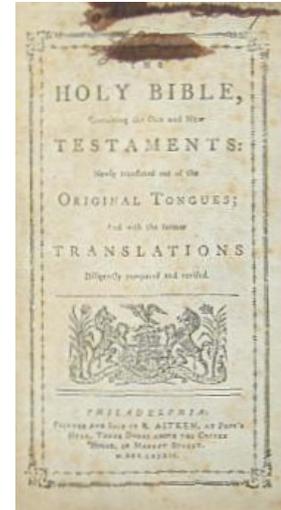


**WHAT PLACE DID GOD, CHRIST, THE BIBLE, AND CHRISTIANITY HAVE IN THE MINDS OF THE FOUNDING FATHERS AND COLONISTS? PLEASE JUDGE FOR YOURSELF FROM THE EVIDENCE BELOW.**

**The Bible of the Revolution:** The Continental Congress (September 10, 1782), in response to the need for Bibles, granted approval to print “a neat edition of the Holy Scriptures for the use of schools.” This edition has come to be known as the *Bible of the Revolution*. The following Endorsement of Congress was printed on its front page: *Whereupon, Resolved, That the United States in Congress assembled... recommended this edition of the Bible to the inhabitants of the United States, and hereby authorize [Robert Aitken] to publish this recommendation in the manner he shall think proper.* The 1782 Aitken Bible was the First English Bible Printed in America. Aitken’s Bible was small enough to fit into the coat pocket of Revolutionary War soldiers. The Bible’s pages measured only 6 inches tall by almost 4 inches wide. It is the only Bible printing ever called for by an act of the United States Congress.



**State Constitutions:** The original constitutions of all the 13 colonies when they became states contained references to God, Christ, Christianity, and the Bible. Some states required that the governor and/or the legislators profess themselves Christians in order to be allowed to serve. For example, here are requirements, stated in the Delaware Constitution (1776), necessary for holding office: Article XXII. *Every person who shall be chosen a member of either house, or appointed to any office or place of trust...shall...make and subscribe the following declaration, to wit: “I, \_\_\_\_\_, do profess faith in **God the Father, and in Jesus Christ His only Son, and in the Holy Ghost, one God, blessed for evermore; and I do acknowledge the holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be given by divine inspiration.**”*

**On May 13, 1824,** former Chief Justice John Jay (our first Supreme Court Chief Justice) wrote: “Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty as well as the privilege and interest of our **Christian nation** to select and prefer **Christians** for their rulers.” Later on, when he was president of the American Bible Society, he said: “By conveying the **Bible** to people ... we thereby enable them to learn ... that our gracious **Creator** has provided for us a **Redeemer** ... that this **Redeemer** has made atonement ‘for the sins of the whole world,’ and thereby reconciling the Divine justice with the Divine mercy, has opened a way for our **redemption and salvation**; and that these inestimable benefits are of the free gift and grace of **God**, not of our deserving, nor in our power to deserve.”

**Here are words from the Founding Fathers, all signers of the Declaration of Independence.** **JOHN HANCOCK (MA)** wrote, “In circumstances as dark as these, it becomes us, as men and **Christians**, to reflect that, whilst every prudent measure should be taken to ward off the impending judgments ... all confidence must be withheld from the means we use; and reposed only on that **God** Who rules in the Armies of **Heaven**, and without Whose blessing the best human counsels are but foolishness – and all created power vanity.”

**SAMUEL ADAMS (MA)** said, “We have this day restored the **Sovereign** to Whom all men ought to be obedient. He reigns in **Heaven** and from the rising to the setting of the sun, let His kingdom come.” He wrote on November 20, 1772, in “The Rights of the Colonist as Christians”: “The right to freedom being the gift of **God Almighty**, the rights of the Colonists as **Christians** may best be understood by reading and carefully studying the institutions of The Great Law Giver and the Head of the **Christian Church**, which are to be found clearly written and promulgated in the **New Testament**.” In his Last Will and Testament he wrote: “Principally, and first of all, I resign my soul to the **Almighty Being** who gave it, and my body I commit to the dust, relying on the merits of **Jesus Christ** for the pardon of my sins.”

**JOHN ADAMS (MA)** made this entry in his diary on February 22, 1756: “Suppose a nation in some distant Region should take the **Bible** for their only law Book, and every member should regulate his conduct by the precepts there exhibited! Every member would be obliged in conscience, to temperance, frugality, and industry; to justice, kindness, and charity towards his fellow men; and to piety, love, and reverence toward **Almighty God**... What a Eutopia, what a Paradise would this region be!”

**THOMAS JEFFERSON (VA)** said: “**God** Who gave us life, gave us liberty. And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are of the gift of **God**?”

**DR. BENJAMIN RUSH (PA)** said: “I have alternatively been called an Aristocrat and a Democrat. I am neither. I am a **Christocrat**.” He made a regular practice of closing the day by reading to his family a chapter in the Bible, and afterwards by prayer, devoutly acknowledging God’s goodness, and humbly imploring his continued protection and blessing. He wrote in his work, A Plan for Free Schools, 1787: “Let the children...be carefully instructed in the principles and obligations of the **Christian** religion. This is the most essential part of education.” On July 13, 1789, in a letter to Jeremy Belknap, he stated: “The great enemy of the salvation of man, in my opinion, never invented a more effectual means of extirpating **Christianity** from the world than by persuading mankind that it was improper to read the **Bible** at schools.” In Essays, Literary, Moral, and Philosophical, he explained: “**Christianity** is the only true and perfect religion, and that in proportion as mankind adopts its principles and obeys its precepts, they will be wise and happy. In contemplating the political institutions of the United States, I lament that we waste so much time and money in punishing crimes and take so little pains to prevent them. We profess to be republicans, and yet we neglect the only means of establishing and perpetuating our republican forms of government, that is, the universal education of our youth in the principles of **Christianity** by the means of the **Bible**. For this Divine book, above all others, favors that equality among mankind, that respect for just laws, and those sober and frugal virtues, which constitute the soul of republicanism.” In Philadelphia in 1813, during his final illness (age68), he wrote his wife, “My excellent wife, I must leave you but God will take care of you. By the mystery of Thy holy incarnation... by Thy precious death and burial; by Thy glorious resurrection and ascension, and by the coming of the Holy Ghost, **blessed Jesus**, wash away all my impurities, and receive me into Thy everlasting kingdom.”

**SAMUEL CHASE (MD)** gave the court’s opinion in the case of Runkel v. Winemiller, 1799: “Religion is of general and public concern, and on its support depend, in great measure, the peace and good order of government, the safety and happiness of the people. By our form of government, the **Christian** religion is the established religion; and all sects and denominations of **Christians** are placed upon the same equal footing, and are equally entitled to protection in their religious liberty.”

**CHARLES CARROLL (MD)** wrote: “Without morals a republic cannot subsist any length of time; they therefore who are decrying the **Christian** religion, whose morality is so sublime and pure [and] which insures to the good eternal happiness, are undermining the solid foundation of morals, the best security for the duration of free governments.” On September 27, 1825, in a letter to Charles W. Wharton, Esq., he wrote: “On the mercy of my **Redeemer** I rely for salvation and on His merits not on the works I have done in obedience to His precepts.”

**ROGER SHERMAN (CT)** In a speech to Congress, he said: “Admiring and thankfully acknowledging the riches of **redeeming** love, and earnestly imploring that divine assistance which may enable us to live no more to ourselves, but to **Him** who loves us and gave **Himself** to die for us.” He wrote: “I believe that there is one only living and true **God**, existing in three persons, the **Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost**, the same in substance, equal in power and glory. That the **Scriptures** of the Old and New Testaments are a revelation from **God**, and a complete rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him. I believe that **God**...did send His own **Son** to become man, die in the room and stead of sinners and thus to lay a foundation for the offer of pardon and salvation to all mankind, so as all may be saved who are willing to accept the **gospel** offer.”

**RICHARD STOCKTON (NJ)**, in his Last Will and Testament, wrote: “As my children will have frequent occasion of perusing this instrument, and may probably be peculiarly impressed with the last words of their father, I think proper here, not only to subscribe to the entire belief of the great leading doctrine of the **Christian** religion...but also in the heart of a father’s affection, to charge and exhort them to remember “that the fear of the **Lord** is the beginning of wisdom.”

**JOHN WITHERSPOON (NJ)** said: “We give praise to **God**, the supreme disposer of all events, for His interposition on our behalf.”