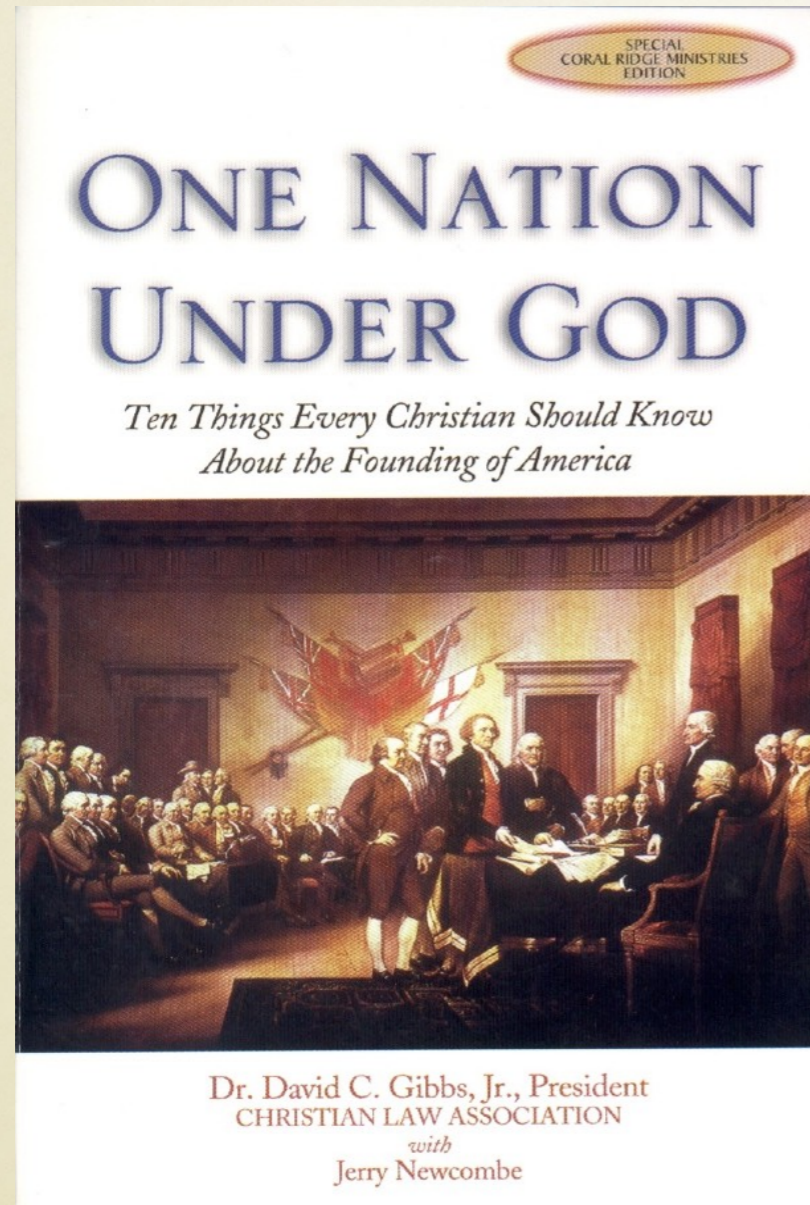




One Nation Under God

ONE NATION UNDER GOD



Ten things every Christian should know about the founding of America.

An excellent summary of our history in 200 pages.

ONE NATION UNDER GOD

“America is the only nation in the world that is founded on a creed. That creed is set forth with dogmatic and even theological lucidity in the Declaration of Independence.”

G.K.Chesterton

1. CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS



Christopher Columbus was motivated by his Christian faith to sail to the New World.

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

“Let Christ rejoice on earth, as he rejoices in heaven, when he foresees coming to salvation so many souls of people hitherto lost.”

Christopher Columbus
Journal (1492)

2. MAYFLOWER COMPACT



The Pilgrims clearly stated that they came to the New World to glorify God and to advance the Christian faith.

PILGRIMS – MAYFLOWER



- Pilgrims were blown off course from Virginia.
- Instead they landed at Cape Cod and eventually settled on the site of Plymouth Colony.
- Before the disembarked, they drafted the Mayflower Compact.

MAYFLOWER COMPACT



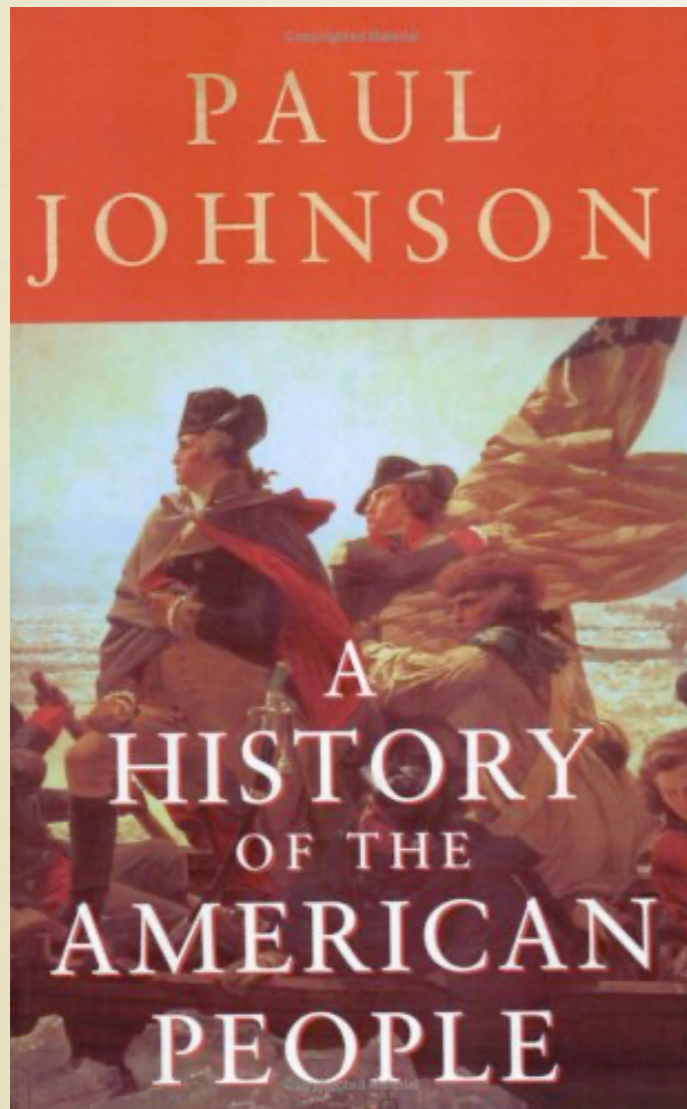
The Mayflower Compact

In ye name of God Amen. We whose names are underwritten, the loyall subjects of our dread souveraigne Lord King James, by ye grace of God, of Great Britaine, France, & Ireland King, defender of ye faith, &c.

Haveing undertaken, for ye glorie of God, and advancemente of ye Christian faith and honour of our King & countrie, a voyage to plant ye first colonie in ye Northerne parts of Virginia, doe by these presents solemnly & mutually in ye presence of God, and one of another, covenant, & combine ourselves together into a Civill body politick; for our better ordering, & preservation & furtherance of ye ends aforesaid; and by vertue hereof to enacte, constitute and frame such just & equall Lawes, ordinances, Acts, constitutions & offices from time to time, as shall be thought most meeete & convenient for ye generall good of ye colonie: unto which we promise all due submission and obedience. In witness whereof we have hereunder subscribed our names at Cap=Codd ye -11- of November, in ye year of ye raigne of our souveraigne Lord King James of England, France & Ireland ye eighteenth, and of Scotland ye fiftie fourth. Anno Dom. 1620.

John Alden	Richard Warren	John Turner	Samuel Mayflower
William Bradford	John Howland	Thomas Eaton	John Burdett
Edward Winslow	Stephen Hopkins	John Cram	John Eaton
William Brewster	Edward Tilly	John Casadaban	Thomas Child
Samuel Chilton	John Taylor	John Edgerton	Richard Clark
Walter Burdett	James Cook	Thomas Blin	Richard Dummer
John Alden	Thomas Fones	John Burdett	John White
Samuel Blin	Thomas Eaton	John Burdett	Thomas Fones
Christopher Mott	John Byrd	George Hunt	Samuel Doy
William Mullins	Thomas Weston	Robert Worsley	Samuel Eaton
William White			

PAUL JOHNSON



“What was remarkable about this particular contract was that it was not between a servant and a master, or a people and a king, but between a group of like-minded individuals and each other, with God as a witness and symbolic co-signatory.”

3. THE PURITAN COVENANTS



Massachusetts Bay Colony

The Puritans created Bible-based commonwealths in order to practice a representative government that was modeled on their church covenants.

PILGRIMS AND PURITANS

- Pilgrims felt reforming the Church of England was hopeless. They wanted to separate from the church – they were called “Separatists.”
- Puritans wanted to reform the church and purify it from within – they were called “Puritans.”

PURITAN COVENANTS

- There had been no written Constitution in England. The British common law was a mostly oral tradition.
- The Puritans determined to anchor their liberties on the written page, a tradition taken from the Bible.

PURITAN COVENANTS



The Body of Liberties (1641) contained ninety-eight separate protections of individual rights, including: due process of law, equal protection, trial by a jury of peers, and prohibitions against cruel and unusual punishment.

4. HAVEN FOR DISSIDENTS



This nation was founded
as a sanctuary for
religious dissidents.

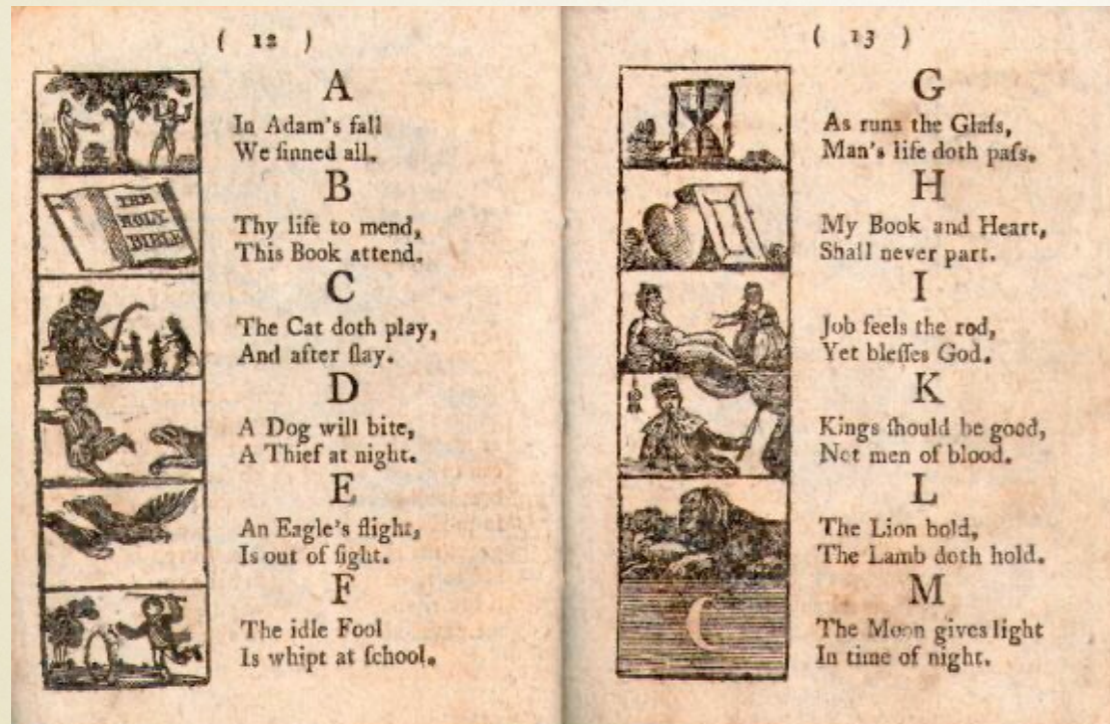
Roger Williams – 1643 Charter for Rhode Island

WILLIAM PENN

- Main author of founding governmental document called *The Concessions*.
- By 1680, *The Concessions* had 150 signers and provided far-reaching liberties never before seen in Anglo-Saxon law.



5. BEGINNING OF WISDOM



New England Primer

The education of the settlers and founders of America was uniquely Christian and Bible-based.

NEW ENGLAND PRIMER



In Adam's fall,
We sinned all.

Heaven to find,
The Bible Mind.

Christ crucified,
For sinners died.

EDUCATION IN THE COLONIES

- Passed a law called the Old Deluder Act because it was intended to defeat Satan, the Old Deluder, who had used illiteracy in the Old World to keep people from reading the Word.
- The main purpose of schools in Puritan New England was to teach children to read the Bible.

HARVARD COLLEGE



“Let every student be plainly instructed and earnestly pressed to consider well the main end of his life and studies is to know God and Jesus Christ which is eternal life (John 17:3).”

Laws and Statutes (1643)

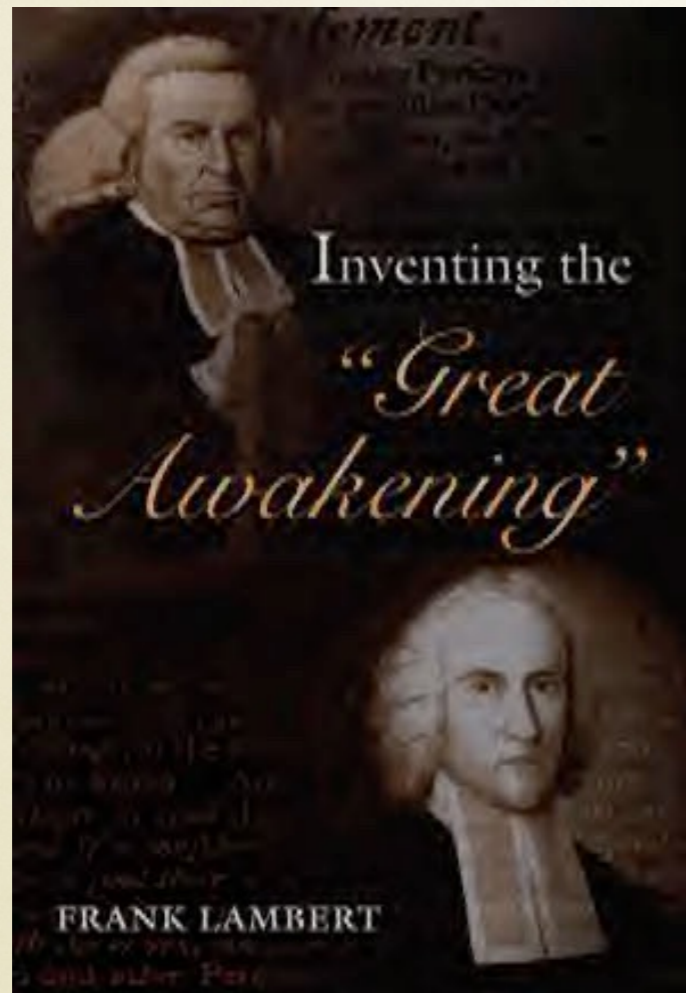
YALE COLLEGE



“All scholars shall live religious, godly, and blameless lives according to the rules of God’s Word, diligently reading the Holy Scriptures, the fountain of light and truth; and constantly attend upon all the duties of religion, both in public and secret.”

Regulations at Yale College (1745)

6. THE GREAT AWAKENING



A religious revival was the key factor in uniting the separate pre-Revolutionary War colonies.

Jonathan Edwards and George Whitefield

THE GREAT AWAKENING



- Jonathan Edwards – revival began in his church in 1734 like a “flash of lightning.”

- George Whitefield – made first continental tour of colonies in 1740.



PAUL JOHNSON



- The Great Awakening may have touched as many as three out of four American colonists.
- He points out that this Great Awakening “sounded the death-knell of British colonialism.”

7. THE BLACK REGIMENT

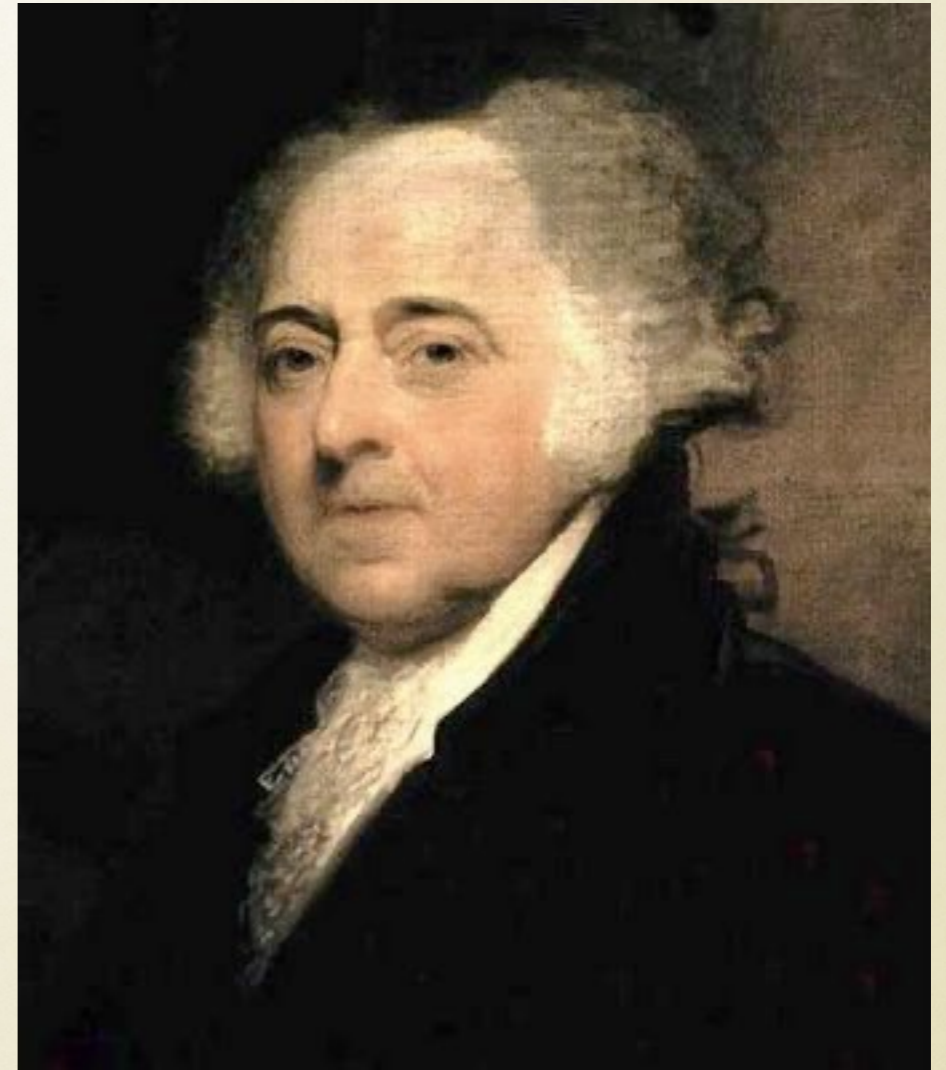


Many of the clergy in the American colonies, members of the Black Regiment, “preached liberty.”

Clergy wore black robes; they were called the Black Regiment.

JOHN ADAMS

“The Revolution was effected before the War commenced. The Revolution was in the mind and hearts of the people: and change in their religious sentiments of their duties and obligations.”

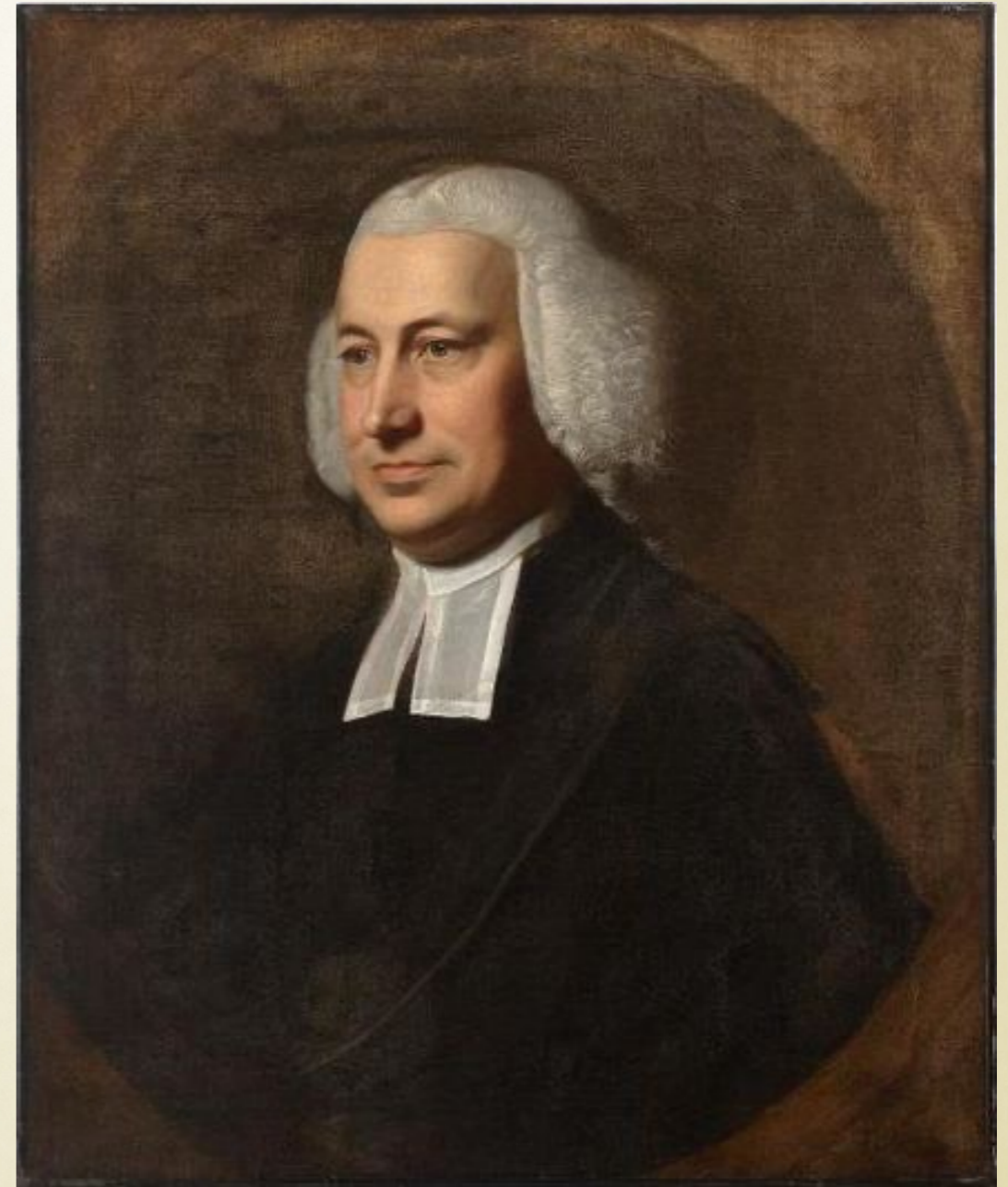


PATRIOT PREACHERS

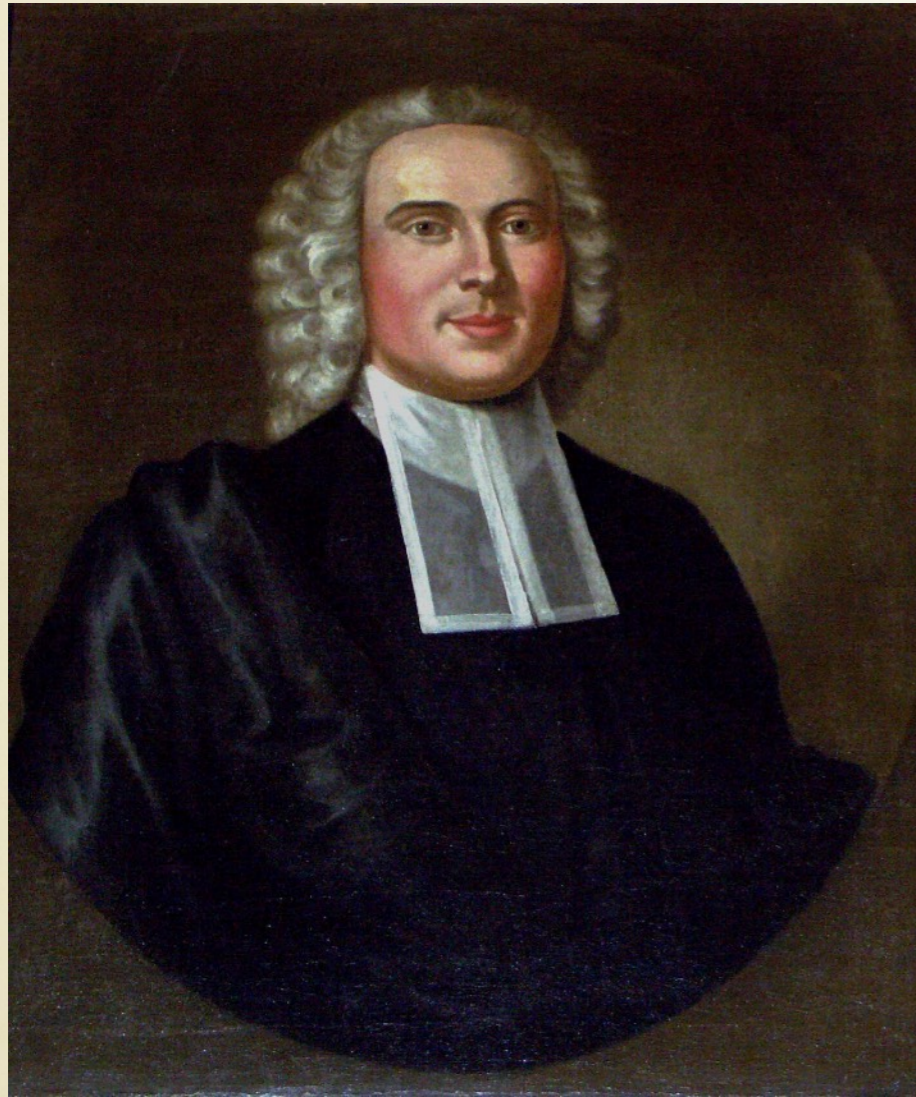
- John Adams wrote “The Meaning of the American Revolution” in 1818.
- He listed those men responsible for the revival of American principles that led to the American Revolution.
- Two of the men he mentioned were Dr. Mayhew and Dr. Cooper.

SAMUEL COOPER

- Samuel Cooper, minister of the Brattle Street Church
- John Hancock and John Adams attended his church.
- He was a close friend of Samuel Adams and corresponded with Benjamin Franklin.

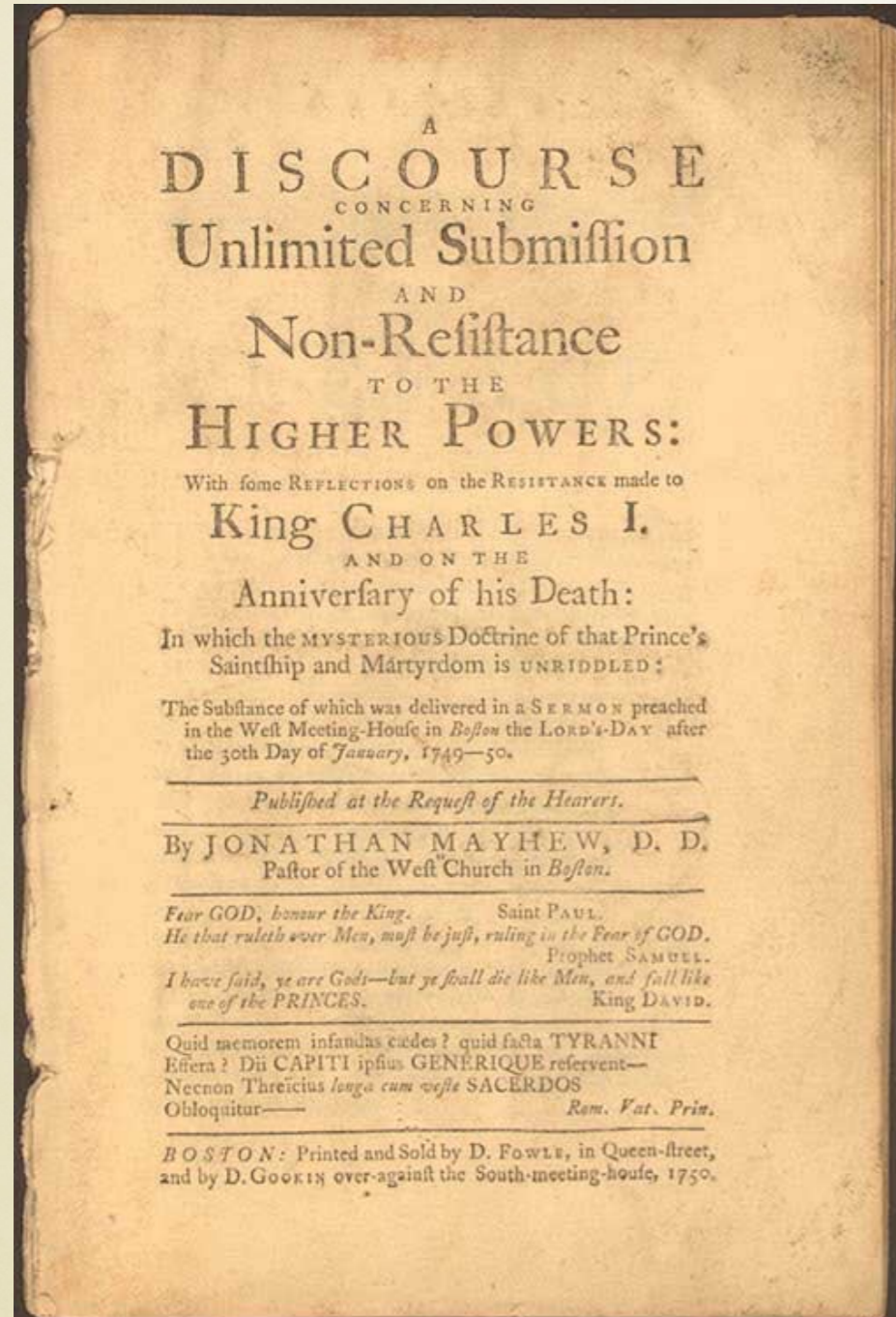


JONATHAN MAYHEW



- Called “The Father of Civil and Religious Liberty in Massachusetts and America.”
- Made the phrase “No Taxation Without Representation” famous in a 1750 sermon.

JONATHAN MAYHEW



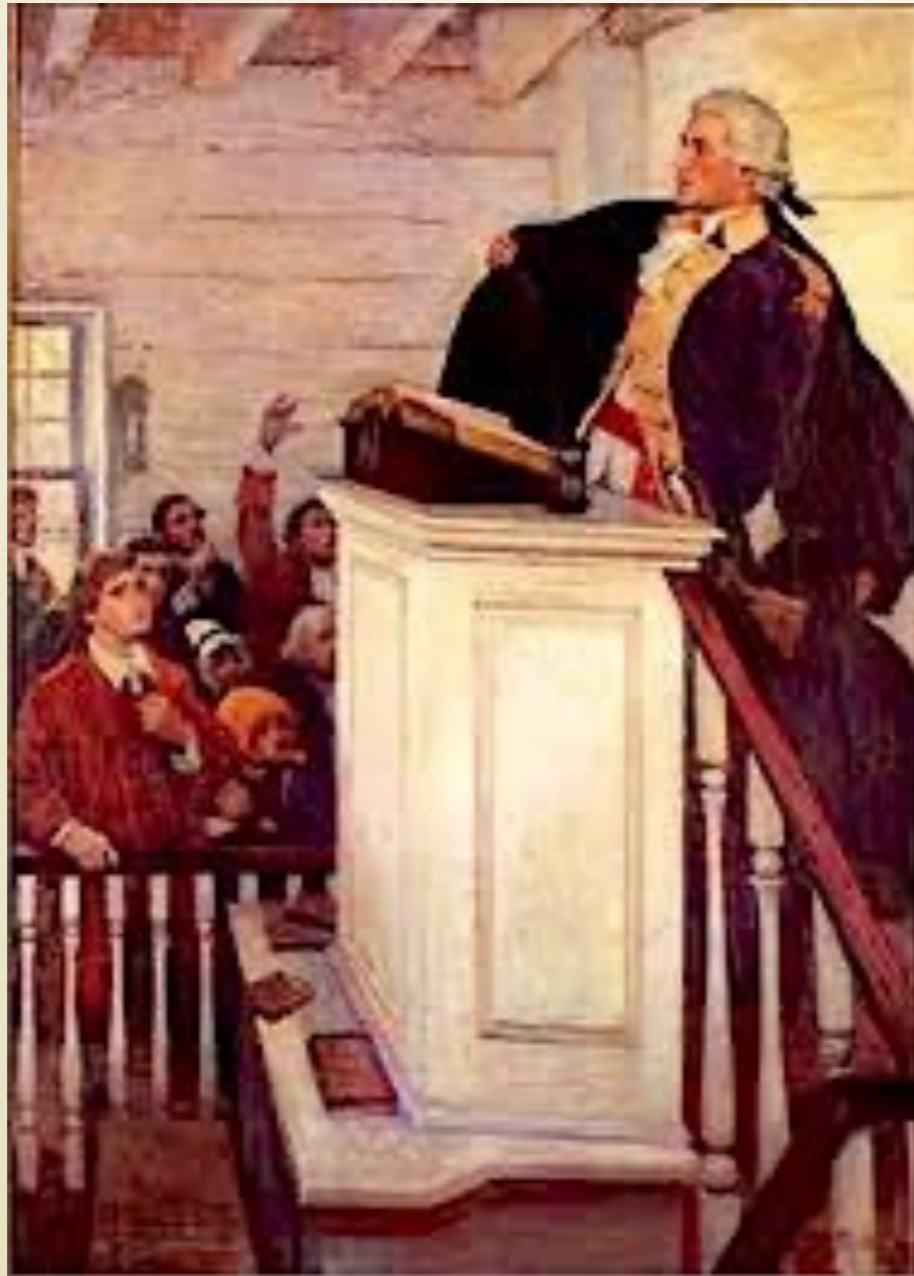
- “A Discourse Concerning Unlimited Submission and Non-Resistance to the Higher Powers.”
- A Christian has not only the right, but the duty to oppose unjust rulers.

JOHN PETER GABRIEL MUHLENBERG

- A Lutheran pastor who also served in the House of Burgesses in Williamsburg.
- Rode back to his pastorate in Woodstock, Virginia.
- On January 21, 1776, he preached on Ecclesiastes. “A time for war, and a time for peace” (Ecclesiastes 3:8).



JOHN PETER GABRIEL MUHLENBERG



LETTER TO FREDERICK MUHLENBERG

- “I am a clergyman, it is true, but I am a member of society as well as the poorest layman, and my liberty is as dear to me as to any man. Shall I then sit still, and enjoy myself at home, when the best blood of the continent is spilling? Heaven forbid it.”
- “Do you think then, if America should be conquered, I should be safe? Nothing less. And would you not sooner fight like a man than die the death of a dog?”

8. CHRISTIAN PATRIOTS

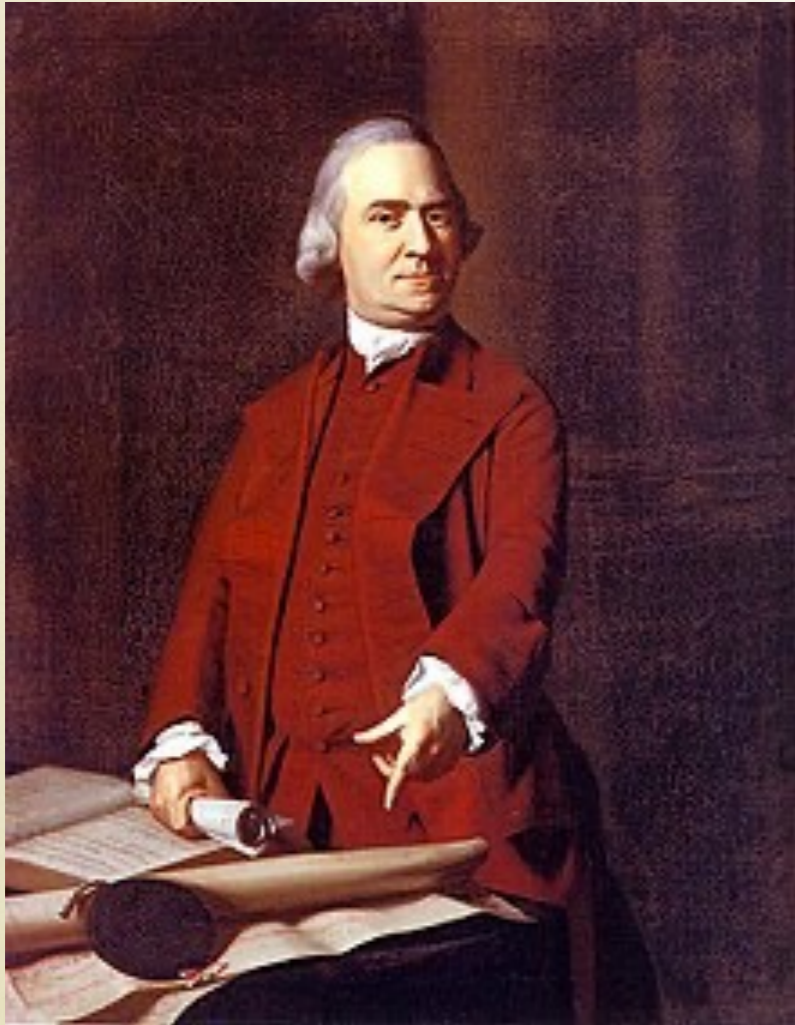


Biblical Christianity was the driving force behind the key leaders of the American Revolution.

SAMUEL ADAMS

- He had been telling his countrymen for years that America had to take her stand against tyranny.
- He regarded individual freedom as “the law of the Creator” and a Christian right documented in the New Testament.

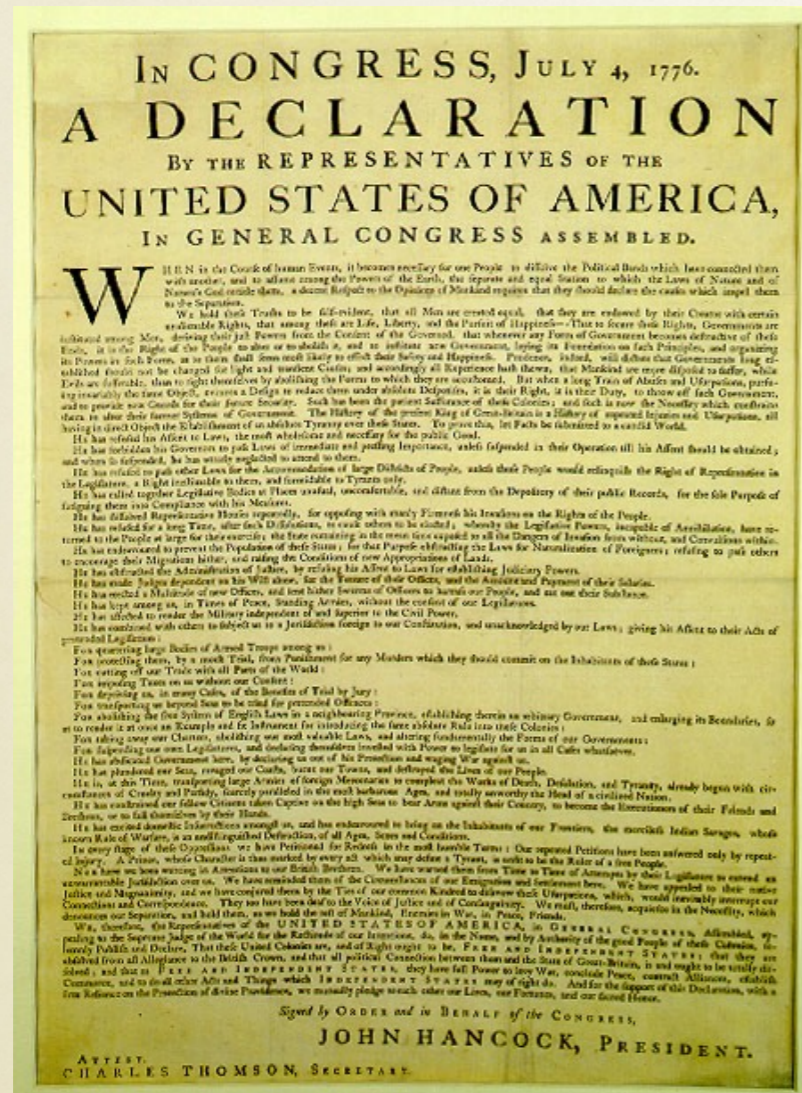
SIGNING OF DECLARATION



“We have this day restored the Sovereign to Whom all men ought to be obedient. He reigns in heaven and from the rising to the setting of the sun, let His kingdom come.”

Samuel Adams

DECLARATION & CONSTITUTION



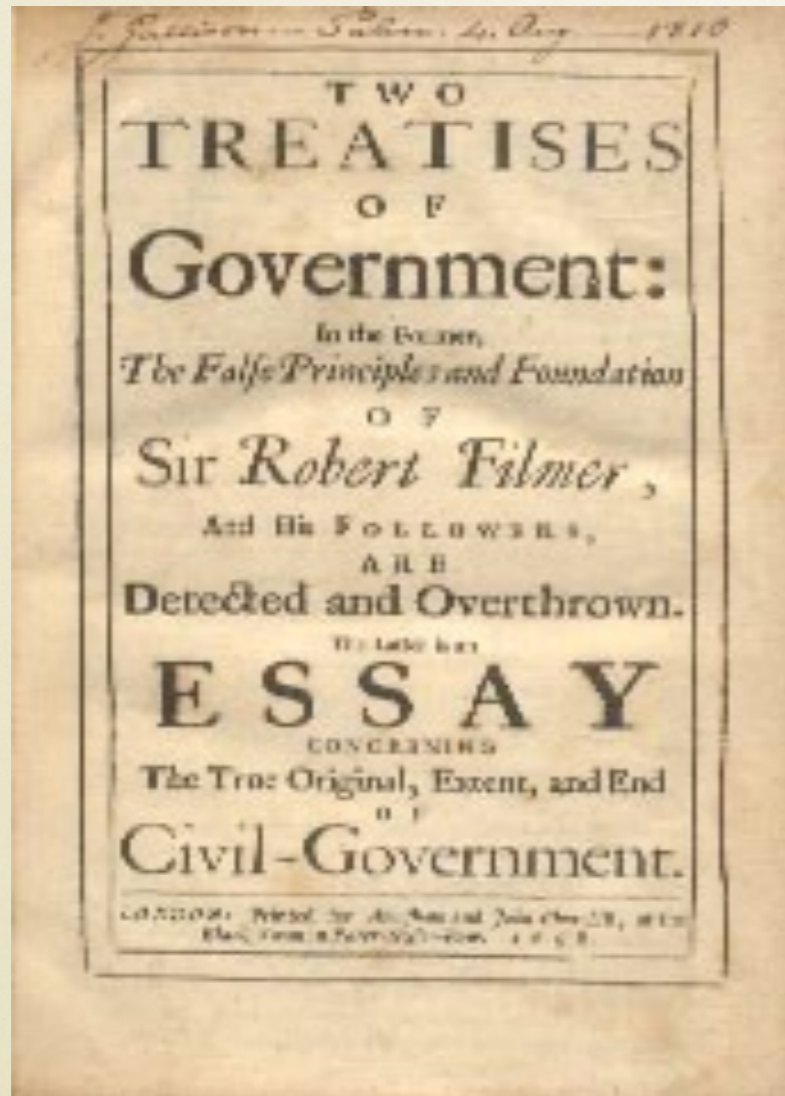
- The Declaration of Independence is the “why” of American government.
- The Constitution is the “how” of American government.

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE



- “laws of nature and nature’s God”
- they are “endowed by their Creator”
- “appealing to the Supreme Judge of the World”
- “protection of divine Providence”

JOHN LOCKE



- John Locke explained that the “law of nature” is God’s general revelation He writes on our hearts.
- He also spoke of the “law of God” as God’s eternal moral law revealed and published in Scripture.

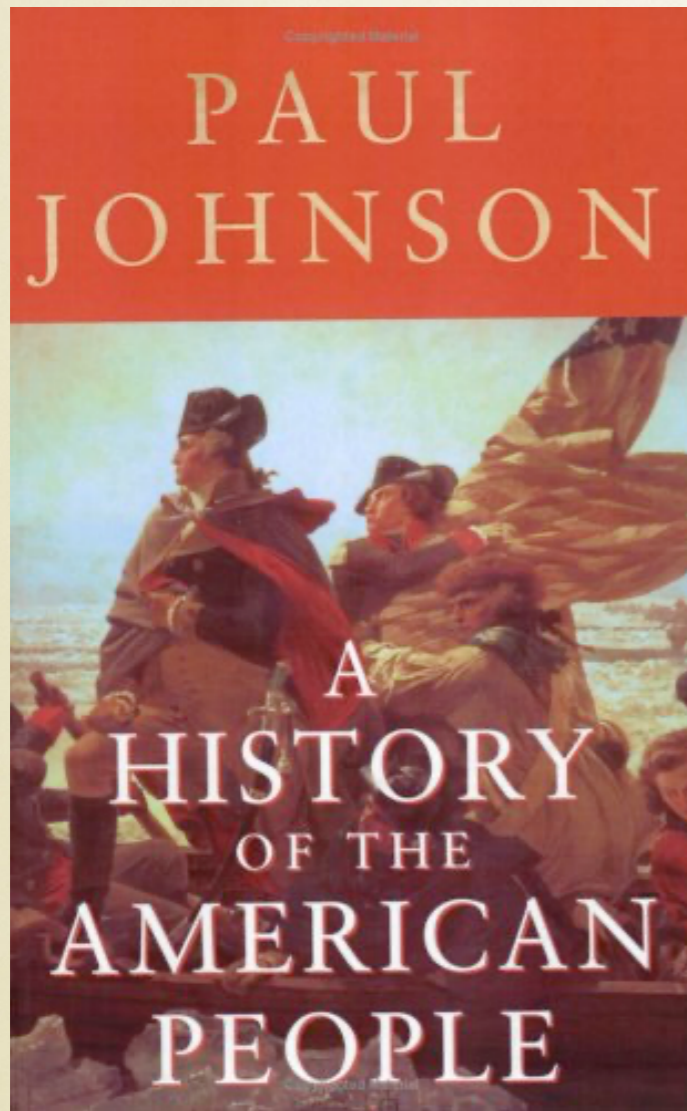
GEORGE MASON



“That all men are by nature equally free and independent and have certain inherent rights . . . namely, the enjoyment of life and liberty . . . and pursuing and obtaining happiness and safety.”

Virginia Declaration of Rights

PAUL JOHNSON



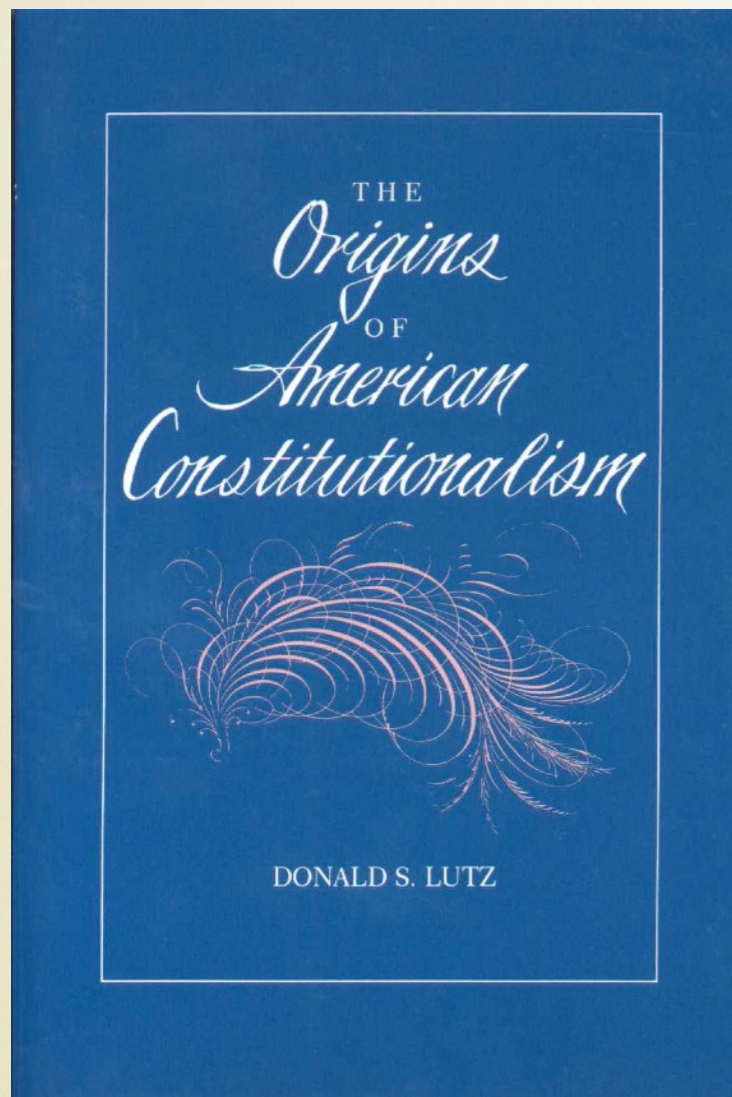
“There is no question that the Declaration of Independence was, to those who signed it, a religious as well as secular act, and that the Revolutionary War had the approbation of divine providence.”

10. CONSTITUTION & THE BIBLE



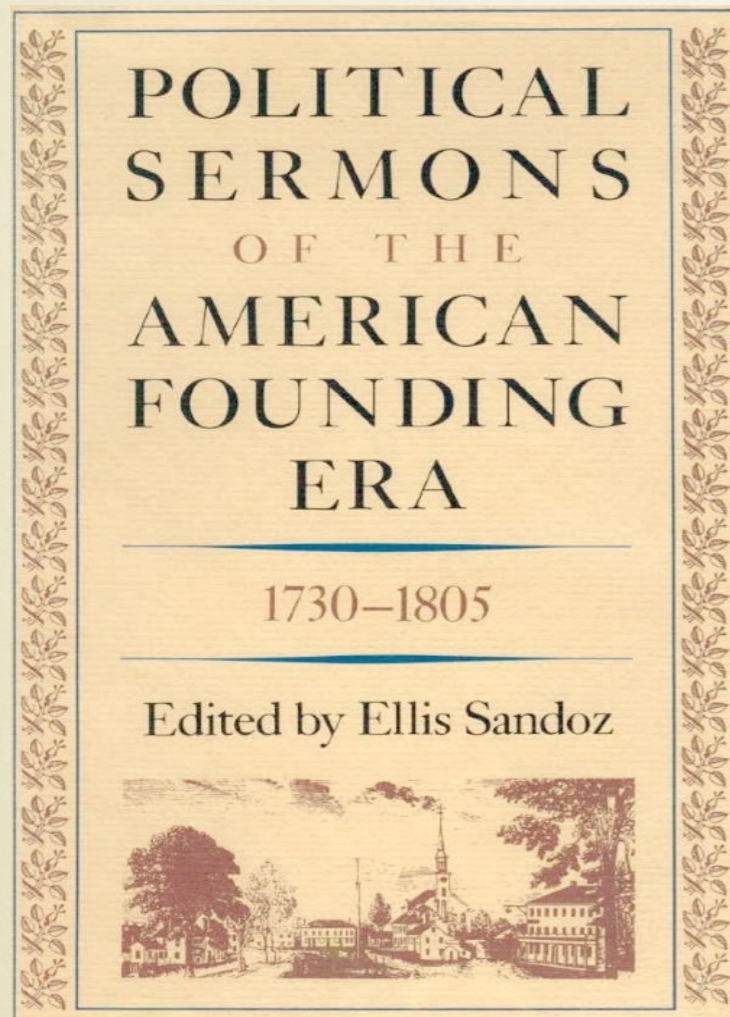
The Biblical understanding of the human sinfulness was the guiding principle behind the United States Constitution.

SOURCE OF POLITICAL IDEAS



- Constitutional scholars assembled 15,000 writings from the Founding Era.
- Counted 3154 citations in these writings.
- The Bible was quoted 34 percent of the time.

SOURCE OF POLITICAL IDEAS



- Writers from this era quoted from the Bible 34 percent of the time.
- About three-fourths of all references to the Bible came from sermons from that era.

JOHN WITHERSPOON



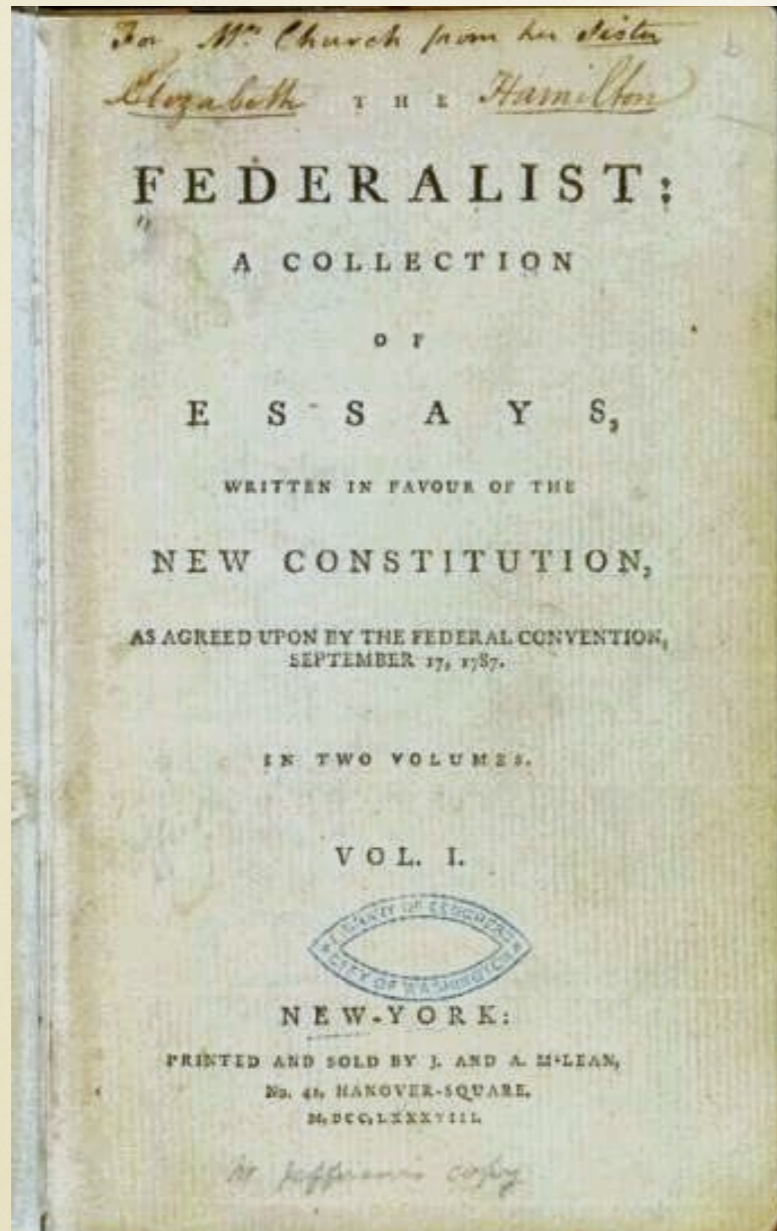
- President of Princeton
- Taught James Madison, 77 members of Congress, 3 Supreme Court justices.
- Signed the Declaration of Independence.
- Preached “Dominion of Providence Over the Affairs of Men” on May 17, 1776.

WITHERSPOON & MADISON

“One thing is certain: the Christian religion, particularly Rev. Witherspoon’s Calvinism, which emphasized the fallen nature of man, influenced Madison’s view of law and government.”

John Eidsmoe
Christianity and the Constitution

THE FEDERALIST PAPERS



Written by James Madison,
Alexander Hamilton, and
John Jay in 1787-1788.

SIGNING OF CONSTITUTION



M.E. Bradford
A Worthy Company

50 of the 55 men who signed the Constitution were church members who endorsed the Christian faith.

CONCLUSION

- Christianity was important in the founding of this country and the framing of its government.
- If Christianity was so important in the founding of this republic, why do so many think it is irrelevant in the maintenance of this republic?

RESOURCES

