

## American Minute with Bill Federer Thanksgiving Proclamations by Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Lincoln, Roosevelt, & more

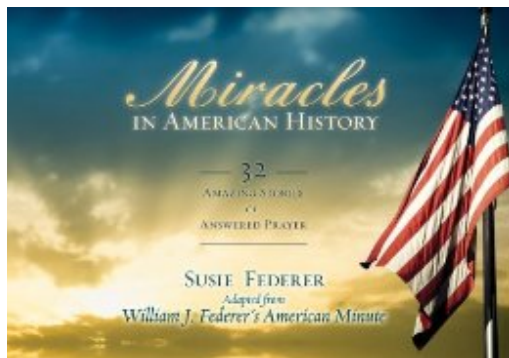
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During the days of America's founding, colonies would declare:

- **days of prayer** when times were bad;
- **days of fasting** when times were real bad; and
- **days of thanksgiving** when things turned around ...  
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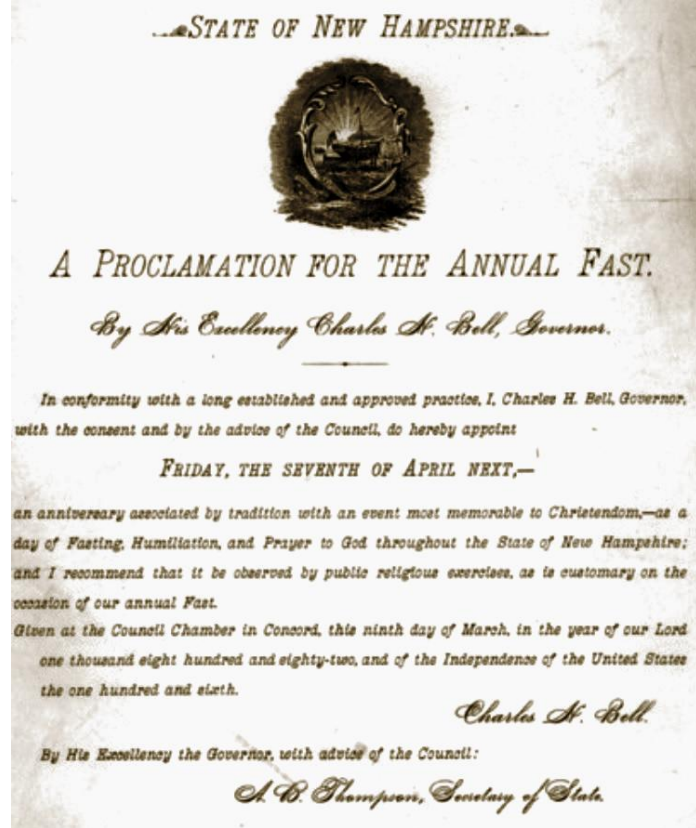
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This developed into many colonies, like New Hampshire and Massachusetts, having **annual days**

of fasting, often on Good Friday.

This is evidence that colonists were not "deists" who believed God set the laws of nature in place and then let everything run on its own.

America's founders believed in a living relationship with God where:



if people sinned, He would call them to repent;

if they did not repent, He would sent judgment; and

then when they repented and believed, He would send deliverance, health, and blessings.

This was expressed in Deuteronomy 28:

"If thou shalt **HEARKEN** diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments .. all these **BLESSINGS** shall come on thee, and overtake thee ...

ACCORDING TO DEUTERONOMY	
BLESSINGS	CURSES
- Blessed coming in and going out	- Cursed coming in and going out
- Financial Prosperity	- Cursed Prosperity (Poverty)
- Blessed Health	- Disease and Illness
- Everything You Own Will Be Blessed	- Cursed Crops and Finances
- Victory over enemies	- Oppression by Enemies

**Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law!**

ANDREW WOMACK MINISTRIES

But ... if thou wilt **NOT HEARKEN** unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe to do all his commandments ... all these **CURSES** shall come upon thee, and overtake thee."

In 2 Chronicles 7:14, the Lord promised:

"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.**"

**IF MY PEOPLE,**  
WHO ARE CALLED BY MY NAME,  
SHALL **HUMBLE** THEMSELVES,  
& **PRAY**, & **SEEK MY FACE**,  
& **TURN** FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS;  
THEN I WILL **HEAR** FROM HEAVEN,  
& I WILL **FORGIVE** THEIR SIN,  
& I WILL **HEAL** THEIR LAND.

2 CHRONICLES 7:14

During a threaten war, **Ben Franklin** published a proclamation of a **General Fast** in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, December 12, 1747:



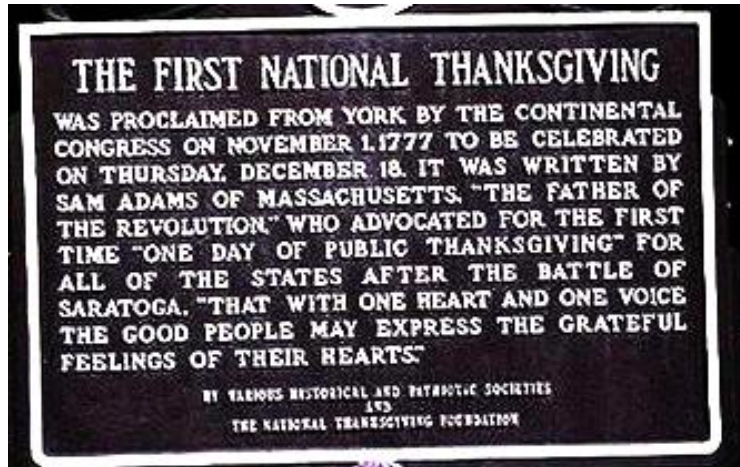
"The **calamities of a bloody war** ... seem every year more nearly to approach us ... and there is just reason to fear that **unless we humble ourselves before the Lord** and **amend our ways**, we may be **chastised with yet heavier judgments.**

We have ... thought fit ... to appoint ... a **Day of Fasting** ... to join with one accord in the most **humble & fervent supplications** that **Almighty God** would mercifully interpose and still the rage of war among the nations & **put a stop to the effusion of Christian blood.**"

**Thomas Jefferson**, a member of the House of Burgesses, drafted a **Day of Fasting for Virginia** in 1774 to be observed on the day British ships blockaded Boston's harbor.

"With apprehension ... from the **hostile invasion of the city** of Boston ... whose commerce and **harbor** are ... to be **stopped by an armed force**, deem it highly necessary that the said first day of June be set apart, by the members of this House, as a **Day of Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer, devoutly to implore the Divine interposition.**"

After the Declaration of Independence was proclaimed July 4, 1776, the **first "National" Day of Thanksgiving** was declared by the Continental



Congress on November 1, 1777, to celebrate **British General Burgoyne surrendering over 6,000 soldiers at the Battle of Saratoga:**

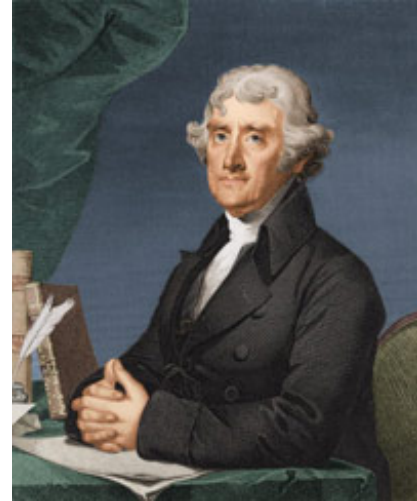
"The grateful feeling of their hearts ... join the **penitent confession of their manifold sins** ... that it may please **God, through the merits of Jesus Christ**, mercifully to forgive and blot them out of remembrance ... and ... under the **providence of Almighty God** ... secure for these United States the greatest of all human blessings, independence and peace."

**John Paul Jones** commanded the *Bonhomme Richard* in a sea battle with the 50-gun British frigate *HMS Serapis* on September 23, 1779.

In the midst of the fighting, the British commander yelled, asking if the Americans were ready to surrender. **John Paul Jones** shouted back, "**I have not yet begun to fight!**"

When the British surrendered, the Continental Congress declared a **Day of Thanksgiving**, recommending that the thirteen states do likewise.

In accordance with this, **Virginia Governor Thomas Jefferson** proclaimed for Virginia, November 11, 1779:



"Congress ... hath thought proper ... to recommend to the several States ... **a day of public and solemn Thanksgiving to Almighty God**, for his mercies, and of **Prayer**, for the continuance of his favour ... That He would go forth with our hosts and **crown our arms with victory ...**

That He would **grant to His church, the plentiful effusions of Divine Grace**, and **pour out His Holy Spirit on all Ministers of the Gospel;**

That He would bless and prosper the means of education, and **spread the light of Christian knowledge** through the **remotest corners of the earth** ... I do therefore ... issue this proclamation ... appointing ... **a day of public and solemn Thanksgiving and Prayer to Almighty God ...**

Given under by hand ... this 11th day of November, in the year of our Lord, 1779 ... **Thomas Jefferson."**

Traitor **Benedict Arnold** planned to **betray West Point** to the British **on the exact day General Washington was schedule to visit**, ensuring his capture. When **the plot was thwarted**, the Continental Congress proclaimed a **Day of Thanksgiving**, October 18, 1780:

"In the late remarkable interposition of His watchful providence, in the **rescuing the person of our**

**Commander-in-Chief** and the **army** from imminent dangers, at the moment when **treason was ripened for execution** ...

it is therefore recommended ... **a Day of Public Thanksgiving and Prayer** ... to confess our unworthiness ... and to offer fervent supplications to the God of all grace ... **to cause the knowledge of Christianity to spread over all the earth.**"

After **British General Cornwallis** surrendered at **Yorktown**, Congress proclaimed a **Day of Thanksgiving**, October 11, 1782:



"It being the indispensable duty of all nations ... to offer up their supplications to **Almighty God** ...

the United States in Congress assembled ... do hereby recommend it to the inhabitants of these states in general, to observe ... the last Thursday ... of November next, as a **Day of Solemn Thanksgiving to God** for all his mercies."

The **Treaty of Paris** was signed September 3, 1783, **ending the Revolutionary War**. It began, "**In the Name of the Most Holy and Undivided Trinity.**"



Congress proclaimed a **Day of Thanksgiving**, October 18, 1783:

"Whereas it hath pleased the **Supreme Ruler of all human events**, to dispose the hearts of the late

belligerent powers to put a period to the effusion of human blood, by proclaiming a **cessation of all hostilities** by sea and land, and these United States are not only happily **rescued from the dangers** and calamities to which they have been so long exposed, but their **freedom, sovereignty and independence** ultimately acknowledged.

And whereas ... the **interposition of Divine Providence** in our favor hath been most abundantly and most graciously manifested, and the citizens of these United States have every reason for praise and gratitude to the **God of their salvation** ... and of our entire dependence on that **Almighty Being**, from whose goodness and bounty they are derived, the **United States in Congress assembled** do recommend it to the several States, to set apart the second Thursday in December next, as a **day of public thanksgiving**,

that all the people may then assemble to celebrate with grateful hearts and united voices, the praises of their **Supreme and all bountiful Benefactor**, for his numberless favors and mercies.

That he hath been pleased to conduct us in safety through all the perils ... of the war ... and above all, that he hath been pleased to continue to us **the light of the blessed gospel**, and secured to us in the fullest extent the **rights of conscience in faith and worship**.

And while our hearts overflow with gratitude, and our lips set forth the praises of **our great Creator**, that we also offer up fervent supplications, that it may please him to **pardon all our offenses** ... to **smile upon our seminaries** and means of education, to cause pure religion and virtue to flourish, to give peace to all nations, and to fill the world with his glory.

Done by the **United States in Congress assembled**,

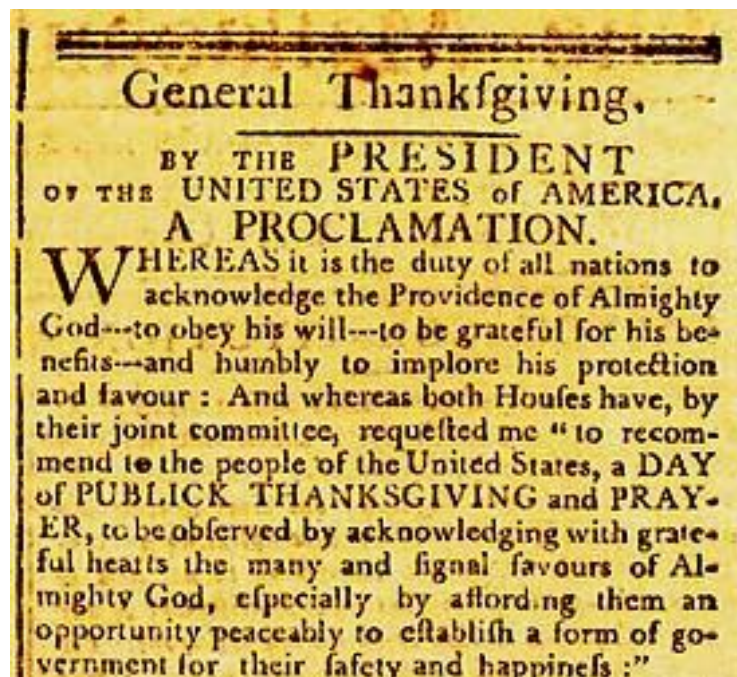
witness ... **Elias Boudinot, our President**, this 18th day of October, **in the year of our Lord** one thousand seven hundred and eighty-three, and of the sovereignty and independence of the United States of America the eighth."

**Massachusetts Governor John Hancock**, who was a former President of the Continental Congress, proclaimed a **Day of Thanksgiving**, November 8, 1783:

"The Citizens of these United States have every Reason for **Praise and Gratitude to the God of their salvation** ... I do ... appoint ... the 11th day of December next (the day recommended by the Congress to all the States to be religiously observed as a **Day of Thanksgiving and Prayer**,

that all the people may then assemble to celebrate ... that he hath been pleased to continue to us **the Light of the Blessed Gospel** ... That we also offer up fervent supplications ... to **cause pure Religion and Virtue to flourish** ... and to **fill the world with His glory.**"

The same week Congress passed the **Bill of Rights**, which included the First Amendment, it requested **President George Washington** issue a **National Day of Thanksgiving**, which he did, October 3, 1789:



"Whereas it is the duty of all Nations to **acknowledge**



**the providence of Almighty God**, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor--

and Whereas both Houses of Congress have by their joint Committee requested me

'to recommend to the People of the United States a **Day of Public Thanksgiving and Prayer** to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of **Almighty God**, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness' ...

Now, therefore, I do recommend ... Thursday, the 26TH DAY of NOVEMBER ...

to be devoted by the People of these United States to the service of **that great and glorious Being**, who is the beneficent **Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be** ...

That we may then all unite in rendering unto **Him** our sincere and humble Thanks ... for the peaceable and rational manner in which we have been enabled to **establish constitutions of government** ...

particularly **the national one now lately instituted**, for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed ... **to promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue."**

**A Whiskey  
Rebellion** in  
western  
Pennsylvania  
almost caused the  
new American  
Republic to fall

into chaos.



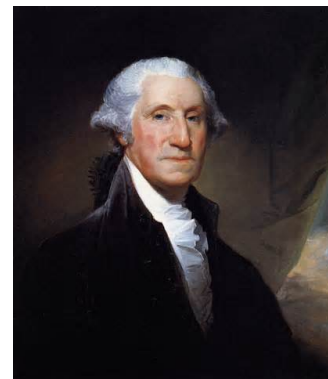
When it was peacefully resolved, **President George Washington** proclaimed a **National Day of Thanksgiving**, September 25, 1794:

"Resolved, in perfect reliance on that **gracious Providence** which so signally displays its goodness towards this country to reduce the refractory to a due subordination to the law ...

To call to mind that, as the people of the United States have been permitted, under **Divine favor**, in perfect freedom, after solemn deliberation, and in an enlightened age, to elect their own government,

so will their gratitude for this inestimable blessing be best distinguished by firm exertions to maintain the Constitution and the laws."

While the French Revolution was raging, **President George Washington** proclaimed a **National Day of Thanksgiving**, January 1, 1795:



"When we review the calamities, which afflict so many other nations ... the great degree of internal tranquility we have enjoyed -

the recent confirmation of that tranquility by the **suppression of an insurrection** which so wantonly

threatened it - the happy course of public affairs in general -

the unexampled prosperity of all classes of our citizens; are circumstances which peculiarly mark our situation with indications of the **Divine beneficence** towards us.

In such a state of things it is, in an especial manner, our duty as people, with devout reverence and affectionate gratitude, to **acknowledge our many and great obligations to Almighty God** and to implore **Him** to continue and confirm the blessings we experience ...

I, **George Washington, President of the United States**, do recommend to **all religious societies and denominations**, and to **all persons** whomsoever, within the United States,

to set apart ... **a Day of public Thanksgiving and Prayer**: and on that day to meet together and render their sincere and **hearty thanks to the great Ruler of Nations.**"

After the **War of 1812** was ended with the **Treaty of Ghent**, President **James Madison** proclaimed a **National Day of Thanksgiving**, March 4, 1815:



"The Senate and House of Representatives ... signified their desire that a day may ... be observed by the people of the United States with **religious solemnity as a Day of Thanksgiving and of devout acknowledgments to Almighty God** for His great goodness manifested in restoring to them the blessing of peace.

No people ought to feel greater obligations to celebrate the goodness of **the Great Disposer of Events and of the Destiny of Nations** than the people of the United States ...

**His kind Providence** originally conducted them to one of the best portions of the dwelling place allotted for **the great family of the human race**.

**He** protected ... them under all the difficulties and trials to which they were exposed in their early days ...

In the arduous struggle ... they were distinguished by multiplied tokens of **His benign interposition** ...

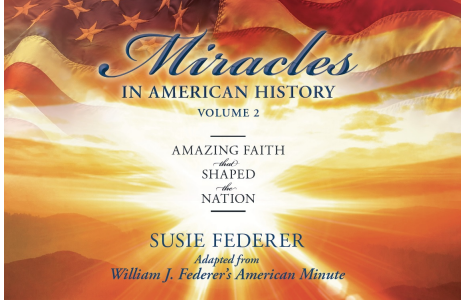
**He** ... enabled them to assert their national rights and to enhance their national character in another arduous conflict, which is now so happily terminated by **a peace and reconciliation** with those who have been our enemies.

And to the same **Divine Author of Every Good and Perfect Gift** we are indebted for all those privileges and advantages, **religious as well as civil**, which are so richly enjoyed in this favored land ...

I now recommend ... a Day on which the people of **every religious denomination** may in their solemn assemblies unite their hearts and their voices in **a freewill offering to their Heavenly Benefactor of their homage of Thanksgiving and of their songs of praise**.

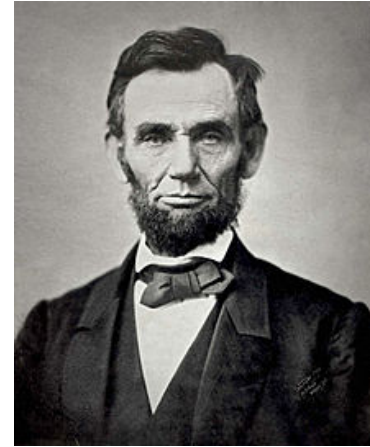


Given ... in the year of **our Lord** one thousand eight hundred and fifteen ... **James Madison.**"



## Vol. TWO: Amazing Faith that Shaped the Nation

**Abraham Lincoln** proclaimed the first "Annual" **National Day of Thanksgiving**, Washington, D.C., October 3, 1863:



"In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity ...

I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as **a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens ...**

And I recommend ... they do also, with **humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience**, commend to **His tender care** all those who have become **widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers** in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged,

and **fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation** and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with **the Divine purposes** to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquillity and Union.

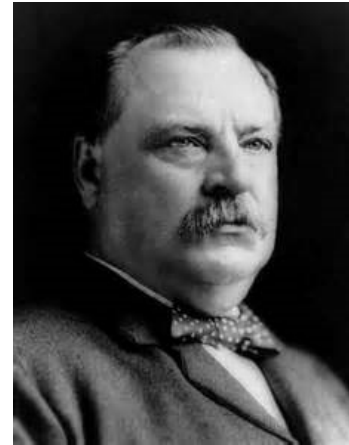
In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this Third day of October, in the **year of our Lord one thousand eight**

hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States the Eighty-eighth.

By the President: **Abraham Lincoln**, William H. Seward, Secretary of State."

**America was spared a global cholera pandemic**, as referenced in **President Grover Cleveland's National Day of Thanksgiving and Prayer Proclamation**, November 1, 1888:



"On that day let all our people suspend their ordinary work and occupations, and in their accustomed places of **worship, with prayer and songs of praise**, render **thanks to God** for all **His mercies ...**

And mindful of the **afflictive dispensations** with which a portion of our land has been visited, let us, while we humble ourselves before the power of **God**, acknowledge **His mercy in setting bounds to the deadly march of pestilence**, and let our hearts be chastened by sympathy with our fellow-countrymen who have suffered and who mourn.

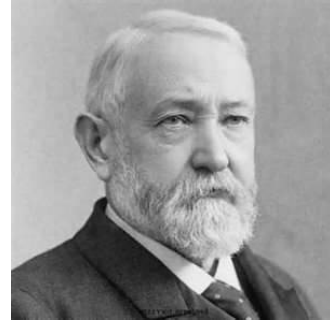
And as we return thanks for all the blessings which we have received from the hand of **our Heavenly Father**, let us not forget that **He** has enjoined upon us charity;

and on this **day of thanksgiving** let us generously remember the poor and needy, so that our tribute of praise and gratitude may be **acceptable in the sight of the Lord.**"

On the 100th anniversary of Washington's Inauguration, **President Benjamin Harrison** issued a **National Day of Prayers and Thanksgiving**,

April 4, 1889:

"**George Washington** took the oath of office as Chief Magistrate of the new-born Republic.



This impressive act was preceded at 9 o'clock in the morning **in all the churches** of the city by **prayer for God's blessing** on the Government and its first President ...

In order that the joy of the occasion may be associated with **a deep thankfulness** in the minds of the people **for all our blessings** in the past and **a devout supplication to God** for their gracious continuance in the future,

the representatives of the religious creeds, **both Christian and Hebrew**, have memorialized the Government to designate **an hour for prayer and thanksgiving on that day.**"

**In his National Day of Thanksgiving Proclamation, October 29, 1900, President William McKinley** acknowledged the **charitable help** given to the **city of Galveston after a hurricane:**



"The works of **religion** and **charity** have everywhere been manifest ...

We have been generally exempt from pestilence and other great calamities; and even the tragic visitation which overwhelmed **the city of Galveston** made evident the sentiments of sympathy and **Christian charity** by **virtue** of which we are one united people.

Now, therefore, I, **William McKinley**, President of the

United States, do hereby appoint and set apart Thursday, the 29th of November next, to be observed by all the people of the United States, at home or abroad, as a **day of thanksgiving and praise to Him who holds the nations in the hollow of His hand ...**

and that they **humbly pray for the continuance of His Divine favor**, for concord and amity with other nations, and for righteousness and peace in all our ways."

**President Theodore Roosevelt** acknowledged how rare America is in his **National Day of Praise and Thanksgiving Proclamation**, October 24, 1903:



"During the last year **the Lord** has dealt bountifully with us ...

It behooves us not only to rejoice greatly because of what has been given us, but to accept it with a solemn sense of responsibility, realizing that **under Heaven** it rests with us ourselves to show that we are worthy to use aright what has thus been entrusted to our care ...

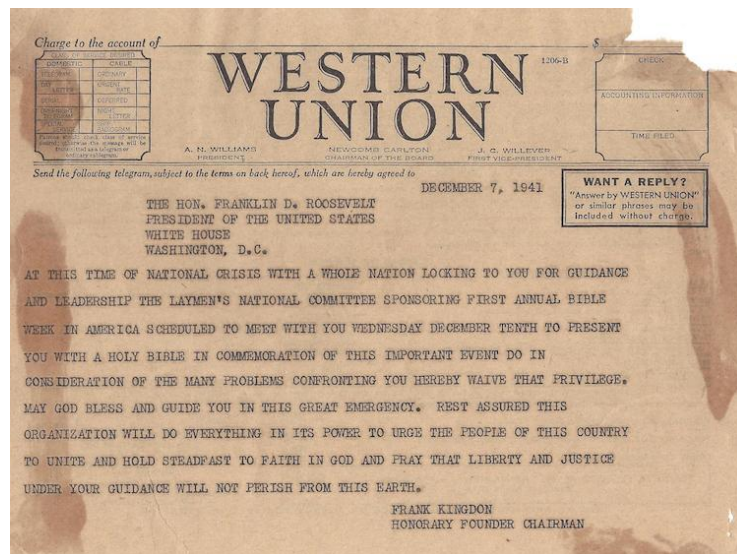
**In no other place and at no other time has the experiment of government of the people, by the people, for the people, been tried on so vast a scale as here in our own country** in the opening years of the 20th Century.

Failure would not only be a dreadful thing for us, but a dreadful thing for all mankind, because it would mean loss of hope for all who believe in the power and the righteousness of liberty.

Therefore, in **thanking God** for the mercies extended to us in the past, we beseech **Him** that **He** may not withhold them in the future."



**President Franklin Roosevelt** had proclaimed the **first National Bible Week** in 1941. Since then, **every session of Congress** has designated **Thanksgiving week as National Bible Week.**



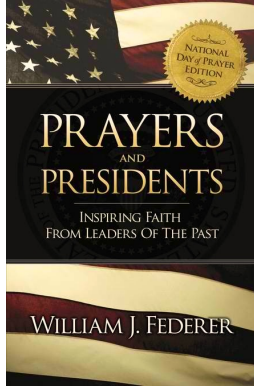
On November 28, 2018, **Representative e Mike Johnson** from Louisiana stated in a Special session of the U.S. House, CSPAN:

"This special order recognizing the **77th annual National Bible Week in America** ... a declaration first made by **President Franklin D. Roosevelt** just weeks before the start of World War Two.

As we do on this occasion every year, my colleagues and I extol the virtues of the **Holy Bible**. It is the most widely published, widely read, **most influential Book in all human history**, and of course, to us as Christians, we know it is more than just a good book. We order our lives upon this Book.

Indeed, as Hebrews proclaims, the World of God is alive and active. It is sharper than any double-edged sword. It penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."

Through the decades, **Presidents declared National Days of Thanksgiving**, many of which are



contained in the book [\*Prayers and Presidents - Inspiring Faith from Leaders of the Past.\*](#)

Continuing this tradition, **President Donald J. Trump** wrote in his **Thanksgiving Proclamation**, November 23, 2017:

"On **Thanksgiving Day**, as we have for nearly four centuries, Americans give thanks to **Almighty God** for our abundant blessings.

We gather with the people we love to show gratitude for our freedom, for our friends and families, and for the prosperous Nation we call home ...In July 1620, more than 100 Pilgrims boarded the **Mayflower**, fleeing **religious persecution** and seeking **freedom and opportunity** in a new and unfamiliar place.

These dauntless souls arrived in Plymouth, Massachusetts, in the freezing cold of December 1620.

They were greeted by sickness and severe weather, and quickly lost 46 of their fellow travelers.

... Those who endured the **incredible hardship** of their first year in America, however, had many reasons for **gratitude**.

They had survived. They were free. And, with the help of the **Wampanoag tribe**, and a **bountiful harvest**, they were regaining their health and strength.

... In **thanks to God** for these blessings, the new governor of the Plymouth Colony, William Bradford, proclaimed a **day of thanksgiving** and gathered with

the Wampanoag tribe for **three days of celebration.**

For the next two centuries, many individual colonies and states, primarily in the Northeast, carried on the tradition of fall **Thanksgiving festivities** ...

We can see, in the courageous **Pilgrims** who stood on Plymouth Rock in new land, the intrepidity that lies at the core of our American spirit.

Just as the **Pilgrims** did, today Americans stand strong, willing to fight for their families and their futures, to uphold our values, and to confront any challenge ...

... As one people, we seek **God's protection, guidance, and wisdom**, as we stand humbled by the abundance of our great Nation and the **blessings of freedom, family, and faith.**

NOW, THEREFORE, I, **DONALD J. TRUMP**, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim Thursday, November 23, 2017, as a **National Day of Thanksgiving.**

I encourage all Americans to gather, in homes and places of worship, **to offer a prayer of thanks to God for our many blessings."**

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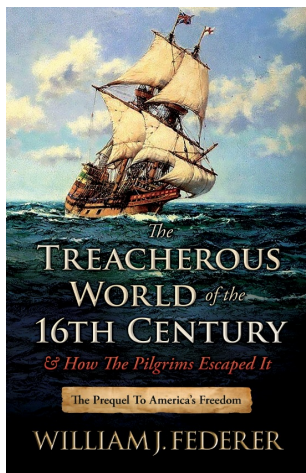
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## [The Treacherous World of the 16th Century and How the Pilgrims Escaped It: The Prequel to America's Freedom](#)

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