

# This Land Is God's

Praying For America  
Psalm 24

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**FOCAL Read Responsively** **Psalms 24:1-10** A Psalm of David. The earth is the LORD's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. (2) For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods. (3) **Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? (4) He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.** (5) He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation. (6) **This is the generation of them that seek him, that seek thy face, O Jacob. Selah.** (7) **Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.** (8) Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle. (9) Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. (10) **Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory. Selah.**<sup>KJV</sup>

On the fourth of July America will celebrate what we call “Independence Day”, the day that we as Americans *declared our independence* from what was, at that time, a dictatorship called England. From that day until now we gather together on “July 4th” and celebrate our independence. The centerpiece for American independence, the document that told the English tyrant that we would no longer be enslaved to an unjust and evil despot, is called the “Declaration of Independence”. The very first lines of this Declaration state:

**“When in the Course of human events it becomes**

necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.”

The framers of this Declaration did not base this document on a *whim*, nor on their own opinion, but based the founding of this Independent and Free United States on the sure and certain knowledge that **the earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof**. The Declaration mentions **Nature's God**, the **Creator**, and bases our declaration of freedom on the idea that **the God Who**

loves us and created us would not expect us to be ground under the dictator's heel. The *Declaration* ends with these words:

“We, therefore, the Representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States, that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. — 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.”

Did you notice the phrase, **appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world**? The weight of the Declaration of Independence was not based on one man's opinion over another, but it is based on the realization that **the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof**. God made this

land. God allowed us to come into and settle this land. God is our Creator, it is:

**Psalms 100:3 ...He [that] hath made us, and not we ourselves; [we are] his people, and the sheep of his pasture.**

America was founded, declared independent, and based on the Judeo-Christian concept of God. We were a people who believed in the **protection of Divine Providence**. The *fifty six signatures* on this Declaration came from men who knew they would lose their property, and perhaps their lives, for committing what Britain surely recognized as an act of *treason*. Yet they signed this document anyway. Why would men take such a seemingly irrational stand? Why not just do as the world demands today and *go with the flow*, give in, be part of the crowd? In a speech given by **Patrick Henry** on March 23, 1775 we read:

**“... we are not weak if we make a proper use of those means which the God of nature hath placed in our power. The millions of people, armed in the holy cause of liberty, and in such a country as that which we possess, are invincible by any force which our enemy can send against us. Besides, sir, we shall not fight our battles alone. There is a just God who presides over the destinies of nations, and who will raise up friends to fight our**

**battles for us. The battle, sir, is not to the strong alone; it is to the vigilant, the active, the brave. Besides, sir, we have no election. If we were base enough to desire it, it is now too late to retire from the contest. There is no retreat but in submission and slavery! Our chains are forged! Their clanking may be heard on the plains of Boston! The war is inevitable--and let it come! I repeat it, sir, let it come.**

**It is in vain, sir, to extenuate the matter. Gentlemen may cry, Peace, Peace--but there is no peace. The war is actually begun! The next gale that sweeps from the north will bring to our ears the clash of resounding arms! Our brethren are already in the field! Why stand we here idle? What is it that gentlemen wish? What would they have? Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!”<sup>1</sup>**

You have probably read the words “**give me liberty or give me death**” in high school, but I doubt that you've read Mr. Henry's frequent references to **the God of nature, the just God, and Almighty God**. This is because devilish forces have sought to remove all traces of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ from every public place – even historical documents - all in the name of *tolerance* and *inclusiveness*.

<sup>1</sup> <http://lexrex.com/enlightened/writings/libertyordeath.htm>

There is nothing wrong with tolerance, as long as tolerance does not become *intolerant* to the God Who owns this land nor to His people who love Him. America is founded on the truths that Christ taught. America is founded on the knowledge that there is One Creator God, and that this land belongs to Him. Look at our text:

**FOCAL** Psalms 24:1-2 A Psalm of David. **The earth<sup>2</sup> is the LORD's**, and the fullness thereof; the world<sup>3</sup>, and they that dwell therein. (2) For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods.

**The earth is the LORD's.** Focus on this phrase for a moment. **The earth IS** – not *was*, but **IS**. This earth, this spinning *third rock from the sun*, still belongs to God. It **IS** the LORD's. Every time you see the name LORD in all UPPERcase letters in the King James text you are looking at the *eternal name of God*, YAHWEH. This is the same name that the Lord first gave to Israel through the Prophet Moses when He said:

**Exodus 3:14 And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou**

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2 H776, ארץ, 'erets, *eh'-rets*, From an unused root probably meaning to *be firm*; the *earth* (at large, or partitively a *land*): - X common, country, earth, field, ground, land, X nations, way, + wilderness, world.

3 H8398, תבל, tēbēl, *tay-bale'*, From H2986; the *earth* (as *moist* and therefore inhabited); by extension the *globe*; by implication its *inhabitants*; specifically a particular *land*, as Babylonia or Palestine: - habitable part, world.

**say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.**

This *entire* planet still belongs to God, and *everything in it* belongs to God. It has never ceased belonging to God. Though God gave Adam and Eve dominion over the earth:

**Genesis 1:26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.**

though Adam and Eve surrendered their sinless estate to Satan, *God still owns everything on this earth*. The **earth IS the LORD's, and the fullness thereof**. God owns everything. He owns this planet, He owns the grass, the trees, the animals, and *every human* that stands on or works in this earth. We belong to God.

God owns America. We became great as a nation because we were founded on Christian principles by Christian people. Our forefathers were *practicing Christians*, that is, they lived their faith daily. The main textbook in the school was the Holy Bible, and every day began with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. As we approach this *Fourth of July* I ask that each and every one of you join me in prayer for our nation. Pray that God will bring revival to our nation by bringing revival to our own hearts. The devil destroyed Eden by

infiltrating the hearts of Adam and Eve. He has sought the destruction of America by infiltrating our homes. Once he gained entrance into our families, he moved into our schools. Our hope is that God our Father will, by the Blessed and Eternal Spirit, turn every heart fully to Christ.

**Prayer** Father, we look at the greatness that our nation once possessed, and look now at how far it has fallen, and we cry out to Thee for salvation. Precious Lord, like the Children of Israel in bondage to Egypt we cry out for deliverance. You blessed this nation many years ago, for it blessed you. We exalted your Name at home and in the schools. We praised You for every advance, every unlikely win. Greater nations than ours stood against us. Mightier armies than ours fought us. Great Britain ruled the waves, and we defeated her. France possessed mighty mercenary armies, and we stood against her. Time and time again Satan sought to ravage America, and time and time again we stood against his evil. His face was most evident in Germany's Hitler and in Japan's Emperor during World War II, but you gave us the victory. Since that time we have turned away from You. We have blasphemed Your Name. We have shunned Your Providence. Forgive us, dear Father, in Christ's Name we pray, forgive us. Cause this nation to turn once more to You. Cause our hearts to turn once more to You. You, O Lord, are our hope. You, O Lord, are our God. We beseech You, in the Name of Jesus Christ and in the power of Your Precious Spirit, intervene in every heart.

**You say in Your Word:**

**FOCAL** Psalms 24:3-5 Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? (4) He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. (5) He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

We must have clean hands and a pure heart. We do not have these things in our own power, Dear Lord. Left to ourselves we fall into the most desperate of wickedness. Though we may not shed blood as a murderer would, we often murder our brother with our lips. We backbite, we mis-speak, we do that which You have forbidden. Forgive us, we pray, for every unloving word and thought. Forgive us, dear Lord, for every thing which we have done which has quenched Thy Spirit. We pray now that the precious Blood of Christ purge our consciences from dead works to serve the living God<sup>4</sup>. We no longer walk in the vanity of our minds, but we walk in the Light of God, knowing that the Blood of Jesus Christ has cleansed us from all sins<sup>5</sup>. As Israel of old cried out to be released from bondage, we cry out that you cleanse us anew. Wash us, dear Lord, wash our feet, our hands, our beings. Hear us, we pray, and O Father, we pray that You would use us as agents of revival in

4 Hebrews 9:14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

5 1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

the United States. Our country was founded by simple men and women who stood on Your truths – our country can be blessed once more if we will follow that same example. Give us strength, dear Lord, to stand for You not just in this House, but in our homes, in our schools, and in our workplaces. In Christ's precious Name we pray, Amen!

**FOCAL** Psalms 24:7, 9 **Lift up your heads, O ye gates;** and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. .... (9) Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

Please notice that verses 7 and 9 are nearly duplicated. Verse 7 states, **lift up your heads, O ye gates.** In ancient times the **gate** of the city was the place where *business and government was conducted.* **Easton's Bible Dictionary** says:

“At the gates of cities courts of justice were frequently held, and hence “judges of the gate” are spoken of (Deuteronomy 16:18; Deuteronomy 17:8; Deuteronomy 21:19; Deuteronomy 25:6, Deuteronomy 25:7, etc.). At the gates prophets also frequently delivered their messages (Proverbs 1:21; Proverbs 8:3; Isaiah 29:21; Jeremiah 17:19, Jeremiah 17:20; Jeremiah 26:10). Criminals were punished without the gates (1 Kings 21:13; Acts 7:59). By the “gates of righteousness” we are probably to understand those of the temple (Psalms 118:19). “

The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia

further states:

“As even farm laborers slept in the cities, most of the men passed through the gate every day, and the gate was the place for meeting others (Ruth 4:1; 2 Samuel 15:2) and for assemblages. ... In particular, the “gate” was the place of the legal tribunals (Deuteronomy 16:18; Deuteronomy 21:19; Deuteronomy 25:7, etc.), so that a seat “among the elders in the gates” (Proverbs 31:23) was a high honor, while “oppression in the gates” was a synonym for judicial corruption (Job 31:21; Proverbs 22:22; Isaiah 29:21; Amos 5:10). The king, in especial, held public audiences in the gate (2 Samuel 19:8; 1 Kings 22:10; Jeremiah 38:7; compare Jeremiah 39:3), and even yet “Sublime Porte” (the French translation of the Turkish for “high gate”) is the title of the Court of Constantinople. To the gates, as the place of throngs, prophets and teachers went with their message (1 Kings 22:10; Jeremiah 17:19; Proverbs 1:21; Proverbs 8:3; Proverbs 31:31)...”

In short, the **gate was the place of government, of rule, of teaching, and of proclamation.** When the Bible says **lift up your heads, O ye gates,** it is directing – not that the wooden or metal gate lift up its non-existent head, but that *the functionary in the gate lift up his or her head unto God.* The **pastor and the Bible teacher** must lift up their heads to God, not to their own *opinion nor to private interpretation.* Today we have seen many local churches fall into degradation and false doctrine because of sloppy, opinionated, or vacuous theology. We see the *promotion* of women pastors, homosexual lifestyles,

abortion and evolutionary teaching *from the pulpit*, though there is absolutely *no Scriptural support for any of these life choices*. I read in a recent article by my friend, **Pastor James Sanders of Decaturville First Baptist Church**:

“In Charleston, West Virginia, a portrait of the head of Jesus Christ has hung on the wall in the hallway of Bridgeport High School for over 30 years. Last week, school authorities were sued in federal courts to have it removed because they believe its presence represents the promotion of Christianity by the school. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) teamed up with Americans United for Separation of Church and State (AU) to initiate the lawsuit. AU executive director, the Rev. Barry Lynn, stated “This is pretty clear constitutional law. Public schools cannot promote specific religious ideas. Public schools must welcome children of all religious beliefs. Display of a devotional portrait of Jesus sends the unmistakable message that Bridgeport High is endorsing Christianity. That leaves out students with other beliefs and violates the Constitution.” The two agencies filed suit on behalf of Harold Sklar and Jacqueline McKenzie. In many news reports, it is not even clear if Mr. Sklar and Ms. McKenzie now have children attending Bridgeport High School or not.”<sup>6</sup>

My question is, *why is a so called preacher of the Gospel teaming up with the unbeliever to remove any representation of Christ from our schools?* This individual will stand before the Lord of Glory one day

6 From *A Portrait of Jesus: What's Wrong With This Picture?* By James Sanders. Online at bibleteacher.org

and give an account of his actions.

In America we are discovering that the Scripture:

**Galatians 6:7-8 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. (8) For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.**

Lynn is going to find out sooner than later that “**they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind**”<sup>7</sup>. The farther a nation moves from the God of Scripture, the closer it moves to Satan, the “god of this world”<sup>8</sup>. Step away from God and Satan will step toward you. Step toward God and He will draw near, running Satan away.

**FOCAL Psalms 24:7 Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.**

When the **head is lifted up to God, then it will be lifted up**. When the *government entity* - be it Federal, State, local, or *family* - lifts up its head to God, then the **King of glory** shall come in. God will enter into the place where He is welcomed and bless that place. If the *father or mother* of the family will *lift up the head to God* then

7 Hosea 8:7

8 2 Corinthians 4:4

your children will be blessed, saved, redeemed from certain destruction. If the *pastor or teacher* will lift up the head to God the Church will be blessed.. If the *business owner or laborer* will lift up the head to God, God will prosper that business. **The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof.** God governs the increase, if there will be an increase. Unless we as individuals and as a nation begin to **lift up the head** to God we, like ancient Israel, will see every trial, every tribulation, every ache and pain come into our lives.

**1 Corinthians 3:6-7 I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. (7) So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.**

God alone gives the increase, God alone blesses the life.

**FOCAL** Psalms 24:9-10 ... **Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. (10) Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory.**

**Who is this King of Glory? The LORD of hosts is the King of Glory.** God will be magnified, He will be glorified, He will be lifted up, or we *will be cast down!* The testimony of Scripture, from beginning to end, is that God *will be glorified*. May God touch our hearts with this Word.

**Prayer** Father, we come to You in the Name of Jesus, and invite You into our lives. We know that the Scripture tells us that **the double minded person shall not prosper**<sup>9</sup>, so we turn our minds fully upon You. We love You, O Lord, and glorify Your Name. We pray, dear Lord, for our government. We pray for our families, and for those who do not know You as Savior. We pray for our members who profess to know You as Savior, and yet live double lives. We pray, O Lord, that You would drive from us any desire to play the part of Judas Iscariot. Help us to stand firm on Your Word, unmoved and unmovable, for Your glory.

We pray for our Nation, O Lord, and pray that You will bring her back from her wanderings. Start in our hearts, O Lord, and then move outward into every life in this country. We love America, and pray for her military. Bless our young men and our young women who are at war in Iraq this very day. Protect them, dear Lord, and draw them to know You as Savior. Please bring this war to a swift end – we despise the loss of American lives. Yet Lord, we pray for other American lives as well.

We pray for the children lost to that *sin of abortion*. So many innocent lives have been snuffed out like cheap candles, all for the sake of flaming passion. Take us, dear God, from this evil. Punish those who enable this type of behavior. Bring swift retribution on those who delight in the spilling of innocent blood. The land cries out, dear Lord, the blood of innocent Abel cries out from the ground against the children of Cain. Destroy this evil

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<sup>9</sup> James 1:8; 4:8

from our midst, we pray, for Your glory.

We pray for the children lost to the *sin of moral relativism*. We have made the *alleged sin of judgmentalism* to be greater than *clearly defined sins* in the Scripture. For the sake of *tolerance* we look the other way when adultery, fornication, and sexual sin of every type is promoted all around us. We fail to stand up for You when people will promote other religions as a way unto God, ignoring Your clear teaching in **John 14:6**. Turn us back, we pray, Precious Lord. Bring us back from whence we have fallen. Help us to leave this place willing to lift up our heads for You and You alone though none others stand with us. Use us, we pray, as agents of change in America. Heal our sick. Cleanse our land. We call upon Your promise:

**2 Chronicles 7:14** **If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.**

In Jesus' Name we humbly pray, Amen and Amen!



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