

GOD’S COVENANT WITH AMERICA



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INTRODUCTION

Historian Dave Barton speaks of the significance of the “Golden Thread” that is interlaced through a valuable tapestry and applies this concept to our nation’s history: “The Golden Thread in American history is the superintending Providence of Almighty God. It includes both His interventions that are recognized by men and women, as well as those that are not. Without them, America would not have become the nation she has.”¹

This article will briefly highlight some segments of this profound “Golden Thread” of divine Providence in our nation’s history in terms of America’s covenant relationship with Almighty God. Covenant in the general sense of the word is derived from the Hebrew word *B’rith* which refers to a mutually binding agreement between two unequal parties.² More specifically God is the greater party and man is the lesser party in terms of covenant. While there are the formally established covenants such as the Abrahamic and Mosaic covenant and ultimately the new covenant under Christ that are recognized in Biblical theology there can also be a semblance in terms of divine covenant relationship with individuals and nations.

This article will apply the concept of covenant specifically in terms of America’s history especially considering divine providence. While secularists vehemently argue against any notion of *American Exceptionalism*, I will contend that this nation is exceptional in terms of God’s covenant relationship that is evidenced by the Golden Thread of our past. This great nation not only had an exceptional past through our Founding Fathers and early pioneers, but it also has a great manifest destiny to accomplish

¹ David & Tim Barton, *The American Story; The Beginnings*. (Aledo, TX: Wall Builder Press, 2020), 15.

² בְּרִית – from the Old Testament it also means a cutting of a sacrificial animal in half as in Gen. 15:17-18 where God made a covenant with Abraham.

God's sovereign and eternal purposes in the present and in the future if she will return to her covenant relationship with God.

We now turn our attention to several historical highlights concerning America's manifest destiny where the Golden Thread of divine providence are amazingly evident.

THE VISIONS & PROPHECIES OF ADMIRAL CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS FOR THE NEW WORLD



In this day and time of the “cancel culture” movement where historical figures of the past were once revered, now they are vilified, and their statues and memorials are being torn down and desecrated. One such famous individual from the annals of history has come to be hated and reviled – Christopher Columbus.

False accusations have been fabricated by so called enlightened progressives. They claim that Columbus was driven by a greed for gold, personal ambition, and a desire for militant conquest of the New World to the point that indigenous peoples such as the native Indians were abused and enslaved.

Yet, nothing is further from the truth. Recent academic scholarship in the past few decades have shed light on the incredible and pious Christian character of Columbus. As a matter of fact, Columbus was a brilliant and compassionate anthropologist, who had the greatest respect and admiration of the native Indians in the New World. He strived for an understanding of their culture and language and insisted upon fair treatment in all his dealings with them; he believed that this was of utmost importance so the Europeans could be a Christian witness preparing the way to share the Gospel of Christ.³

³ Carol Delaney, *Columbus and Quest for Jerusalem; How Religion Drove the Voyages That Led to America*. (New York, NY: Free Press, 2011), 98-99.

What was most notable about Columbus was his pious Christian faith that is not only documented throughout his personal journals, but this is also spoken of by his contemporaries and those who knew him personally. One aspect of his faith can be described as “evangelical” especially in the sense that he was strongly devoted to Christ and the study of Bible.⁴ His personal signature consisted of a combination of Greek and Latin words meaning “Christ-bearer” which became his personal namesake. It was unusual for anyone to carry Bibles in Columbus’ day because only the educated clergy who could read and understand Latin had access to Bibles. Columbus, however, was well educated and fluent in several languages including Latin. Therefore, he carried his own personal Bible with him whenever he traveled as well as on his voyages.

In addition to his evangelicalism, he could also be described somewhat as a “charismatic” Christian as he had strong ties with what was known as the “Third Order of St. Francis” who believed in the spiritual gifts including prophecy, dreams, and visions. Columbus believed that he had special gifts of knowledge and discernment especially in a prophetic context and described his unique gifting with a Latin phrase: *spiritualis intellectus*. What is even more astounding is that Columbus strongly believed that the founding of the New World – the Americas was tied to prophetic destiny and had to do with the ultimate fulfillment of the Great Commission before the return of Christ and the final consummation of the age in the end times. He was an avid student of Bible prophecy.

Columbus felt driven by a sense of spiritual calling and Christian conviction to make his voyage to the New World, and he met with many leaders and officials of his day to share his vision seeking not only financing for the trip but also an official endorsement. Eventually an agreement with Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand were drafted and the final addendum was approved and signed on **April 30, 1492** – exactly 297 years before George Washington’s inauguration. This official commission known as the “Capitulations of Santa Fe” was regarded as an important document as several copies were made and notarized. Columbus preserved this work into a document called *The Book of Privileges*.

What Columbus regarded as one of the most important callings later in his life was the writing of a book of prophecies regarding the discovery of the New World – the Americas. It was titled The Book of Prophecies written in Latin and known by its title *Libro de las profecias*. This work lay hidden and forgotten for nearly four centuries in a monastic library in Seville. Although it was typeset and printed in 1892 in its original language, only 560 copies were made available. It was not until 1984 that the *Book of Prophecies* was translated from Latin into Spanish and then later through an historical research department at the University of Florida it was translated into English with parallel Latin text in 1992. This work affirms Columbus’ conviction that the discovery of America was guided by divine Providence.

⁴Delno C. West and August King, *The Libro de las profecias of Christopher Columbus; An en face edition*. (Gainesville, FL: University of Florida Press, 1991), 41.

THE PILGRIMS AND THE PURITAN CONCEPT OF DIVINE COVENANT FOR AMERICA



In the 1600's the Pilgrims and the Puritans were fleeing religious persecution in Europe and in Great Britain. They saw the prospect of coming to North America as a work of divine providence with the vision of establishing a free nation built upon Biblically based Judeo-Christian principles. This is evidenced in the legal code built into their governance known as the *Massachusetts Body of Liberties* written in 1641 by the Rev. Nathaniel Ward who used the Old Testament Pentateuch (the first five books of the Old Testament) as the basis for their civil laws.

The first group of Pilgrims arrived in America on the voyage of the Mayflower and before coming ashore on Cape Cod, Massachusetts, they wrote their own governmental ordinance on November 11, 1620. This was America's earliest charter and law known as the Mayflower Compact written by their leader William Bradford. According to Barton, the Compact placed our "civil government on a firm Christian basis and was the beginning of American constitutional government." The Compact affirms the principle of covenant between America and their God:

Having undertaken for the glory of God and advancement of the Christian faith, and the honor of our king and country, a voyage to plant the first colony in the northern parts of Virginia, do by these presents [that is, by this legal document and charter] solemnly and mutually, **in the presence of God and one of another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil body.**⁵

Soon after the arrival of the Pilgrims the early Puritans became instrumental in the founding of the Massachusetts Bay Colony and were part of what is referred to as the "the Great Puritan Exodus" as they sailed to America. During their voyage they are described as *constantly serving God, morning and evening by reading and expounding upon chapters [in the Bible], singing and prayer.*⁶ Their leader John

⁵ David & Tim Barton, *The American Story, The Beginnings*, 47.

⁶ Ibid, 65.

Winthrop wrote and delivered a famous sermon titled *A Model of Christian Charity* on the ship Arbela. The Puritans had a tremendous understanding of the principle of God's covenant with individuals and nations. Winthrop who later became one of the first governors, demonstrates a profound sense of this principle in his sermon referring to their calling to America:

We are entered into **covenant** with Him for this work. We have taken out a commission. The Lord hath given us leave to draw our own articles. We have professed to enterprise these and those accounts, upon these and those ends. We have hereupon besought Him of favor and blessing. Now if the Lord shall please to hear us, and bring us in peace to the place we desire, then hath he ratified this **covenant** and sealed our commission, and will expect a strict performance of the articles contained it; but if we shall neglect the observation of these articles which are the ends we have propounded, and, dissembling with our God, shall fall to embrace this present world and prosecute our carnal intentions, seeking great things for ourselves and our posterity, the Lord will surely break out in wrath against us; be revenged of such a people and make us known the price of the breach of such a **covenant**.⁷

Here are some important observations based upon Winthrop's sermon: (1) the Puritan's calling to establish a colony and an nation was described as a work based upon a covenant with God, (2) this work to establish governance and a new society is a commission that is ratified in covenant with God, and (3) a warning is issued to the people of the nation if the covenant is broken then "the Lord will surely break out in wrath against them."

As Winthrop concludes his sermon, he makes a reference to Jesus' exhortation from Matthew 5:14 – "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden." And he highlights the importance of this covenant with the Lord so that the nation and its society in America will be a godly example to the world:

"For we must consider that we shall be as a city upon a hill. The eyes of all people are upon us. So that if we shall deal falsely with our God in this work we have undertaken, and so cause him to withdraw his present help from us, we shall be made a story and a by-word through the world...[from Deuteronomy 30 he concludes] *Therefore, let us choose life that we may live, by obeying His voice and cleaving to Him, for He is our life and our prosperity.*"

⁷ John Winthrop, *A Model of Christian Charity; a City on a Hill*. Originally written in 1630 and published in 1838 by the Massachusetts Historical Society (New York: Cosimo Classics, reprint 2020), 23.

GEORGE WASHINGTON – AN AFFIRMATION OF GOD’S COVENANT AT THE 1ST INAUGURATION



Where Winthrop and the Puritans leave off on declaring this divine covenant between the Lord and his people in America, George Washington picks up fully affirming this principle 159 years later. It was on April 30, 1789 in New York City the nation’s first inauguration ceremony took place on the balcony at Federal Hall. The local newspaper reported:

On the morning of the day on which our illustrious president will be invested with his office, the bells will ring at nine o’clock, when the people may go up to the house of God and in a solemn manner commit the new government, with its important train of consequences, to the holy protection and blessing of the Most High. An early hour is prudently fixed for this peculiar act of devotion and...is designed wholly for prayer.⁸

Washington placed his left hand on the Bible and raised his right hand taking the oath of office and then bent over and reverently kissed the Bible. The Bible was opened to Deuteronomy chapters 28 – 30 which speaks of God’s covenant blessings and curses on a nation according to God’s faithfulness to keep His word.⁹ This is the same passage that John Winthrop also concluded his sermon on God’s covenant. Eyewitness accounts speak of the inauguration continuing for two hours. In Washington’s inaugural address he acknowledges the providence of God on behalf of the nation:

⁸ Barton, *The American Story*, 240-42.

⁹ Mark Beliles and Stephen McDowell, *America’s Providential History*, (Charlottesville, VA: Providence Foundation, 2020), 209.

It would be peculiarly improper to omit, in this first official act, my fervent supplications to that Almighty Being who rules over the universe and who presides in the councils of nations...No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the Invisible Hand which conducts the affairs of men more than the people of the United States. Every step by which they have advanced to the character of an independent nation seems to have been distinguished by some token of providential agency.

After taking the oath of office, the record of official proceedings reports that the president and members of Congress went *en masse* to *St. Paul's Chapel*, where *Divine Service* was performed. Various witness accounts reported that this prayer service lasted for four hours.

SUMMARY OF THE COVENANT PRINCIPLE AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE FOR AMERICA



Historically, God's hand of divine providence is clearly seen on the founding of the United States of America. The Pilgrims and the Puritans, along with George Washington and other early founders recognized the importance of the nation's covenant relationship with God. God honors his covenants with nations and individuals as He is always faithful even when we are unfaithful (2 Tim. 2:13).

The Lord established his covenant with the Old Testament Patriarch Abraham and with Moses as well as King David. The Lord called Israel to enter into a covenant relationship: "Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the children of Israel" (Exodus 19:5-6).

Believers in Christ are spiritually grafted into Israel and share Israel's covenant blessings (Rom. 11:16-17). The covenant promises carry over to the Church through Jesus Christ who instituted a New Covenant through the blood of His sacrifice (1 Cor. 11:25). This new covenant not only extends all the old covenant blessings of Israel to the Church but is superior as it is made through the eternal atonement of Christ rather than the blood of animals (Heb. 8:6; 9:12).

The New Testament Covenant picks up where God's promises to Israel through Moses in Exodus 19 leave off and makes a declaration to Christians of the faithful remnant (Rom. 11:5), the true church of believers (*Ekklesia*): "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9).

The Pilgrims and Puritans along with many of the early founders were Christians who understood their faith in the context of old and new covenant and not only as it applied to Israel but also as it applied to their new life and citizenship in America. John Winthrop's sermon affirms this belief as they were getting ready to disembark from their voyage [*brackets inserted for explanation*]: "Now if the Lord shall please to hear us [*their prayers for coming to America*], and bring us in peace to the place we desire [*America*], **then hath he ratified this covenant and sealed our commission** and will expect a strict performance of the articles contained in it [*obedience to the Covenant*].

A covenant has the expectation that both parties will reciprocate and honor their agreement. As stated previously, God always honors His Word – His part of the bargain. It is up to us who are citizens of this nation to honor our part of the covenant agreement through obedience to God's Word. Exodus 19:5-6 starts with the condition of obedience: *Now therefore if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant.*

Obedience is a necessary requirement for receiving God's sustained blessing upon a nation and its people. After the law (the Word of God) was given to Moses, the Lord tells Him that the nation of Israel must "Keep all the commandments which I command you today" (Deut. 27:1). The three chapters that follow (28, 29, & 30) in detail describe the blessings of obedience to the covenant as well as the curses of disobedience to the covenant. The Lord concludes His covenant exhortations with a closing word: "I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore, choose life, that both you and your descendants may live" (Deut. 30:19).

John Winthrop also concludes his sermon with this verse with a warning for America and its people: "And to shut this discourse with that exhortation of Moses, that faithful servant of the Lord, in his last farewell to Israel, Deut. 30...*But if our hearts shall turn away, so that we will not obey, but shall be seduced, and worship and serve other gods, our pleasure and profits, and serve them; it is propounded unto us this day; we shall surely perish out of the good land wither we pass over this vast sea to possess.*"

George Washington, on the day of his inauguration on April 30, 1789, lays his hand on the Bible open to these very passages and affirms this same covenant on behalf of the nation just as the Pilgrims and Puritans who came before him to establish the first colonial settlements. Therefore, the expectation is that America will also honor their part of the covenant agreement in order to obey God's holy commands and to keep His Word.

Unfortunately, America has turned away from its covenant relationship with God. It murders unborn children through abortion. It recognizes same sex marriage and panders to transgenderism. Instead of

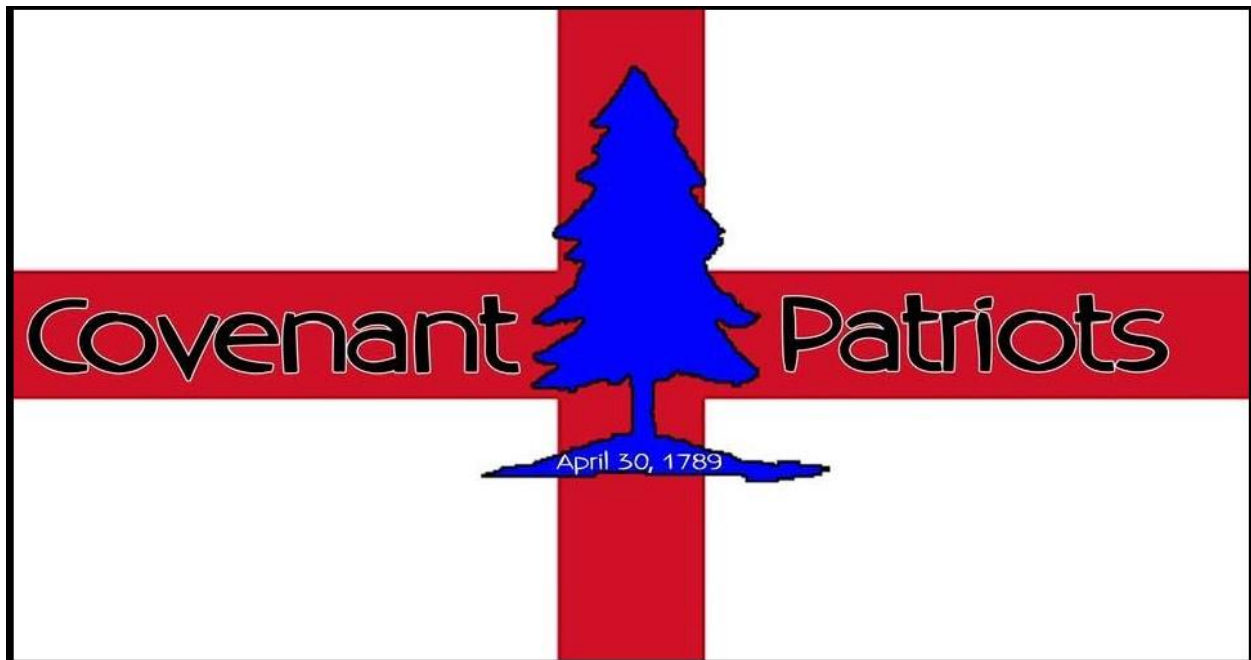
being the greatest nation sending missionaries to all the world, it now is the largest exporter of pornography and sex trafficking. Our nation has clearly departed from its Judeo-Christian values that were affirmed by our early founders.

Prophets such as Rabi Jonathan Cahn have delivered words of warning to our nation. Cahn who organized a time of fasting, prayer and consecration in Washington D.C. Fall of 2020 called “the Return” wrote about this warning as a violation of the nation’s sacred covenant with God:

It was all there, he said from the very beginning, in the prophecy given at the birth of American civilization, the mystery that joined it to ancient Israel, in its blessings, in its falling, and in that which would come upon it...America’s first day as a fully constituted nation was April 30, 1789, the inaugural day of its first president, George Washington. After Washington was sworn into office, he led America’s first government on foot to the place appointed for the new governments to perform its first official act – to pray and dedicate the nation’s future to God.¹⁰

Other prophetic voices have issued stern words of warning in the past such as the late David Wilkerson who wrote *The Vision, The Coming Judgment and Racing Towards Judgment* back in the early 1970’s.

**A CALL TO NATIONAL CONSECRATION & REPENTANCE
AND TO RETURN TO THE COVENANT: APRIL 30TH**



Just as Israel and Judah suffered judgment for breaking God’s covenant and refusing to heed the warning of their prophets, will America come to repentance and return to their covenant? There is a

¹⁰ Jonathan Cahn, *The Harbinger II; The Return*. (Lake Mary, FL: Charisma House, 2020), 111 & 231.

movement rising in the nation – *Covenant Patriots* will be holding prayers at St. Paul’s Chapel on April 30, 2021 in New York City to repent and call for a return to the covenant.

AD Bradshaw shares what the Lord revealed to her in the principle of “Affirming and Returning” in the April 2021 issue of [Covenant Patriots: The Official Newsletter of Covenant Patriots](#) (For Complete Newsletter click on the above Hyperlink):

On April 30, 1789, the Lord God affirmed the covenant He had made with Christopher Columbus and with the Pilgrims of 1620 with George Washington for America. We, as a nation, have walked away from this Covenant, but the Lord has not! As a sign and symbol of our return we are to remember and celebrate April 30th from this year forward as “The National Day of the Covenant.” As people of faith in God, and Patriots to this great nation, we are to spread the word for all to take back the ground and return to the Covenant of the Lord for America.

Isaiah 59:21 – “As for Me, this is My covenant with them, says the Lord. My Spirit who is on you, will not depart from you, and My words I have put in your mouth will always be on your lips. On the lips of your children and on the lips of your descendants – from this time on and forever! Bradshaw shares the significance of walking in Covenant: “I am just beginning this deeper way of life and know that His grace is sufficient for me as I am letting go of anything that does not align with this amazing covenant I have with Jesus and that includes the Covenant I have with Him for America!”¹¹

ADDITIONAL WEB SOURCE INFORMATION ON GOD’S COVENANT WITH AMERICA

CBN News Interview – America’s Explicit Covenant with God: How a Nation Pledged to God Can Save a World or Lose It.

[America's 'Explicit Covenant with God': How a Nation Pledged to God Can Save a World or Lose It | CBN News](#)

Glen Beck on God’s Covenant with America (Facebook & You Tube)

[\(5\) Glenn Beck - Posts | Facebook](#)

<https://youtu.be/MHXMZPgPxWs>

Also: www.restorethecovenant.com – *Join Glen Beck’s Restoring the Covenant Tour*

Invoke the American Covenant: *Great Leaders Committed to Restoring the American Covenant*

www.AmericanCovenant.org

¹¹ AD Bradshaw, *Covenant Patriots: The Official Newsletter of Covenant Patriots*. April 2021 issue.

"AFFIRMING AND RETURNING"
2021

COVENANT PATRIOTS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF COVENANT PATRIOTS

THE MESSAGE:

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ISAIAH 59:21

"AS FOR ME, THIS IS MY COVENANT WITH THEM", SAYS THE LORD. " MY SPIRIT, WHO IS ON YOU , WILL NOT DEPART FROM YOU, AND MY WORDS I HAVE PUT IN YOUR MOUTH WILL ALWAYS BE ON YOUR LIPS, ON THE LIPS OF YOUR CHILDREN AND ON THE LIPS OF YOUR DESCENDANTS- FROM THIS TIME ON AND FOREVER!"



WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO LIVE IN COVENANT WITH THE LORD?

AD Bradshaw

When the Lord spoke to me in late January about the covenant we have with Him for America, I was shocked to find that we don't even celebrate April 30th already. I honestly didn't know that we had a covenant with God. I knew that we were blessed as a nation—the greatest nation on the planet. But I didn't know that we were under an actual covenant with the Lord until He told me. As He began to reveal to me all the history from Christopher Columbus forward, I was so excited, and afraid. Who would believe me when I would tell them that God said to make April 30th the National Day of the Covenant? I felt like Moses who felt no one would listen to him either. And he was a man!

The Lord gave me strength as I moved forward in obedience. As we know, if we love Him, we will obey Him no matter how ridiculous it seems. As I continued on listening and writing, the Lord began to speak to me about my own covenant with Him through the blood of Jesus. The conviction was great! My beautiful life with Jesus was based upon His grace and crazy love for me but what I was giving in return looked way more like convenience. The Lord then showed me my world of compromise and conformity.

In 2000 I had vowed that I would fight against abortion for the rest of my life, after seeing what really happens to a baby. But, I had no idea that I was supporting the very companies that have wiped out millions of American babies! Companies like Walmart, Tractor Supply, Subaru, Campbells, At&t, Calvin Klein, Ralph Lauren, Tjmaxx, Dollar General, Ford, Walgreens, Bath & Body Works, Prudential, USAA, and on and on. My heart broke as I realized that beyond my own tax dollars, I was a part of breaking God's heart. But what was I to do about it? And so, The Lord began to show me what Covenant looks like! It's a life full of joy and trust for provision. It's a life without compromise. It's a life that looks completely different from the world. It's a simple life, because luxury aligns itself with the world and its money. It's a life that trusts completely in the Lord and what He says in His word. It is a life that cares more about reaching people than worrying about my insecurities. It is a beautiful life! I am just beginning this deeper way of life and know that His grace is sufficient for me as I am letting go of anything that doesn't align with this amazing covenant I have with Jesus and that includes the covenant I have with Him for America!