vineyards and give it to his officers and to his servants
- he will take your male servants and female servants and the best of your young men and your donkeys, and put them to his work
- he will take the tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves

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5. "When Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness."

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5. "When Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the **Right** of the People to **alter** or **abolish** it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their **Safety** and **Happiness**."

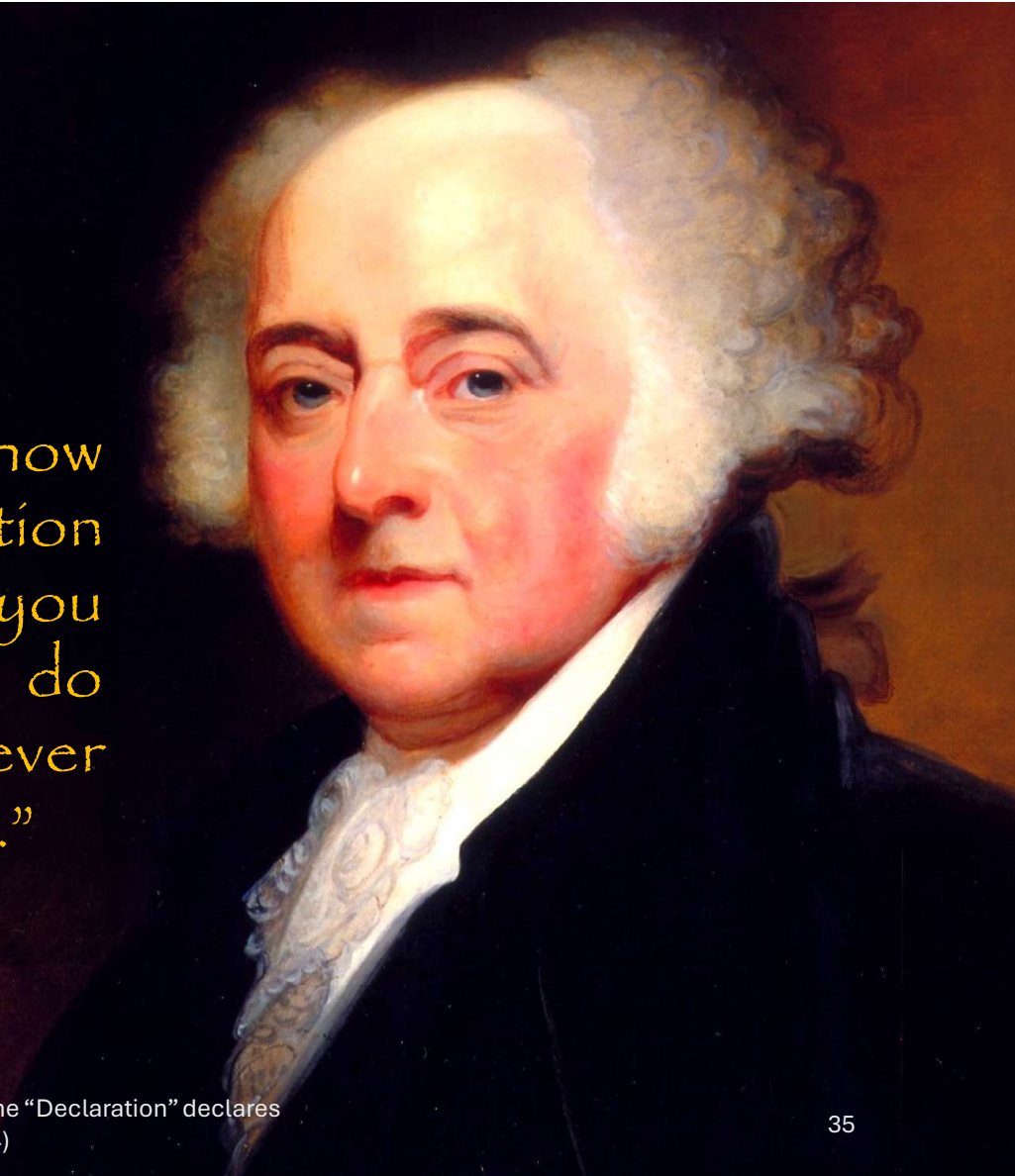


Thomas Jefferson
Kentucky Resolution, 1798

“... that whensoever the general government assumes undelegated powers, its acts are unauthoritative, void, and of no force ...”

John Adams to Abigail
April 26, 1777

“Posterity, you will never know how much it cost the present generation to preserve your freedom. I hope you will make good use of it. If you do not, I shall repent in heaven that ever I took half the pains to preserve it.”





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