

Tim Barton, WALLBUILDERS

The Impact of a Biblical Worldview on Our Nation's Founding

World Outreach Church
Sermon Discussion Guide
Sunday Sermon: **February 25, 2024**



Tim Barton, the President of WALLBUILDERS, spends countless hours researching the truth of America's founding and exposing the lies about our history that currently permeate our society. Tim's ability to tell the story of America's past—while helping audiences understand how that connects to the present, and what steps should be taken for the future—has inspired audiences nationwide. He is also a contributor for the *Epoch Times* and a frequent guest on numerous television and radio programs. In this session, Tim presents facts we might not know about God's providential interventions in the American Revolution.

I. JOHN ADAMS' LETTER TO THOMAS JEFFERSON IN 1813

- A. The Principles of Christianity
 1. *"The general principles on which the fathers have achieved independence were **the general principles of Christianity.**"*
 2. Adams concluded that the one thing that brought the diverse group of founding fathers together were the principles of Christianity.
- **Describe a time when you had to find common ground, without compromising truth, with someone whose viewpoints were different than yours.**

II. DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

Most people have no idea how much pastors, the Bible, and Christianity influenced the founding of our nation and the creation of the Declaration of Independence.

- A. Historian, Alice Baldwin, Duke University
 1. Baldwin's Book, *The New England Clergy and the American Revolution*
 2. Baldwin identified every single issue that was included in the Declaration of Independence had been preached from American pulpits prior to 1763—**the issues were literally from these sermons.**
- B. September 6, 1774: The First Meeting of America's Founding Fathers
 1. The opening prayer lasted for two hours!
 2. John Adams' letters to his wife, Abigail
 - a. He begged her to read the founding fathers' morning Scripture reading from *The Book of Common Prayer*: Psalm 35 (excerpts v. 1-6):
"Contend, Lord, with those who contend with me; fight against those who fight against me. ² Take up shield and armor; arise and come to my aid. ³ Brandish spear and javelin against those who pursue me. Say to me, "I am Your salvation."⁴ May those who seek my life be disgraced and put to shame; may those who plot my ruin be turned back in dismay. ⁵ May they be like chaff before the wind, with the angel of the Lord driving them away; ⁶ may their path be dark and slippery, with the angel of the Lord pursuing them."
 - b. Later that morning, the British began bombing Boston.
 - c. *"We have appointed a Continental fast ..."* The Continental Congress called the nation to fast. Adams said, *"Millions be upon their knees at once before their great creator imploring his forgiveness and blessings, his smiles on American council and arms."*
- **Discuss the influence of Christianity in our nation today. How has it both diminished and increased in recent years?**

III. BY 1815, 1,400 OFFICIAL PRAYER PROCLAMATIONS HAD BEEN PUBLISHED

- A. Prayer & Fasting
 1. John Adams' Letter to Abigail Adams (11,000 letters)
 - a. Some of the most telling information regarding explanation for miracles of victory
 - b. Not the sentiment of atheistic thinking
 2. Defeated British Navy without a Continental Navy
 - a. Gunboat Philadelphia! Tiny American vessels defeated great British warships.
 - b. Adams said in a tavern: *"It appears to me the eternal Son of God is operating powerfully against the British nation."*

B. Prayer & Thanksgiving

- **How would you encourage someone to believe that fasting and prayer truly causes God to intervene on behalf of peoples and nations?**

IV. THE BATTLE OF LONG ISLAND (BROOKLYN HEIGHTS): August 1776

A. British had 30,000 troops vs Washington's 9,000, pinned against river. (John Fawkes, British Officer & Historian)

1. The Battle of Long Island—Providential Moment

- a. Storm blows in and British navy had to turn about
- b. Washington develops plan to evacuate men from the island
- c. Storm calms and evacuation begins; at dawn, 1,000 men left
- d. A great fog settled between both camps.
- e. Washington loads last three ships, the fog begins to lift, and they made it across. God helped them escape and survive!

- **Share some examples of the evidence of miracles in your day-to-day life.**

V. BATTLES ENSUE WITH MANY DEFEATS, BUT ...

A. Washington's Continental Army discouraged: One-year enlistments and low morale

B. Washington devised an idea to gain a win:

1. Trenton, NJ, on Christmas night against German Hessian forces
2. 2,400 troops were delayed crossing the Delaware and then arrived in daylight.
3. Blizzard rolls in during 10-mile march.
4. Hessian sentries go inside to escape the cold, and they miss Washington's troops.
5. Washington won 35-minute battle inside a fort! Only three American troops injured, including James Monroe.

C. End of the Revolution

1783: Peace Treaty of Paris Title: "In the name of the Most High and Holy Trinity"

- **When was a time in your life when you felt a sense of defeat? How did you respond? What was the result?**

VI. CONCLUSION

A. Tim Barton

1. *"Truth is not insecure. Truth doesn't mind being questioned. It encourages questions. The greatest apologists in Christianity over the last hundred years were all skeptics who wanted to disprove it, but they began searching for truth. CS Lewis, Josh McDowell, Lee Strobel—all people that were pursuing truth. The reason our nation is in the trouble we are in now is because we've just been trusting people for way too long, without doing a little research ourselves, looking up, seeing what's there."*
2. *"The founding fathers believed in freedom for every American, but they knew that freedom only works if you have an underpinning of morality because if you give freedom to immoral people, all they do are immoral things. So, we have to have an underpinning of morality, and they understood there's no better structure of system for freedom to function than inside of Christianity."*

- **What are some practical steps you can take this week to better know, live, and share God's Word?**

PRAYER

Father, thank You for the reminder that You and You alone established this nation. It was not the result of decisions people made alone, but it was Your supernatural engagement that has made this experiment in self-government and freedom of religion a possibility. Thank You for what You have done on our behalf. We ask You now to move in the hearts of our generation to choose You more completely and more fully than ever before—in such a way that it would delight You to once again pour out Your blessings upon our nation. We're a land in need of healing. Lord, we come in humility to ask for Your mercy. Give us leaders who fear Your name, from the lowest offices to the highest. May those in authority make decisions with the desire to honor You and bring Your very best to our people. In Jesus' name, amen.