

Saturday, 7/3/21 at 4:00 & Sunday, 7/4/21 at 9:00



Bible References: The 1995 Version of the New American Standard Bible

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: On **July 4, 1776**, the Second Continental Congress unanimously adopted the Declaration of Independence, *which separated us from Great Britain **and** made us an independent nation.* Since GOD ♦ establishes all nations and ♦ permits them to continue ([Rom. 13](#)), *we honor HIM as we celebrate our **245th Birthday!***

1. **Over the Centuries:** *God has certainly blessed us from sea to shining sea!* For a long time, many in our nation believed that ➔ God existed and ➔ the Bible is true; **therefore,** ♦ many were Christians and ♦ the moral teachings of the Bible were reflected in the laws of our nation. During those years, *God established us as the greatest nation in the world!*
2. **God Can Bring Nations to an End:** For example, Judah (586 BC), East Germany (AD 1990), and Czechoslovakia (AD 1993). Will the USA be added to that list someday? *That is up to God.* However, these are two key factors:

- a. God is not happy with nations who persistently oppose Him: For example, Israel fell to the Assyrians in 721 BC **“because the sons of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God”** (2 Kings 17:7).
- b. The Bible says: **“Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD”** (Ps. 33:12). Years ago, *that was true for the USA!*

3. **What Is the BIG Picture?**

- a. God does exist, and He is awesome: He created in six days (Gen. 1). **Also, think about the details of this description**: **“The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, And the LORD will by no means leave the guilty unpunished. In whirlwind and storm is His way, And clouds are the dust beneath His feet”** (Nahum 1:3).
- b. The Bible IS God’s Word of Truth: **2 Timothy 3:16** **“All Scripture is [God-breathed]”** (2 Tim. 3:16). **Also**, Jesus prayed to His Father: **“...Your word is truth”** (Jn. 17:17).
- c. Souls are more important than Nations: The world in which we live is temporary, so **✦ nations are temporary, but ✦ every person will continue to exist forever**. I want our nation to be blessed, *but I ESPECIALLY WANT every person to be with God forever through Jesus!*
- d. Speaking the Truth in Love: If your doctor **✦knew** you were *extremely ill* AND **✦knew** of a *definite cure*, **BUT** he told you neither, *that would be a lawsuit!* **Now**, ☺representing the Almighty God and ☺having been trained to diagnose spiritual illness, permit me to point out ☹*opposition to God* **AND** ☺*God’s miracle cure!*

4. **Soul Disorders AND National Disorders:**

- a. Racism: Some practice it, **and some promote it for the purpose of dividing our nation**, BUT, in truth, **there is**

no such thing: Acts 17:26 “...[God] made from one *man* every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth...” No matter ♦skin color, ♦language, ♦beliefs, ♦etc., ***every person belongs to the ONE human race!***

b. Killing Babies:

- i. Honest science and the Bible (Ps. 51:5): From such things, *it is crystal clear that life begins at conception!* Also, 😊**people** are the HIGHPOINT of God’s creation, 😊**God knits** each person together inside the womb (Ps. 139:13), and 😊**God sent** His Son to make the way to heaven for EVERYONE!
- ii. Many are opposing the Almighty God: HOW? As a nation, we 😞have legalized baby-killing (1973) **and** 😞use tax dollars to pay for baby-killing! Also, as of this year, *about 60% of Americans agree that baby-killing should be legal in all or most cases; among those people, 80% are democrats and 35% are Republicans.*¹ **Even worse**, as of 2016, many Christian denominations support abortion rights – *some with limits and some without limits* (for example, Episcopal, ELCA, UMC, Presbyterian USA, and United Church of Christ²). **In the USA, since 1973, over 60 million babies have been intentionally killed** 😞!
- iii. God is extremely patient: He **has** pulled back many blessings from our nation, ***BUT He has not yet ended our nation, SO*** let all guilty parties **repent** – by ♦being sorry for sins, ♦receiving God’s gift of forgiveness through Jesus, and ♦turning from sins!

¹ <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2021/05/06/about-six-in-ten-americans-say-abortion-should-be-legal-in-all-or-most-cases/>

² <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/06/21/where-major-religious-groups-stand-on-abortion/>

- c. Sexual Perversions and More: We have ALL sinned in countless ways; **all sin, without forgiveness in Christ, will eternally condemn!** **1 Cor. 6:9-10** “...Do not be deceived; **neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the kingdom of God.** Since disaster will come upon all who **call evil good** (Is. 5:20), **let everyone who is doing so repent!** For ALL who do repent, **GREAT news:] ...but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God.”**
- d. Discouraging people from working: Some people NEED help, *so let us give it!* **However, MANY are getting help who should be working!** Right now, **over 50 million** people in America are receiving govt assistance, while, *at the same time*, there are **over 7 million** job vacancies. The Bible says, **2 Thess. 3:10** “...if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either.” The overpayment of those who **can work has discouraged them from working.** **USA – let us REPENT, change!**

Conclusion:

- **Truth** – All who keep opposing the Almighty God will fail!
- **Relevance** – It is best for all people and the USA to repent!
- **Inspiration** – If we ✦humble ourselves, ✦seek God’s mercy, and ✦turn from our wicked ways, **He will forgive and heal!**

Let Us Pray: Father in heaven, ✦open every eye, ✦turn every heart to You, ✦forgive every sin, and ✦transform the USA!

Website: www.blc7500.com (our short URL); **YouTube-watch:** Benefit from the Bible
Facebook: Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma; **Podcast-listen:** Benefit from the Bible
Address: 7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134; **Phone:** 440-845-2230