

100 Bible Verses That Made America: Defining Moments That Shaped Our Enduring Foundation of Faith

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Prologue April 30, 1789 The Invisible Hand

Highlight(yellow) - Page xx · Location 533

The founders of the United States of America revered the Bible because it reflected their awareness of God’s authority over the nations.

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“Hold fast to the Bible,” wrote Ulysses S. Grant on June 6, 1872, “as the sheet-anchor of your liberties; write its precepts in your hearts, and practice them in your lives.” 6

5. September 22, 1620 The Mayflower Compact Psalm 107:30

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The Mayflower Compact would become the cornerstone of American representative government.

7. September 8, 1636 The Founding of Harvard John 8:32

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the founders of our great institutions of learning were anchored to their conviction of objective, absolute truth, based on the reality of God and the trustworthiness of Scripture. This was the firm foundation of American education.

8. May 31, 1638 Thomas Hooker, the Father of Democracy Deuteronomy 1:13

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The foundation of authority is laid, firstly, in the free consent of the people.

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Hooker’s concept of democracy was considered radical in a world dominated by monarchs and emperors.

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This is considered the first written constitution to embody a democratic tone, and it became the model for constitutions in other colonies.

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to maintain and preserve the liberty and purity of the gospel of our Lord Jesus which we now profess.

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his ideas were firmly rooted in the priesthood of the believers based on the gospel of Christ. 5

9. December 29, 1649 “God Stept In and Helped” 2 Timothy 2:3

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Paul was facing execution for his faith in Christ when he wrote those words to Timothy, and he wanted to impart tenacity and toughness into his young disciple.

10. November 22, 1739 William Tennent’s Log Cabin Seminary Acts 17:6

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He purchased a hundred acres of land and built a log school for the training of pastors.

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the log cabin became a bonfire for the Great Awakening. 2

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Carnal ministers oppose them strongly . . . as persons that turn the world upside down. 4

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Tennent’s handful of graduates turned the Colonies upside down as evangelists of the Great Awakening, the massive spiritual revival that swept over the Colonies, bringing multitudes to faith in Christ and changing the fabric of early American culture.

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starting streams of godly influences that flowed over the whole land, the currents of which have not subsided even to this present day.

Note - Page 30 · Location 1007

Started multiple streams of the gospel.

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the College of New Jersey, today known as Princeton University. Rev. Douglas K. Turner wrote, “The germ of this distinguished seat of learning [Princeton] . . . is to be found in Mr. Tennent’s seminary.” 6

11. May 5, 1740 Citizens of Heaven 2 Corinthians 12:4

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Those who most anticipate a future in glory are the most likely to change the world here and now.

12. October 23, 1740 The News from Heaven John 3:7

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He was America’s first celebrity, the most famous person in the Colonies before George Washington,

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America’s Spiritual Founding Father. 1

15. October 9, 1747 “I Dared to Rejoice in God” Isaiah 40:1

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his spiritual enthusiasm resulted in his expulsion,

16. January 30, 1750 The Catechism of the Revolution Romans 13:1

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Without America’s pre-Revolutionary preachers, it’s hard to conceive of the Fourth of July.

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These sermons often touched on themes of liberty, freedom, and obedience to God alone.

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Adams later called Mayhew’s sermon “the catechism” for the American Revolution.

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When once magistrates act contrary to their office . . . when they rob and ruin the public, instead of being guardians of its peace and welfare; they immediately cease to be the ordinance and ministers of God; and no more deserve that glorious character, than common pirates and highwaymen. 6

23. April 19, 1775 The Shot Heard Round the World Joel 3:19

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“The teachings of the pulpit of Lexington,” it was said, “caused the first blow to be struck for American Independence.” 7

28. May 17, 1776 When Politics Got into the Pulpit Psalm 76:10

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God grant that in America, true religion and civil liberty may be inseparable, and that the unjust attempts to destroy the one may in the [end] tend to the support and establishing of both. 2

30. May 28, 1777 The Prayers That Turned the Tide Ezekiel 45:9

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Headley described the clergy of America as being like Aaron and Hur on the mountaintop,

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British leaders knew the role sermons had played in the American Revolution, and they often seized church buildings and turned them into barns for their horses or depots for their ammunitions.

31. September 30, 1777 A Speech to Bewildered Men Proverbs 18:10

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Adams was the brains behind the Sons of Liberty. He was an open rabble-rouser against British taxation, a member of the first Continental Congress, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and later the governor of Massachusetts.

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His zeal came from his faith. Adams was a devoted follower of Christ who anchored his soul in God’s Word.

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Sam Adams positioned himself in Christ, trusted God for strength and safety, and kept his morale strong even when times were darkest.

32. October 26, 1777 Watchman, What of the Night? Isaiah 21:11–12

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“Man’s extremity is God’s opportunity.”

38. October 26, 1788 Kindling the Second Great Awakening 1 Kings 10:7

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The First Great Awakening prepared the Colonies for independence, and the Second solidified her moral and spiritual foundation for the future.

42. April 25, 1799 The Father of American Geography Psalm 11:3

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that all efforts made to destroy the foundation of our holy religion, ultimately tend to the subversion also of our political freedom and happiness.

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Whenever the pillars of Christianity shall be overthrown, our present republican forms of government, and all the blessings which flow from them, must fall with them.

47. June 27, 1810 The Haystack Prayer Meeting Revelation 14:13

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church historians point to the Haystack Prayer Meeting as “the birthplace of American foreign missions.”

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On June 27, 1810, Mills and his friends appealed to their Congregational denomination to establish a missionary society. Their petition said: The undersigned, members of the Divinity College, respectfully request the attention of their

Reverend Fathers, convened in the General Association at Bradford, to the following statement and inquires: They beg leave to state that their minds have been long impressed with the duty and importance of personally attending a Mission

to the Heathen . . . and . . . they consider themselves as devoted to this work for life, whenever God in His providence shall open the way. . . . The undersigned, feeling their youth and inexperience, look up to their Fathers in the Church and respectfully solicit their advice, direction, and prayers. [SIGNED] ADONIRAM JUDSON, JR., SAMUEL NOTT, JR., SAMUEL J. MILLS8

48. April 19, 1813 The Father of American Medicine Matthew 25:23

Highlight(yellow) - Page 149 · Location 2720

Among the first to champion the abolition of slavery, Rush was instrumental in founding America’s first anti-slavery society.

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He was an early supporter of women’s rights, advocating education for women.

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let both sexes be carefully instructed on the principles and obligations of the Christian religion. This is the most essential part of education—

50. March 31, 1816 Circuit Riders Who Tamed the Frontier 1 John 3:8

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itinerant evangelists like Asbury their sense of godly militancy.

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The eighteenth-century circuit riders were big-hearted and loud-voiced, and they were not easily intimidated or silenced.

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If Asbury was lightning, the thunder belonged to Peter Cartwright, a rough-and-tumble preacher who wasn’t afraid to leave the pulpit and scuffle with hecklers.

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I resolved on a desperate experiment. .

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While I prayed, some wept . . . and some cried for mercy. I rose from my knees and commenced an exhortation, after which I sang a hymn. The young lady who invited me on the floor lay prostrate, crying earnestly for mercy. I exhorted again, I sang and prayed nearly all night. About fifteen of that company professed religion, and our meeting lasted next day and next night, and as many more were powerfully converted. I organized a society, took 32 into the church, and sent them a preacher. . . . That was the commencement of a great and glorious revival . . . in that region. 4

51. May 11, 1816 “Give Me That Book!” Psalm 68:11

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they labored assiduously to incorporate its principles with the elements of government.” 1

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As tensions grew with England, the importation of Scripture became impossible.

56. June 21, 1834 Better Make It a Hundred Romans 8:37

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He did more than any other member of the human race to abolish the famine of cities and the drudgery of the farm—to feed the hungry and straighten the backs of the world.” 7

57. November 7, 1837 Freedom of the Press Jude 1:3

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He was buried on his thirty-fifth birthday, the first white martyr for the cause of abolition;

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“I can die at my post, but I cannot desert it.”

58. March 1, 1841 The Friend of Both Washington and Lincoln Psalm 65:11

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And “America’s first champion of human rights . . . who stunned Congress—and the nation—by demanding that Congress extend constitutional liberties to Americans of African descent by abolishing slavery.”

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Adams fiercely represented the slaves aboard the Amistad, arguing successfully on their behalf before the Supreme Court.

60. June 8, 1845 Old Hickory’s Firm Foundation 2 Peter 1:4

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both white and black.”

61. February 23, 1848 Death in the House John 11:25

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After his one-term presidency, John Quincy Adams, fit and feisty, ran for 1841 and was elected to the House of Representatives, where, based on his Christian convictions, he fought slavery tooth and nail. His last public appearance in Boston was to preside over an injustice committed against an African-American slave.

64. July 5, 1852 Frederick Douglass and the Fourth of July Isaiah 1:15

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Douglass never got over his revulsion that some Christians defended the institution of slavery. He knew that a true reading of both the Bible and the American Constitution stuck a knife into the heart of human trafficking,

65. September 23, 1857 Revival Sweeps the Country Hebrews 4:16

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From the United States the revival spread to Ireland, Scotland, Wales, and England.

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For two years approximately fifty thousand people a week came to Christ.

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It’s remarkable that no great evangelists accentuated this revival, and it wasn’t sustained by massive evangelistic meetings or famous preachers. Except for the largely unknown layman Jeremiah Lanphier, no prominent names are attached to this movement.

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The revival of 1857–1858 is often called the Third Great Awakening

68. September 6, 1863 Revival in the Ranks John 3:15

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The unspeakable carnage drove soldiers of both sides to Christ, and the resulting spiritual revival among both Union and Confederate forces is one of the most underreported aspects of the War.

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Between 100,000 and 200,000 Union soldiers acknowledged Christ during the War, and approximately 150,000 Confederate troops did the same.

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Additional thousands were revived in their faith. 2

70. April 14, 1865 Lincoln’s Last Words Mark 11:22

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Lincoln wrote a book disparaging the Bible and attacking the divinity of Christ. “The book was an attack upon the whole grounds of Christianity, and especially was it an attack upon the idea that Jesus was the Christ, the true and only-begotten Son of God, as the Christian world contends.” 1

73. December 6, 1884 A Virtual Bible Engraved in Stone Psalm 68:35

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Jefferson Memorial: GOD WHO GAVE US LIFE GAVE US LIBERTY. CAN THE LIBERTIES OF A NATION BE SECURE WHEN WE HAVE REMOVED A CONVICTION THAT THESE LIBERTIES ARE THE GIFT OF GOD?

79. July 16, 1914 The Concoction 1 Thessalonians 1:5

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Candler believed that “education without a strong Christian influence would lead to a population of an educated elite with no moral foundation.

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In my opinion, the education which sharpens and strengthens the mental faculties and which at the same time invigorating the moral powers and inspiring the religious life is a course rather than a blessing. . . . I am profoundly and impatient that what our country needs is not more secularized education, but more of the education that is fundamentally and intentionally religious.

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The Church of God is an enduring institution; it will live when individuals and secular corporations have perished. It is not easily carried about by the shifting winds of doctrine.

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The work of higher education is not going to be surrendered to secularism.

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Asa Candler has gone down in history primarily for the drugstore concoction he purchased and popularized, which produced millions of dollars for the expansion of the work of the Methodists and the ministry—a drink called Coca-

80. July 12, 1917 The Book in the Trenches Philipians 2:16

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Wilson, the son of a preacher and an ardent Presbyterian, understood that the Bible is a living

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Book that imparts eternal life to those who embrace its message.

92. March 15, 1965 Bloody Sunday Matthew 16:26

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As Lewis later told historian Jon Meacham, “Without religion—without the example of Christ, who sacrificed for others—as the foundation of the movement, it would have been impossible for us to endure the setbacks, and to hope, and to go on.

94. January 22, 1973 The Conscience of an Honest Woman John 4:15

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If slavery is not wrong,” said Abraham Lincoln, “then nothing is wrong.” 1 In our world today we can say the same for the slaying of preborn and newborn children.

96. September 19, 1979 The National Day of Prayer Zechariah 4:6

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Our problems are not primarily political; they are moral and spiritual—and the answers are spiritual.