

## **This is War**

### *A Look at the American Revolution*

#### **Divine destiny in America's founding?**

*Why is it that, next to the birthday of the Saviour of the World, your most joyous and most venerated festival returns on this day. Is it not that, in the chain of human events, the birthday of the nation is indissolubly linked with the birthday of the Savior? That it forms a leading event in the Progress of the Gospel dispensation? Is it not that the Declaration of Independence first organized the social compact on the foundation of the Redeemer's mission upon earth? John Quincy Adams, July 4, 1837*

Samuel Adams – bar owner or saint?

- Popular portrayal – media (History Channel)
- Adams “...was a member of the church; and the austere purity of his life witnessed the sincerity of his profession. Evening and morning his house was a house of prayer; and no one more revered the Christian sabbath.”

In February of 1765, John Adams wrote:

*I always consider the settlement of America with reverence and wonder, as the opening of a grand scene and design in Providence for the illumination of the ignorant, and the emancipation of the slavish part of mankind all over the earth*

*(A Dissertation on the Canon and Feudal Law)*

*“Without the Great Awakening (1740-1760), there would have been no American Revolution (1760-1790).*  
McDowell, America's Providential History

John MacArthur vs. the clergy of the American Revolution

- Most pastors preached it as resistance to tyranny.
- Peter Muhlenberg – pastor/warrior
- Rev. Jonas Clark – “*From this day will be dated the liberty of the world!*” (Hancock, Adams)
- David Barton has an excellent article online on whether this is was Biblical rebellion or not:  
<http://www.wallbuilders.com/LIBissuesArticles.asp?id=24548>

#### **Biblical values leading to the revolution**

The #1 value of Americans today is liberty.

- Liberty bell
- Statue of liberty

There were at least four major Biblical values that drove Americans to take the radical step of revolution. These values were unheard of on a national scale prior to this.

1. Equality of all men

*“We hold these truths to be self-evident. That all men are created equal...”*

2. Rule of law (fallen nature of man)

*But where says some is the King of America? I'll tell you Friend, he reigns above, and doth not make havoc of mankind like the Royal Brute of Britain. ... let it be brought forth placed on the divine law, the word of God; ...that in America THE LAW IS KING. For as in absolute governments the King is law, so in free countries the law ought to be King; and there ought to be no other. Thomas Paine, Common Sense*

### 3. Servant leadership

*Men must be ready, they must pride themselves, and be happy to sacrifice their private Pleasures, Passions, and Interests, nay their private Friendships and dearest connections, when they Stand in Competition with the Rights of society." – John Adams*

### 4. Dependence on God

*England ...passed the Boston Port Bill, which was intended to shut down all commerce on June 1st and starve the townspeople into submission. The colonies began to respond. Massachusetts, Connecticut and Virginia called for days of fasting and prayer." America's Providential History*

## Jesus and liberty

Luke 4:18,19

<sup>18</sup> *"The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me <sup>9</sup>to heal the brokenhearted, **To proclaim liberty to the captives** And recovery of sight to the blind, **To set at liberty those who are oppressed;** <sup>19</sup> To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD."*

John 8:31-44 (NLT)

<sup>31</sup> *Jesus said to the people who believed in him, "You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. <sup>32</sup> And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."*

<sup>33</sup> *"But we are descendants of Abraham," they said. "We have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean, 'You will be set free'?"*

<sup>34</sup> *Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave of sin. <sup>35</sup> A slave is not a permanent member of the family, but a son is part of the family forever. <sup>36</sup> So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free.*

<sup>37</sup> *Yes, I realize that you are descendants of Abraham. And yet some of you are trying to kill me because there's no room in your hearts for my message. <sup>38</sup> I am telling you what I saw when I was with my Father. But you are following the advice of your father."*

<sup>39</sup> *"Our father is Abraham!" they declared.*

*"No," Jesus replied, "for if you were really the children of Abraham, you would follow his example.\**

<sup>40</sup> *Instead, you are trying to kill me because I told you the truth, which I heard from God. Abraham never did such a thing. <sup>41</sup> No, you are imitating your real father."*

*They replied, "We aren't illegitimate children! God himself is our true Father."*

<sup>42</sup> *Jesus told them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, because I have come to you from God. I am not here on my own, but he sent me. <sup>43</sup> Why can't you understand what I am saying? It's because you can't even hear me! <sup>44</sup> For you are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does.*

*He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies.*

Three things that bring us into bondage:

1. Lies (v. 32 – "you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.")
2. Sin (v. 34 - Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave of sin.)
3. Satan (v. 44 - For you are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does.)

The first bondage (lies) leads to the other two (sin, Satan)

I John 3:8 *For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.*

- The word "destroy" here literally means loosen.

### **The need to fight for liberty**

Gal. 5:1 ***Stand fast** therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.*

- Certainly has a national, social meaning
- Primarily though, this is personal.