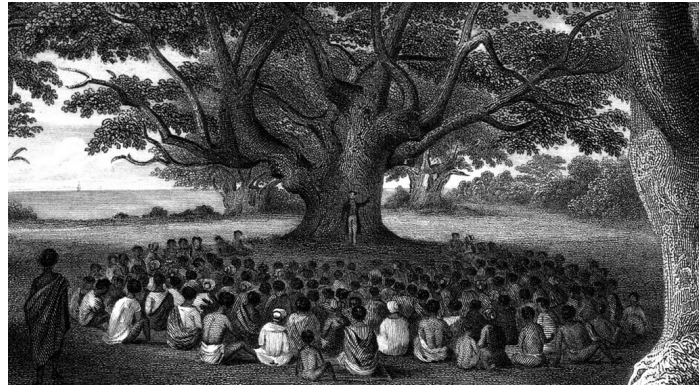


## American Minute with Bill Federer Hawaii Great Awakening & Missionaries to Marquesas Islands: End of Pele Volcano Worship, Human Sacrifice, Cannibalism, & Leprosy

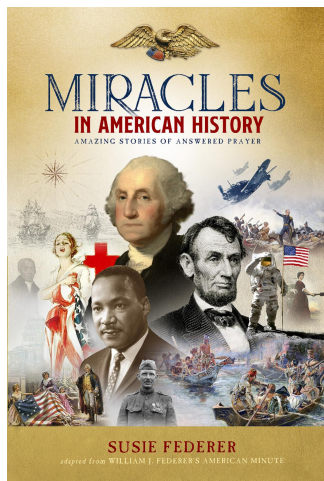
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**British Captain James Cook** discovered **Hawaii** in 1778, naming them "**The Sandwich Islands**" in honor of John Montagu, the 4th Earl of Sandwich -- the acting First Lord of the Admiralty



A kahuna priest showed him a 50 foot tower with nearby skulls and graves of sacrificed war captives and those who had broken kapu (taboos) ... [continue reading American Minute here ...](#)

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In 1779, on his third visit there, **Captain Cook** was killed.

**News of Captain Cook's voyages inspired William Carey** to take the Gospel to **India** in 1793.

**King Kamehameha I** united the **Hawaiian Islands** in 1810.

In the early 1800s, whaling ships began visiting the Hawaiian Islands.

An orphan, **Henry Opukahai'a**, was being raised by his uncle to be a pagan priest, but became disillusioned with rituals and chants.

**Thomas Hopu**, and his friend **Henry Opukahai'a** fled Hawaii on the American whaling ship *Triumph* in 1807, which sailed for **New England**.

They were befriended by **Christian students** at **Yale** in **New Haven, Connecticut**, who instructed and prayed with them.

This was during the time of the **Second Great Awakening**.

In 1815, **Hopu** and **Opukahai'a** became **the first Hawaiian Christians**.

**Henry Opukahai'a** studied Greek and Hebrew and attempted to **translate into his native tongue** the Book of Genesis and other parts of the Bible, though, unfortunately, these works were lost.

After his death from typhus in 1818, the ***Memoirs Henry Opukahai'a*** sold 500,000 copies.

In it, he had written:

"O what a wonderful thing that **the hand of the Divine Providence has brought me from the heathenish darkness** where the **light of Divine truth** never had been.

And here I have found the name of the Lord Jesus in the **Holy Scriptures**, and have read that **His blood was shed for many ...**"

He continued:

**"My poor countrymen**, without knowledge of the true **God**, and ignorant of the future world, have **no Bible** to read, **no Sabbath.**"

**Thomas Hopu** met **General Andrew Jackson**, whom he accompanied to New Orleans.

**Hopu** fought the British during the **War of 1812**, resulting in him being perhaps **one of the first Hawaiians to serve in the United States armed forces.**

An excellent swimmer, **Hopu** saved several crewman after a shipwreck.

Five times he taken prisoner by the British in the West Indies.

Once starving in prison, **African slaves gave him food and water**, affecting **Hopu** to forever detest the enslavement of **Africans.**

Two years after **Henry Opukahai'a's** death, **Thomas Hopu** went as a missionary with **Asa Thurston** and **Hiram Bingham** back to the **Hawaiian Sandwich Islands**, serving as their translator.

**Hiram Bingham's** grandson, **Hiram Bingham III**, discovered the **Inca city** of **Machu Pichu** in 1908. He also served as **Governor of Connecticut** and a **U.S. Senator.**

**Hiram Bingham IV** was **U.S. Vice Consul** in France during **World War II**, where he helped **2,500 Jews escape** internment camps of **Hitler's National Socialist Workers Party.**

On March 31, 1820, **Hiram Bingham** and **Asa Thurston** arrived at **Kailua, Hawaii**, on the ship *Thaddeus*, being sent by the **American Board of Missions**.

The **missionaries** not only spread **Christianity**, but confronted **drunkenness and vice** which had been introduced into the islands by **sailors, whalers, and convicts** from **Botany Bay, Australia**.

The **missionaries** created a **12-letter Hawaiian alphabet** and reduced the **Hawaiian language to writing**.

They translated the Bible, began a newspaper, set up schools and churches, and convinced the **Hawaiian women to wear dresses**.

In 1823, **Betsey Stockton** (1798-1865), a young **African American woman**, sailed with the second group of **missionaries** from New Haven, Connecticut, to **Hawaii**.

She had been born a slave but was given her freedom.

A strong Christian, **Betsey** had attended classes at **Princeton Theological Seminary** before sailing to **Hawaii**.

She set up **schools** for the **islanders** and taught English, Latin, history and algebra.

In two years, over **8,000 students** attended **200 schools**.

Another missionary was **Rev. Richard Armstrong**, **Pastor** of the famous **Kawaiaha'o Church in Honolulu** - the national church of the **Kingdom of Hawaii**. He was appointed by **King Kamehameha III** as **President of Hawaii's Board of Education**.

In 1839, **Richard** and his wife **Clarissa** had a son named **Samuel Chapman Armstrong**.

**Samuel** sailed to Massachusetts, attended Williams College, and after graduation joined the Union Army where **he fought in the Civil War**. He was at the Battle of Gettysburg, July 3, 1863.

**Samuel Chapman Armstrong** commanded the **newly formed black regiment -- the U.S. Colored Troops**. They fought in the battles of **Deep Bottom, Fussell's Mill**, and the **siege of Petersburg**, where they entered the city to "**a most cheering and hearty welcome from the colored inhabitants of the city, whom their presence had made free.**"

After the Civil War, **Armstrong** founded **Hampton Institute**, where one of his students was **Booker T. Washington**.

In Hawaii, **idolatry** and **human sacrifice** had previously been ended by **King Kamehameha II** and his **Queen mother Ka'ahumanu**.

**Queen Ka'ahumanu** and six high chiefs requested to be **baptized** in 1823.

She then **banned prostitution and drunkenness**, resulting in sailors resenting the missionaries' influence.

**Queen Ka'ahumanu** helped spread the Gospel in the islands, beginning an "**Hawaiian Great Awakening.**"

She was presented with the newly completed **version of the New Testament** in the **Hawaiian language** just prior to her death.

Her last words were:

"I am going where the mansions are ready."

The cousin of Kamehameha I, **Chiefess Kapiolani**, in 1824. **defied** the **volcano goddess Pele** by saying a Christian prayer, climbing down into the lava crater and returning unharmed, then eating the forbidden Ōhelo berries.

**Chiefess Kapiolani** then praised 'the one true God', proclaiming:

"Jehovah is my God. He kindled these fires. I fear not Pele. All the gods of Hawaii are vain."

In 1840, the **Binghams** returned to New England, where **Hiram** served as the **pastor of an African-American church**.

The **son-in-law of Hiram Bingham** was missionary **Titus Coans**.

**Coan's** account of evangelism is recorded in ***Life in Hawaii: An Autobiographical Sketch of Mission Life and Labors, 1835-1881*** (NY: Anson D. F. Randolph, 1882, 49-52; Michael McClymond, *Encyclopedia of Religious Revivals in America*, 2006):

"Among these converts was the **High Priest of the volcano**. He was more than six feet high and of a lofty bearing. He had been an idolater, a drunkard, an adulterer, a robber, and a murderer.

For their kapas, for a pig or a fowl he had killed men on the road, whenever they hesitated to yield to his demands.

But he became penitent, and appeared honest and **earnest in seeking the Lord**.

... His sister was more haughty and stubborn. She was

**High Priestess of the volcano.** She, too, was tall and majestic in her bearing.

For a long time she refused to bow to the claims of the Gospel; but at length **she yielded, confessed herself a sinner and under the authority of a higher Power, and with her brother became a docile member of the church."**

**Alfred Lord Tennyson** wrote (*The Life and World of Alfred Lord Tennyson*, Vol. 12, 1892):

**"Kapiolani** was a great **chieftainess** who lived in the **Sandwich Islands** at the beginning of this century. She won the cause of Christianity by **openly defying the priests of the terrible goddess Peele'**.

... In spite of their threats of vengeance **she descended the volcano Mauna-Loa**, then clambered down over a bank of cinders 400 feet high to the great lake of fire (nine miles round) - Kilauea - the haunt of the goddess, and **flung into the boiling lava the consecrated berries** which it was a sacrilege for a woman to handle."

**Tennyson** wrote in his poem **"Kapiolani"**:

"Noble the Saxon who hurl'd at his Idol a valorous  
weapon in olden England!

Great and greater, and greatest of women, island  
heroine, **Kapiolani**

Clomb the mountain, and **flung the berries**, and dared  
the Goddess, and freed the people  
Of Hawa-i-ee!

A people believing that Peelè the Goddess would wallow  
in fiery riot and revel  
On Kilaue-ä,

Dance in a fountain of flame with her devils, or shake with

tier thunders and shatter her island,  
Rolling her anger

Thro' blasted valley and flaring forest in blood-red  
cataracts down to the sea!

Long as the lava-light  
Glares from the lava-lake  
Dazing the starlight,

Long as the silvery vapour in daylight  
Over the mountain  
Floats, will the glory of **Kapiolani** be mingled with either  
on Hawa-i-ee.

What said her Priesthood?  
'Woe to this island if ever a woman should handle or  
gather the berries of Peelè!  
Accurséd were she!

And woe to this island if ever a **woman should climb to  
the dwelling of Peelè the Goddess!**  
Accurséd were she!

One from the Sunrise  
Dawn'd on His people, and slowly before him  
Vanish'd shadow-like  
Gods and Goddesses,

None but the terrible Peelè remaining as **Kapiolani**  
ascended her mountain,  
Baffled her priesthood,  
Broke the Taboo,  
Dipt to the crater,

**Call'd on the Power adored by the Christian,** and  
crying 'I dare her, let Peelè avenge herself '!  
Into the flame-billow **dash'd the berries,** and **drove the  
demon from Hawa-i-ee."**



One of Hawaii's greatest evangelists, **Titus Coan** continued his missionary account:

"I set off Nov. 29, 1836, on a tour around the island ...

On reaching the western boundaries of Puna, my labors became more abundant ... They rallied in masses, and were **eager to hear the Word.**

Many listened with tears, and after the **preaching**, when I supposed they would return to their homes and give me rest, **they remained and crowded around me so earnestly**, that I had no time to eat, and in places where I spent my nights **they filled the house to its entire capacity**, leaving scores outside who could not enter.

All wanted to hear more of the '**Word of Life.**'

... At ten or eleven o'clock I would advise them to go home and to sleep. Some would return, but more remain until midnight.

At cock-crowing the house would be again crowded, with as many more outside.

... At one place before I reached the point where I was to spend a Sabbath, there was a line of four villages not more than half a mile apart.

Every village begged for a sermon and for personal conversation.

Commencing at daylight **I preached** in three of them before breakfast, at 10 a.m.

When the meeting closed at one village, most of the people ran on to the next, and thus **my congregation increased** rapidly from hour to hour.

... Many were 'pricked in their hearts' and were inquiring

**what they should do to be saved.**

Sunday came and I was now in the most populous part of Puna.

... Multitudes came out to **hear the Gospel**. The blind were led; the maimed, the aged and decrepit, and many invalids were brought on the backs of their friends.

There was great joy and much weeping in the assembly.

Two days were spent in this place, and ten sermons preached, while almost all the intervals between the public services were spent in personal conversation with the crowds which pressed around me.

Many of the people who then wept and prayed proved **true converts to Christ**; most of them have died in the faith, and a few still live as steadfast witnesses to the power of the **Gospel ...**"

This courage of **High Chiefess Kapiolani** inspired many **Hawaiians** to be **missionaries** to **other islands**, such as **Samuel Kauwealoha**, who sailed in 1853 to the **Marquesas Islands**.

**Rev. Samuel Kauwealoha** planted churches and schools in the **Marquesas Islands**, and **helped end cannibalism**.

He was mentioned in **Titus Coan's** 1882 missionary account ***Life in Hawaii***, Chapter 13, "**The Marquesas Islands ... The Hawaiians Send a Mission to Them**":

"The missionary at this station was the **Rev. Samuel Kauwealoha**, a native of Hilo, and a member of the Hilo church ...

We landed on a beautiful beach of white sand, and walked half a mile through a charming grove of tropical

trees, along the margin of a crystal brook ...

... We found **Mr. Samuel Kauwealoha** living in a stone house ... all built by himself ...

Here, amidst the shade of lofty trees, he was living with his devoted wife, teaching the children to read and write, and preaching 'Christ our Life' to 149 savages; and here, under the shadow of a towering tree, I spent one of the happiest Sabbaths of my life.

... The almost naked and tattooed savages came out and sat quietly in semicircles under the tree, with the bright-eyed little children in front, all seeming to love their teacher, and to welcome the stranger, to whom they listened, **Samuel Kauwealoha** interpreting ..."

**Missionary Titus Coan** continued:

"We had also a Sunday-school, where the pupils recited the Lord's prayer and the Ten Commandments, with some other lessons, in tones and inflections of voice which were soft and melodious ...

At 11 A.M. **Captain Brown** and his mate, **Captain Golett**, a good Christian man, who had commanded many a ship, came on shore with the crew of the Morning Star, and we had service in English."

Another missionary from **Hawaii** to the **Marquesas Islands** was **James Kekela**.

**The Marquesas Islands** were first visited by **American Maritime Fur Trader Joseph Ingraham** on the brig *Hope* in 1791, who named them **Washington Islands**.

In 1813, **Commodore David Porter** claimed the islands for the **United States**, but the **U.S. Senate never got around to ratifying it**.

This delay gave time for **France**, beginning in 1842, to incorporate the Islands into **French Polynesia**.

In **French Polynesia**, missionary **James Kekela** wrote that **Hawaii** was fortunate to have become a possession of the **United States** rather than a possession of **France**:

**"The French government** is celebrating the 14th of July in **Papeete**, as America does on the **4th of July**.

What **Americans do to celebrate is to give speeches, worship God**, do things to strengthen the body, and so on.

**The French are pleasure lovers**, acting as in the old days ... the dances of Tahiti, Tuamotu, Rurutu, Tubuai, and Atiu ...

What is done is like what the (filthy Arioi) did.

It is a very painful thing for our eyes to behold, because **all kinds of liquor** are allowed on the tables on this day-**beer, soda, wine, whiskey.**"

In 1842, a 23-year-old American sailor named **Herman Melville** was on a ship that visited the **Marquesas Islands**.

Soon after, **Melville** wrote first book, a semi-biographical novel titled ***Typee: A Peep at Polynesian Life*** (London; New York: 1846).

**Melville** described how he and a companion deserted the ship *Acushnet*.

They stole up into the mysterious island mountains, waiting for their ship to depart without them.

His companion fell and was injured as they descended a steep ravine into the **Typee** valley.

They were captivated by the sensual beauty of this island paradise until shortly after, his companion disappeared.

When **Melville** asked the natives what happened to his friend, they were strangely silent, leading him to conclude that he had been eaten.

The natives forbade **Melville** from going anywhere near the coast.

Nevertheless, three weeks later, **Melville** barely escaped with his life.

**Melville** wrote at the end of book *Typee: A Peep at Polynesian Life*:

"These disclosures will ... lead to ... ultimate benefit to **the cause of Christianity** in the Sandwich Islands."

In 1864, **James Kekela** rescued an American seaman from death at the hands of angry **cannibals** in the **Marquesas Islands**.

In gratitude, **President Abraham Lincoln** sent **James Kekela** an inscribed **gold watch**.

**Robert Louis Stevenson** related the story in his book, *In The South Seas* when he visited the **Marquesas Islands** in 1888-89:

"During my stay at Tai-o-hae ... a whole fleet of **whale-boats** came from Ua-pu ... On board of these was **Samuel Kauwealoha**, one of the pastors, a fine, rugged old gentleman, of that leonine type so common in **Hawaii**.

He paid me a visit ... and there entertained me with a tale of one of his colleagues, **James Kekela**, a **missionary** in **the great cannibal isle** of Hiva-oa.

... It appears that shortly after a kidnapping visit from a

Peruvian slaver, the boats of an American whaler put into a bay upon that island, were attacked, and made their escape with difficulty, **leaving their mate, a Mr. Whalon, in the hands of the natives.**

The captive, with his arms bound behind his back, was cast into a house; and the chief announced the capture to **James Kekela ..."**

**Robert Louis Stevenson** continued, relating the story of **Mr. Whalon's rescue from the cannibals:**

"In return for his act of gallant charity, **James Kekela** was presented by the American Government with a sum of money, and by **President Lincoln** personally with a **gold watch.**

... From his letter of thanks, written in his own tongue, I give the following extract. I do not envy the man who can read it without emotion.

... **'When I saw one of your countrymen,** a citizen of your great nation, ill-treated, and **about to be baked and eaten, as a pig** is eaten, I ran to save him, full of pity and grief at the evil deed of these benighted people.

**I gave my boat for the stranger's life ...** It became the **ransom** of this countryman of yours, that he might not be eaten by the **savages** who knew not Jehovah. This was **Mr. Whalon,** and the date, Jan. 14, 1864.

**(The seed of the Gospel)** was planted in **Hawaii,** and I brought it to plant in this land and in these dark regions, that they might receive the root of all that is good and true, which is love.

1. Love to Jehovah.
2. Love to self.
3. Love to our neighbor.

... If a man have a sufficiency of these three, he is good and holy, like his **God, Jehovah, in his triune character (Father, Son, and Holy Ghost), one-three, three-one ...**

If he cherishes all three, then is he holy, indeed, after the manner of the **Bible**. This is **a great thing for your great nation** to boast of, before all the nations of the earth ..."

**Stevenson** continued quoting **James Kekela**:

"From your great land a most precious seed was brought to the land of darkness.

It was planted here, not by means of guns and men-of-war and threatening.

It was planted by means of the ignorant, the neglected, the despised. Such was the introduction of the word of the Almighty God into this group of Nuuhiwa."

As recorded by **Robert Louis Stevenson, James Kekela** concluded:

"Great is my debt to Americans, who have taught me all things pertaining to this life and to that which is to come.

How shall I repay your great kindness to me?

Thus David asked of Jehovah, and thus I ask of you, the President of the United States.

This is my only payment-that which I have received of the Lord, love-(aloha)."

In 1889, **Robert Louis Stevenson**, who was suffering possibly from tuberculosis, visited the **Hawaiian Island of Molokai**, where those who contracted **leprosy** were quarantined.

He spent 8 days helping **Sister Marianne Cope** care for

lepers.

His visit was shortly after the death **Father Damien**, a Belgium priest who ministered who spent 11 years, 1873-1889, **caring for lepers of Hawaii**, eventually contracting the disease and dying of it himself.

**Father Damien's** selfless ministry was **supported by Catholics and Protestants**.

After seeing the work and inquiring of inhabitants, **Robert Louis Stevenson** wrote a **6,000-word polemic praising Fr. Damien**.

A statue of **Fr. Damien** in on the **capitol** grounds in **Hawaii** and the **U.S. Capitol**.

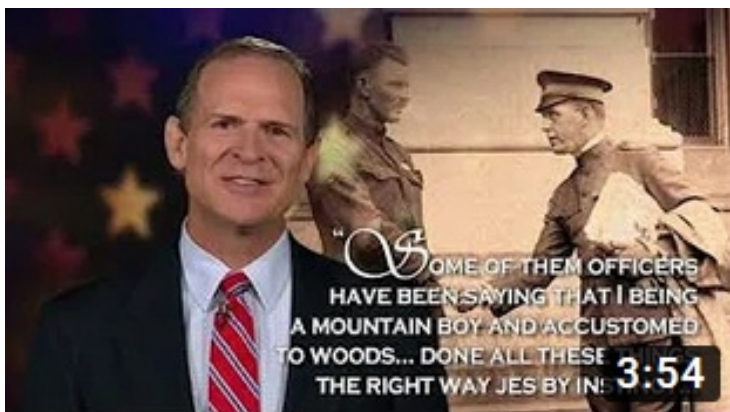
**Robert Louis Stevenson**, after having "visited the scene of **Damien's** life and death," wrote of Hawaii:

**"The first missionaries came; they found the land already self-purged of its old and bloody faith; they were embraced, almost on their arrival, with enthusiasm ... and to these last they stood (in a rough figure) in the shoes of God."**

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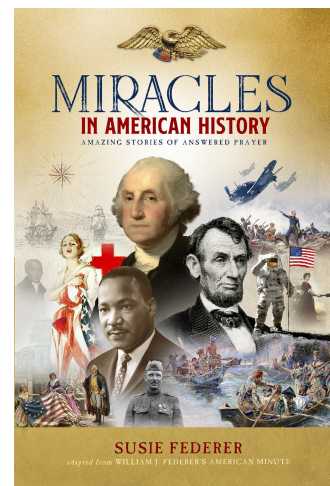


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