

## American Minute with Bill Federer

### Battle of Brooklyn Heights & the Providential Fog that allowed Washington's Army to Escape!

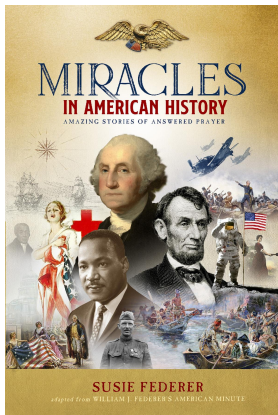
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King George III's British army was forced to evacuate Boston.

They then headed to New York ... [continue reading American Minute here ...](#)



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**General George Washington** responded by moving American troops to **Long Island, New York, fortifying Brooklyn Heights.**

Enthusiasm was high after Britain's evacuation of Boston, resulting in **Washington's ranks swelling** to nearly 20,000.

To the dismay of the Americans, though, in the following weeks, **hundreds of British war ships filled New**

**York's harbor**, carrying 32,000 troops.

It was **one of the largest invasion forces** in history to that date.

The thousands of **wooden masts of the British ships** were described as looking like a **forest of trees**.

**Washington** wrote to his younger brother John Augustine Washington, May 31, 1776:

"We expect a **very bloody Summer of it at New York ...**  
We are not either in Men, or Arms, prepared for it ...

If our cause is **just**, as I do most **religiously believe it to be**, the same **Providence** which has in many instances appear'd for us, will still go on to afford its aid."

In **Congress**, May 1776, **General William Livingston** made a resolution which passed without dissent:

"We earnestly recommend that Friday, the 17th day of May be observed by the colonies as a **day of humiliation, fasting, and prayer**,

that we may with united hearts **confess and bewail our manifold sins and transgressions ...** and by a sincere **repentance ...** appease God's righteous displeasure,

and through the **merits and mediation of Jesus Christ** obtain His pardon and forgiveness."

In New York, **General Washington** ordered his troops, May 15, 1776:

"The **Continental Congress** having ordered Friday the 17th ... to be observed as a **Day of Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer**,

humbly to supplicate the mercy of **Almighty God**, that it

would please Him to **pardon all our manifold sins** and transgressions, and to **prosper the arms of the United Colonies,**

and finally establish the peace and freedom of America upon a solid and lasting foundation;

**The General commands** all officers and soldiers to pay strict obedience to the orders of the Continental Congress;

that, by their unfeigned and **pious observance of their religious duties,** they may incline the **Lord and Giver of victory to prosper our arms."**

On July 9, 1776, messengers from Philadelphia arrived in **New York** and delivered to **General Washington** a copy of the **Declaration of Independence.**

**Washington** had it **read out loud** to his troops.

The **Declaration** justified independence by listing **27 incidences** in which the King violated the rights of Americans.

This was only possible by claiming that Americans received their rights from a source higher than the King, namely **God.**

The **Declaration** referred to **God** four times:

"Laws of Nature and of **Nature's God ..."**

"All Men are created equal, that they are endowed **by their Creator** with certain unalienable Rights ..."

"Appealing to the **Supreme Judge of the World** for the Rectitude of our Intentions ..."

"With a firm Reliance on the Protection of **divine**

**Providence."**

**Citizens of New York** pulled down the gilded statue of the "tyrant" King George and melted it into musket balls.

King's College suspended all classes and later changed its name to **Columbia College**.

Anxious preparations were being made for the **Battle of Brooklyn Heights (Long Island)**.

It was the first major battle after America had officially **declared its independence**.

At the last minute, **British General Howe** sent a **delegation** to meet with **Washington**. They offered the Americans **a pardon if they would surrender**.

**Washington** replied: "Those who have committed no fault want no pardon."

**Washington** expected the British to attack from the sea, similar to how they did at the **Battle of Bunker Hill**.

Instead, **British General Henry Clinton** discovered a way to **attack Washington's army from behind**.

**Clinton** secretly landed **10,000 British troops** several miles away from the American position. He was met by **three loyalists** who wanted to betray the American cause.

They led the **British** toward **Jamaica Pass**.

Stopping at a tavern, the British officer, **General William Howe**, threatened to put a bullet through the head of the tavern keeper if he did not show them the old Indian path through the hills.

As **British troops** marched **silently in the dark**, the

**five American militia officers** stationed to protect the pass **mistook the British troops for Americans**, and thus were tragically captured.

Marching all night long, they made a **surprise attack** on the **Continental Army from behind** on the morning of **AUGUST 27, 1776**.

An estimated **3,000 Americans were killed** or wounded compared to **only 392 British casualties**.

As **General Washington** watched 400 soldiers of the **First Maryland Regiment** charge six times directly into the British lines, allowing the rest of the Continental Army to find cover, he exclaimed:

"Good God, what brave fellows I have lost this day."

The **Battle of Brooklyn Heights** was the **largest battle of the entire Revolutionary War**. In fact, it was the **largest battle ever fought in North America to that date**.

**British General Howe** had **trapped the American troops on Brooklyn Heights** with their backs against the sea.

That night, **Washington** made the desperate decision to **evacuate his entire army by ferrying it across the East River** to Manhattan Island.

The sea was boisterous where the British ships were, but **providentially calm in the East River** allowing **Colonel John Glover** and his Massachusetts sailors and fishermen to row the American army across.

The next morning, as the sun began to rise, **half of the America troops were still in danger**, but a "miraculously" thick **fog** lingered blocking the evacuation from being seen by the British.



**Major Ben Tallmadge**, Washington's Chief of Intelligence, wrote:

"As the **dawn** of the next day approached, **those of us who remained in the trenches** became **very anxious** for our own safety,

and when the **dawn appeared** there were several regiments still on duty ...

... At this time a **very dense fog** began to rise off the river, and it seemed to settle in a peculiar manner **over both encampments.**

I recollect this peculiar **providential occurrence** perfectly well, and so very dense was the atmosphere that I could scarcely discern a man at six yards distance ...

We tarried until the sun had risen, but the **fog** remained as dense as ever."

The **troops continued to evacuate Brooklyn Heights**, with **General Washington** being the **last man** to leave on the **last boat.**

Historians consider this daring nighttime retreat as **one of Washington's greatest military feats.**

**Had the Americans not been able to evacuate**, they would have been captured and **Washington** would have been hung.

America would have continued as just **another colony in Britain's expanding global empire**, along with India, Kenya, Egypt, South Africa and Australia.

As it happened, though, after the evacuation from Brooklyn Heights, **the British never again had an opportunity to capture the entire American army at**

**one time.**

**Washington** wrote later, August 20, 1778:

"Undergoing the strangest vicissitudes that perhaps ever attended any one contest since the creation ... the **Hand of Providence** has been so **conspicuous** in all this - the course of the war - that **he must be worse than an infidel that lacks faith ...**

But it will be time enough for me to turn **Preacher** when my present appointment ceases."

Generations later, **America** faced a threat from the **National Socialist Workers Party.**

In an election address in **Brooklyn, New York,** November 1, 1940, **President Franklin D. Roosevelt** referred to **democracy** in the sense of people ruling themselves:

"Those forces hate **democracy** and **Christianity** as two phases of **the same civilization.** They oppose **democracy** because it is **Christian.** They oppose **Christianity** because it preaches **democracy ..."**

**FDR** concluded his **Brooklyn** address:

"We are a nation of many nationalities, many races, many religions **bound together** by a single unity, the unity of **freedom and equality ...**

Whoever seeks to set **one nationality against another,** seeks to degrade **all nationalities.**

Whoever seeks to set **one race against another** seeks to enslave **all races ...**

So-called **racial and religious voting blocs** are the **creation of designing politicians** who profess to be

able to deliver them on Election Day ...

But every American citizen ... will scorn such unpatriotic politicians. **The vote of Americans will be American - and only American."**

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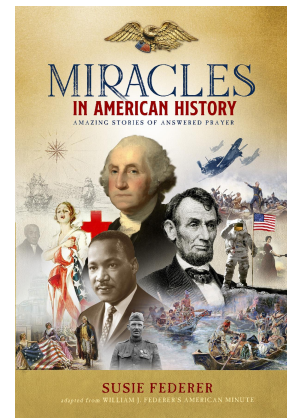
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