

Israel, The Church, and The Founding of America
12-9-11

2 Corinthians 6:4-6

“But in everything, as God’s ministers, we commend ourselves: by great endurance, by afflictions, by hardship, by pressures, by beatings, by imprisonments, by riots, by labors, by sleepless nights, by times of hunger, by purity, by **KNOWLEDGE**, by patience, by kindness.”

1. Covenant

A **Binding Agreement** or **Contract**

2. God’s Covenant with Abraham

A. Based on **Faith**

Gen. 15:6 “Abram believed the Lord, and He credited it to him as righteousness.”

Romans 4:13 “For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would inherit the world was not through the law, but through the righteousness that comes by faith.”

B. Based on “Covenant of **Circumcision**”

Gen 17:14 “If any male is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, that man will be cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant.”

C. Based upon a **Unilateral Covenant**

Gen 15:17 “When the sun had set and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch appeared and passed between the divided animals.”

3. God’s Covenant with the Church

A. Based on **Faith**

Ephesians 2:8 “For by grace you are saved through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God’s gift—not from works, so that no one can boast.”

B. Based on “**Circumcision of the Heart**”

Romans 2:28-29 “For a person is not a Jew who is one outwardly, and circumcision is not something visible in the flesh. On the contrary, a person is a Jew who is one inwardly, and circumcision is of the heart—by the Spirit, not the letter.”

Romans 9:6 “But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel.

C. Based upon the **death and resurrection of Christ**

Hebrews 9:15 “Therefore He [Christ] is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called might receive the promise of the eternal inheritance, because a death has taken place for redemption from the transgressions under the first covenant.”

4. America’s **Manifest Destiny**

A. Based on **Faith**

Thomas Jefferson (1807) “I sincerely pray that all the members of the human family may, in the time prescribed by the Father of us all, find themselves securely established in the enjoyment of life, liberty, and happiness.”

B. Based on **Morality and Virtue**

Northwest Ordinance (1787) “Religion, morality, and knowledge, being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged.”

George Washington “Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports.”

Religion of the Founders

Benjamin Franklin “Here is my creed. I believe in one God, the Creator of the universe. That he governs it by his Providence. That he ought to be worshipped. That the most acceptable service we render to him is in doing good to his other children. That the soul of man is immortal, and will be treated with justice in another life respecting its conduct in this. These I take to be the fundamental points in all sound religion.

C. Based on a **Community Covenant**

Alexis de Tocqueville (1831) “Religion in America takes no direct part in the government of society, but it must be regarded as the first of their political institutions;...I do not know whether all Americans have a sincere faith in their religion—for who can search the human heart?—but I am certain that they hold it to be indispensable to the maintenance of republican institutions. This opinion is not peculiar to a class of citizens or to a party, but it belongs to the whole nation and to every rank of society.”

James Madison (1784 Memorial and Remonstrances) “Who does not see that the same authority which can establish Christianity, in exclusion of all other religions, may establish with the same ease any particular sect of Christians, in exclusion of all other sects?”