

Remnant Life Church
June 28, 2026
How this Nation was Built
Leviticus 25:1-12

I am a patriot

- I love this country and consider myself very blessed to live here
- For many people that is a very unpopular way to think
 - Primarily because to love this nation is now closely associated with a particular political ideology
 - What I am stating is my love and appreciation for my country, not its politics or politicians
- And so the divides between people becomes wider and wider
 - And the future looks more and more bleak
 - But only if we ignore the truth of how this country was founded

This coming Saturday, we will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the birth of our nation

- But the truth is, every 4th of July, this nation celebrates not only our independence that lead to our becoming a free nation but we also declare our dependence on God
 - Now admittedly, the second part of that statement has been all but eliminated from what is taught and believed by so many
 - And in part it is because the importance and the necessity of God in our daily lives are no longer a naturally accepted part of our culture
 - And you can readily see that by what has happened to the Sabbath day
 - It is a transformation of what Sunday used to be
 - In the not-too-distant past there were virtually no stores open on Sunday
 - Gas stations, a 7-11 or Turkey Hill, but that was it
 - And there were no sports leagues in action save for the professional ones
 - Today – Sunday has become a primary shopping day and those who are not open, like Chick-Fila and locally Paul B's Hardware, are an anomaly and often criticized for their extremist behavior!
 - And church is now vying for a family's time whose kids are playing sports all day Sunday
 - Sunday is no longer special and guarded, it is just another day of the week with church most often being the first thing that is skipped when someone needs to rest up from a long week
 - Sunday was respected as a day for family worship and being together at home as a unit, with each other!
 - But no more
 - And as it relates to our nation's founding, God's place of prominence is most certainly not being taught to our children and young people in our schools and college campuses
 - Instead, we are teaching them that America was always a historically horrible nation that, over the past 2 and half centuries, has only oppressed and victimized entire sub-cultures.

- And while there are certainly things in our past that require repentance (as in every single culture) Bibles, prayer, and Christian groups are being removed and denied
- Not only are they banned but people are actually being punished for desiring to exercise their right to worship God
- Let me give you an example:
 - In June 2022, there was an event that took required the SCOTUS to pass a ruling
 - The ruling was to allow a high school football coach in Bremerton, Washington, who interestingly enough is named Joseph Kennedy, to be reinstated after he was fired by his school board.
 - Why was he fired?
 - It was not about his job performance
 - Either in the classroom or on the football field
 - It was for something he did after school
 - Here is a portion of the ruling as written by Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch that recaps the event...
 - *“Joseph Kennedy lost his job as a high school football coach because he knelt at midfield after games to offer a quiet prayer of thanks. Mr. Kennedy prayed during a period when school employees were free to speak with a friend, call for a reservation at a restaurant, check email, or attend to other personal matters.” The justice continued, “Both the Free Exercise and Free Speech Clauses of the First Amendment protect expressions like Mr. Kennedy’s. In addition, a proper understanding of the Amendment’s Establishment Clause does not require the government to single out private religious speech for special disfavor. The Constitution and the best of our traditions counsel mutual respect, not censorship and suppression, for religious and nonreligious views alike.”*
 - IOW, he was fired for praying, after school, after the game had been completed.
 - The school board’s actions were deemed illegal, and he was reinstated.
 - And it was done under the rule of separation of church and state
 - A premise that has been perverted from its original intent when written by Thomas Jefferson in 1802
 - It was never intended to keep religion out of our rule of law rather to prevent a government from dictating a state religion
 - You see, it is the goal of those who oppose all things to do with God to remove all connection between God and how we live in this nation
 - A nation that is supposed to uphold freedom at all cost.
 - We are seeing this more and more with the ongoing attempt to erase or rewrite our nation’s very history
 - We see it as statues, and historical markers have been removed

- We see it in today's textbooks that are blatantly rewriting our nation's history to sanitize any mention of God
- But I want you to know this morning that regardless of that agenda, and whatever measure of success it has had, God was and is very much at the foundation of this country and its beginning.
- And it is from that presence of God that we derive our hope

READ: Leviticus 25:1-12

- What we just read are certainly instructions for what God wanted His people to do with regard to the sabbath year and the year of jubilee
 - But it is also instructions for how to conduct themselves as a people
 - What we would call today, a nation
 - It is how the nation of Israel is to live as a collective in obedience to God's Word and commands
 - In a similar way, our nation also was founded on the principles of God's Word
 - Our nation's most treasured historical document clearly states where we came from...
 - It opens with these words – *...we hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal and endowed by our Creator with certain unalienable rights.*
 - The Declaration of Independence then ends with these words - *And for the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.*
 - Divine Providence is what is provided and given by God
 - Reliance means our dependence
 - Our nation's founding document declared independence from Great Britain; but with equal passion, our dependence upon God.
- Nearly 10 years ago, I shared with you a sermon titled *Proclaim Liberty Throughout the Land*
 - Those five words have great significance as they are etched on the Liberty Bell
 - Why would such important words be etched on a bell of all things?
 - Well, a little American history...
 - The 2nd Continental Congress who was meeting in Philadelphia, approved the document declaring our independence on July 2nd 1776
 - The first signatures were affixed on July 4th
 - The first public reading on July 8
 - That reading was celebrated by the assembling and playing of a band and the ringing of the city's bells
 - The very first bell rung, so the story is told, was the one hanging in the belfry of the Pennsylvania State House (later renamed Independence Hall), most likely by a man named Andrew McNair, the doorkeeper or custodian of the sitting congress

- It was not given the name Liberty Bell until the mid 1830s
 - But it was given that name because of the words inscribed on the upper facing - *“Proclaim liberty throughout the land unto all the inhabitants thereof!”*
 - But this is not a quote from one of the early founding fathers but from **Lev. 25:10**
 - The bell itself, as most of you are undoubtedly aware, is on display in Philadelphia just off of Independence Historical National Park
 - The first bell was commissioned in 1752 to be made by the London bell-founding firm of Lester and Pack
 - It was delivered to the new land, and at its first ringing, the rim cracked
 - Two Philadelphia smiths by the names of John Pass and John Stow then melted it down and recast it
 - It’s first ringing, it was later reported, made a sound like “2 coal carts banging together.”
 - It was then recast a 3rd time and rang, and remained uncracked
 - The famous crack did not actually occur until sometime in the early 1840s
- And the saga of the bell continues...
 - The signing of the declaration on July 4 did not end the war nor guarantee our freedom
 - In Sept 1777, over a year later, the British are about to occupy Philadelphia because Washington had lost the Battle of Brandywine near Chadds Ford
 - The British believed that to occupy the very seat of independence would lead to the winning of the war
 - With metal having become very scarce, it was thought that the British would melt down all of the bells they could find to make cannons
 - And so, the 11 bells of the city, including the one in the state house, were taken down and moved to the village of Northampton Town some 62 miles north of the city
 - The small town was founded by William Allen, one of the wealthiest men in the colonies at the time
 - The city was later renamed Allentown
 - Several wagons were sent out on Sept 24, 1777 with the bells and other important artifacts hidden and under the guard of a small calvary escort
 - Upon their arrival they were hidden under the floorboards of the Zion German Reformed Church until 9 months later, when the British evacuated Philadelphia
 - The bells were returned and hung again

- The political and cultural climate of our country today continues to deny the importance of God in our nation’s early years in spite of the passage of scripture inscribed on the bell
 - One July 4th weekend several years ago, a talk show host, noted for his stance against God, was speaking with a call-in listener discussing the early role of Christianity in our nations’ founding...
 - The host said; *Why do Christians think they had anything special to do with the founding of this country... Anybody who reads history books knows that Christianity was no more involved in America’s founding than any other religion.*
 - If this man had actually read a history book, he would know that his statement was not true...
- And we can go much further back than 1776
 - In 1504 Christopher Columbus wrote in his journal the reason for setting out to discover a new land: *I was led of the Holy Spirit to carry the message of the Gospel to undiscovered lands.*
 - In 1620 the Pilgrims drafted the Mayflower Compact. *In the name of God, amen. Having undertaken for the glory of God and for the advancement of the Christian faith, do solemnly and mutually in the presence of God, covenant and combine ourselves together.*
 - In 1643, 23 years later, the Puritans formed a group and wrote The New England Confederation
 - This draft was the first written document of the new world and a forerunner for those men to utilize in 1776.
 - The New England Confederation Constitution begins with these words; *Whereas we all came into these parts with one and the same end and aim, namely to advance the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ and to enjoy the liberties of the gospel in purity and peace.*
 - One of the driving forces to seek a new land was for the freedom of worship
 - The Church of England was founded in 1534 by Henry VIII
 - Not because he was divinely led, but because Pope Clement VII would not grant him an annulment from his wife Catherine of Aragon so that he could marry Anne Boleyn
 - So he decided to start a new church, so that he could grant himself an annulment
 - This church beginning was about as far from divine as you can get
 - The Puritans, knowing the corrupt state of the Church of England, left to find a new land to show how a nation could prosper if its citizens lived under the laws of God and not the state or a king.
- What about the colonies themselves?
 - The Delaware Charter, the first state to ratify the constitution, defines the purpose of their Colony, *To further propagate the Holy Gospel.*
 - The Virginia Charter assures the right for people to live in *Christian peace*” and instructs the people to: *“Propagate the Christian religion to such people who yet live in ignorance of the true knowledge and worship of God.*
 - The Rhode Island Compact: *We submit our persons, lives, and estates unto our Lord Jesus Christ, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.*

- Certainly our earliest leaders submitted themselves and their intents to God
 - George Washington, in his personal prayer book wrote: *Oh, eternal and everlasting God, direct my thoughts, words and work. Wash away my sins in the immaculate blood of the lamb and purge my heart by the Holy Spirit. Daily, frame me more and more in the likeness of thy son, Jesus Christ, that living in thy fear, and dying in thy favor, I may in thy appointed time obtain the resurrection of the justified unto eternal life. Bless, O Lord, the whole race of mankind and let the world be filled with the knowledge of thy son, Jesus Christ.*
 - Does that sound to you like Christianity was no more involved in America's founding than any other religion?
- John Quincy Adams (6th President)
 - The Declaration of Independence was cowritten by his father John Adams along with Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, Robert Livingston and Roger Sherman
 - In 1821 Adams wrote about the document those 5 men wrote including his father, *From the time of the Declaration of Independence, the American people were bound by the laws of God and the laws of the gospel of Jesus Christ, which they all acknowledge as the root of their conduct. We all came together to obey the word of God.*
- Patrick Henry the first Gov of VA wrote the following: *It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded not but religionists but by Christians, not on religion but on the gospel of Jesus Christ.*
- Benjamin Franklin: after a rather long debate on the writing of the DOI said this, *Gentlemen, if it is true that not one single petal from any flower falls to the ground without escaping God's attention, will the distress of this nation go unheeded? Let us therefore determine to seek His face.*
 - They stopped debating and began to pray and seek the wisdom of God.
- And in 1782, the following resolution was passed: *The Congress of the United States recommends and approves the Holy Bible for use in all schools.*
- The foundation of our origins are also clearly shown when you consider the three branches of our government
 - Executive, Legislative, and Judicial
 - **Isaiah 33:22** - *"For the Lord is our judge, the Lord is our lawgiver, the Lord is our king; it is he who will save us."*
 - The Lord is our Judge [judicial]
 - He is our Lawgiver [legislative]
 - He is our King [that's executive]
 - The founding fathers turned to the Scripture not only guidance but for the very structural foundation of our nation
- And what about the role of the church and its pastors in America's early days.
 - It was a preacher named Frances Bellemly who helped to write the words of the "Pledge of Allegiance."
 - Another preacher, Samuel Smith who wrote the Hymn "My Country 'Tis of Thee."

- Pastor John Leland wrote the introduction of the First Amendment to the Constitution.
- Prior to the Civil War (BTW the end of next week marks the 163rd anniversary of the battle of Gettysburg), 90% of all of America's College Presidents were preachers of the Gospel.
- And Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Brown, Dartmouth, William and Mary and Columbia, today the very seat of hyper liberalism and godless education, were all founded by pastors with direct church affiliations or the expressed intent to educate young men for Christ and the preaching of God's Word.

I believe that it is clearly evident that God was and still is at the foundation of the birth and development of this nation

- There is no doubt that we have moved further and further away from the teachings and guidance of God and His Word
 - Those that so vehemently oppose this truth have the loudest voice
 - Because the media only presents their arguments
- But that does not mean they are right, nor that we should give up hope
- Just as the Bible tells us in **Proverbs 22:6** that if we raise up our children in the ways of the Lord they will not depart far from it, so too this nation was raised in the truth of God and His love
 - Do not give up hope
 - But do not allow yourself to become a part of the problem
 - The answer is not going to be found in protests or angry, divisive rhetoric
 - Too many Christians are deeply involved in the senseless back-and-forth screaming matches that accomplish nothing other than to destroy families, friendships, and relationships
 - It is love, the love of God seen in us, His children that will foster, generate, and encourage change
- It is the name of Jesus that is above every other name
 - He is the Prince of Peace
 - A peace that passes our understanding
 - The only name that can calm the storm on the sea and the storm in the hearts of people

But you have to speak His name

- Speak it in love
- Speak it in patience
- Speak it in forgiveness and understanding