



God's Fingerprints In History



How God has directed history and impacted and intervened in historical events

There are no accidents in history !

It is “His-Story”

Proverbs 21:1

“The king’s heart is a stream of water in the hand
of the Lord;
He turns it wherever He will.”

Even the decisions of rulers are ultimately under
God’s direction.

Creation inspired Apollo 8 astronauts

Dec. 24th (Christmas Eve) 1968

The Apollo 8 astronauts are the first to ever see the Earth's full majesty and beauty from space. They were so awestruck by the site that they felt moved to read a portion of the creation account from Genesis.

They were the first to see the entire Earth God created and could not pull their eyes away. They took the first ever photos of the Earth that appear in science books.



Telegrams sent to crew of Apollo 8

1968 is often referred to as perhaps the most tumultuous year in American history.

MLK assassination, Race Riots in major cities, RFK assassination, TET offensive (worst of Vietnam), Violent Communist crackdown in Czechoslovakia, Violence at Democratic Convention in Chicago, North Korea takes American POW's, Student protests on college campuses, Cardinals lose World Series to Detroit in 7 games !



Communion on the Moon ?

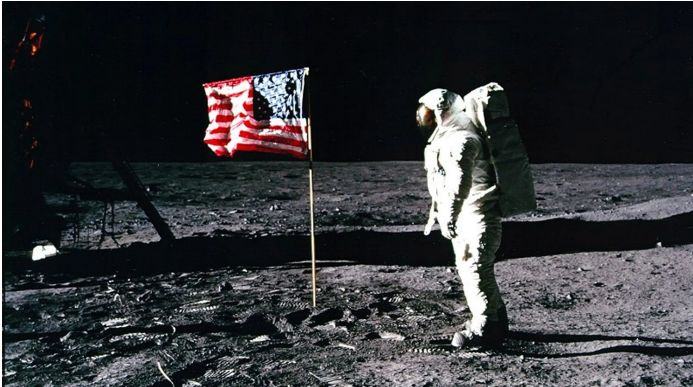


July 20th 1969

Shortly after Apollo 11 landed on the moon, something remarkable happened before Neil Armstrong made his famous footprint and “One Small Step for Man, One Giant Leap for Mankind” statement.

Astronaut Buzz Aldrin, a devout Christian, gave himself Holy Communion, on the moon.

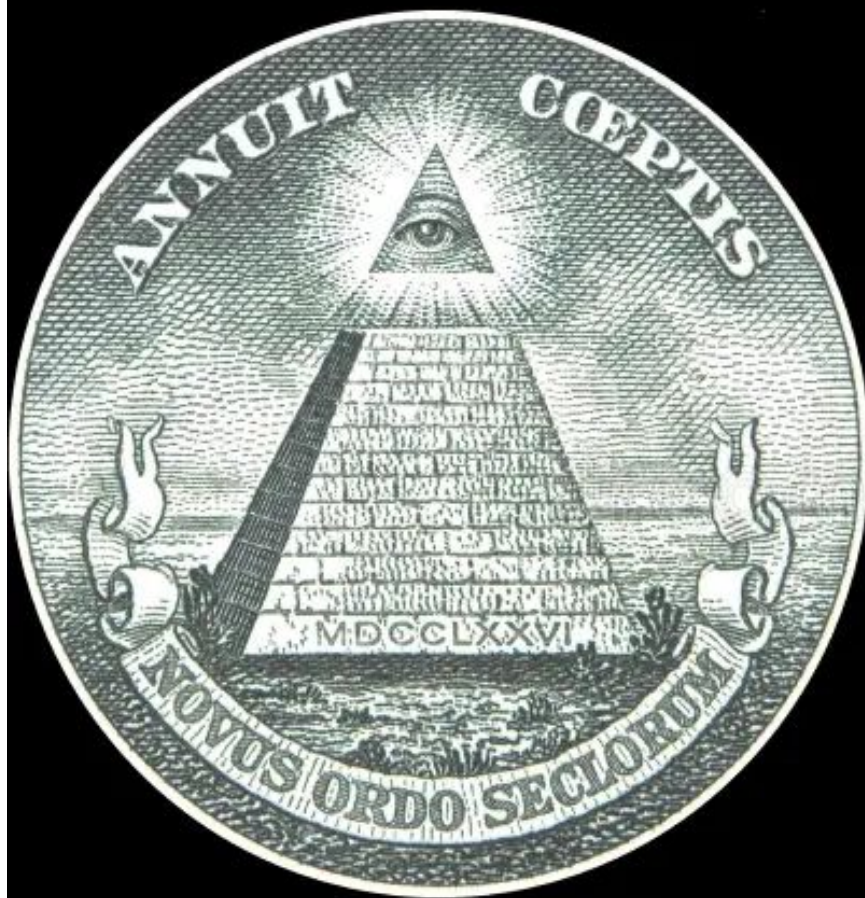
This scene was a very private moment for him, witnessed only by Neil Armstrong. The event was portrayed in an HBO TV program called “From the Earth to the Moon”



Psalm 47:7-8

“For God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm!
God reigns over the nations; God sits on His holy throne.”

God's reign extends beyond borders-
He is enthroned above all !



“Annuit Coeptis”

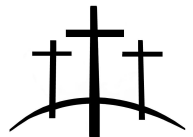
“Providence has favored our undertakings”

The Founding Fathers got this right, do we still today ??

Ways that God Used the Roman Empire to Fulfill His Plan



- 1) *Roads* for travel (Gospel / Paul / Legions)
- 2) *A vast empire* (Gospel travelled to a wide area)
- 3) *Pax Romana* (Peace for 200 yrs. aided the spread of the Gospel)
- 4) *Latin language* (common language also aided the spread of the Gospel)
- 5) *Traveling Armies* (took the good news to the frontiers of the empire)
- 6) *Crucifixion* (Pilate, Roman authority put Jesus to death)
- 7) *Christmas* (the census of Augustus brings Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem)



8) *Roman Catholic Church* (Peter in Rome, first established Christian Church body)

9) *Constantine* (Christian Emperor, makes Christianity the official religion)



10) *Easy Travel* (Med. Sea, roads, crossroads of three continents)

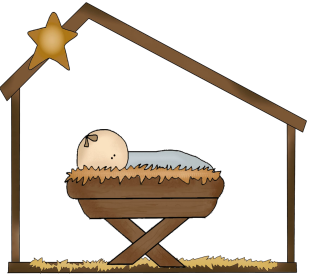
11) *Persecution* (strengthens the faith)

12) *Location* (Europe, Africa, Asia...and coming soon American exploration)

13) *Christian Fish Symbol* (secret sign)



Jesus came into the world...



At just the *right time* !

At just the *right place* !

In just the *right empire* !

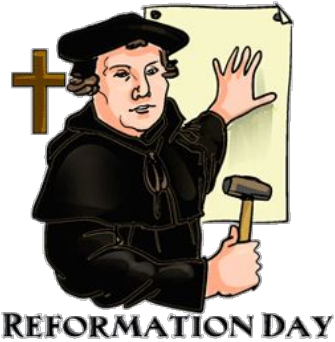


For a very important reason !!

Job 12:23

“He makes nations great, and He destroys them; He enlarges nations, and leads them away”

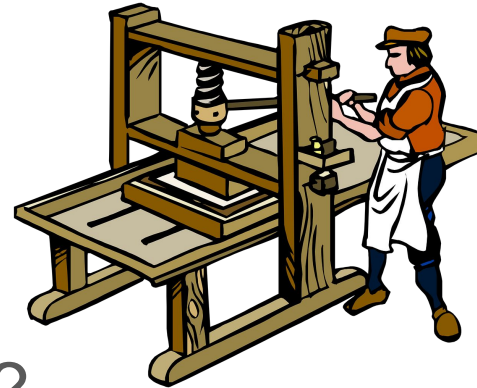
A clear statement of God's control over the rise and fall of entire civilizations.



Reformation in Germany

Johann Gutenberg invents movable type printing-
In Germany 1450's

Martin Luther's Protestant Reformation-
In Germany 1500's



Right Time, Right Place- Coincidence ??
Or God's Fingerprints ?

The “Bulletproof” George Washington

George Washington's life was miraculously spared during the Battle of the Monongahela (PA) during the French and Indian War.



Battle of the Monongahela

July 9th 1755

Just outside of Pittsburgh PA.



British and Virginia Militia struggling against French soldiers and Indian warriors in the wilderness.

The British were trying to expel the French from Ft. Duquesne at the point where the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers meet to form the Ohio River. Present day Pittsburgh PA.

French and Indians ambushed the British forces and it was a major disaster for the British. Overall The British lost about 1000 men, the French lost only 90. The French and Indians also made it a point to intentionally target the officers on horseback. General James Braddock was killed along with three quarters of the officers killed or wounded. Washington was the ONLY house mounted officer not taken down by enemy fire !!

Coincidence, Lucky ??? or God's Fingerprints !



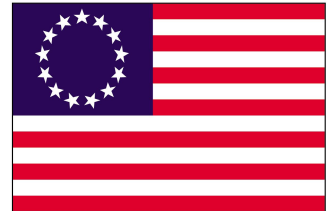
Revolutionary War

“The Long Island Fog”

In late August 1776, just a month or so after declaring Independence George Washington and his young inexperienced army were trapped on Long Island, New York. Defeated, surrounded and desperate, they tried to evacuate to Manhattan to survive. The evacuation was to be under cover of darkness, but it was delayed and soon morning would reveal the evacuation. Artillery and British navy ships would soon destroy the army, capture Washington, and our dreams of freedom and independence would be dead.

Then at dawn, came a mysterious dense fog came out of nowhere to conceal the evacuation. The entire remaining army made it safely to Manhattan and the struggle continued.

Coincidence, Luck ?? Or God's Fingerprints ?



Washington at Valley Forge Winter 1777-1778



George Washington's 1st Inaugural Address

“There is an invisible hand which
conducts the affairs of men”



George Washington at his first inauguration.
Federal Hall in New York City, April 30, 1789.
Engraving (c) National Archives

Ephesians 1:11

“In Him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to His will.”

A clear affirmation that God is actively working all things-including history-according to His will.

Just for fun !

“Bruce Almighty”
I didn't know know God took vacations ?

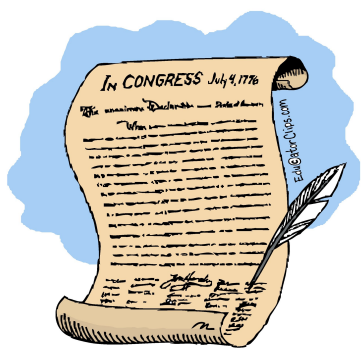




Pilgrims at Plymouth

The *Pilgrims* came to Plymouth MA in 1620. The first winter they nearly all died. They eventually flourished with the assistance of Native American like *Samoset* and Chief *Massasoit*. There was an Indian tribe living in the area that all died of disease brought by Europeans. The Pilgrims believed that God had cleared the land for them to live.

Samoset introduced the Pilgrims to the only survivor of that group of Indians. The young man's name was a *Tisquantum*, also known as *Squanto*. With his help and assistance, the Pilgrims survive and thrive, leading to the famous sharing of blessings at the first *Thanksgiving*.



Thomas Jefferson John Adams

Two monumental founding fathers. Partners, then fierce rivals, then best friends.

Both Died on *July 4th* 1826.
The *50th* anniversary of the
Declaration of Independence
which they both worked on and signed !!



Coincidence or God's Fingerprints ??



What are the Odds ?



Two Presidents die the same year ?- *That's a coincidence*

Two die the same exact date ?- *Wow*

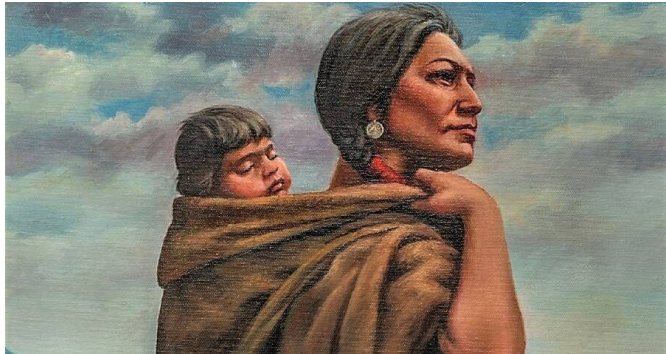
Two die same date same year ?- *Oh My !*

Two die same date, year in the 50th anniversary year ?- *No Way !*

Two die same date, same year, on the 50th and on July 4th ???-
Providence !!

Lewis and Clark Expedition 1804-1806

The Corps of Discovery never should have survived!
Saved by Sacajawea, Baby (Pomp) and the Dog (Seaman)
Saved by God's protection !



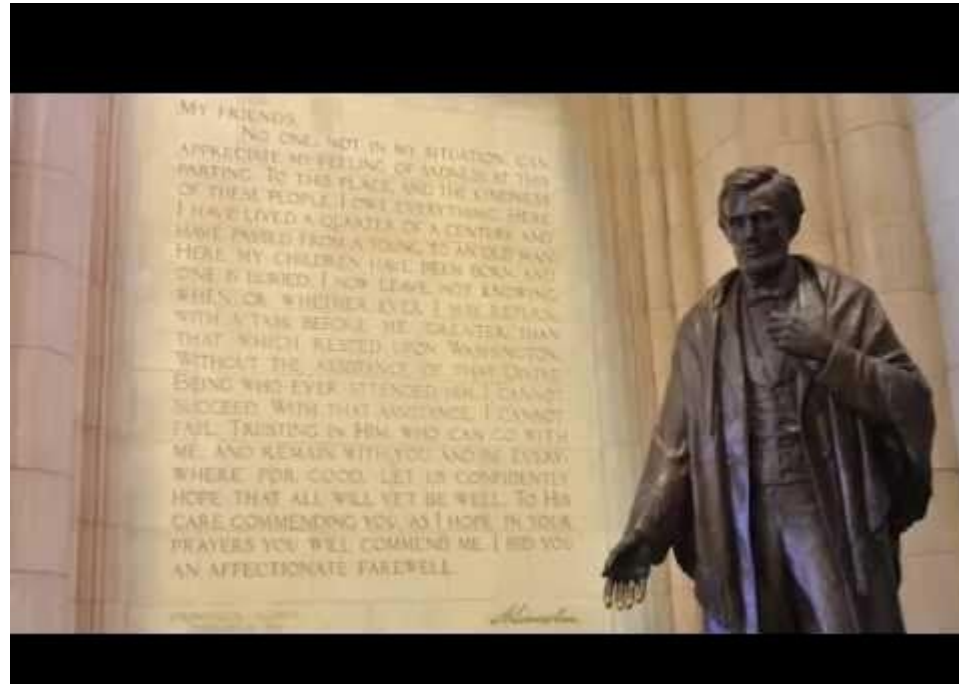
The “Amistad”

True story of a slave revolt on a ship bound for America in 1839. Imprisoned in Connecticut awaiting verdict of their trial. Their fate eventually decided by the Supreme Court.



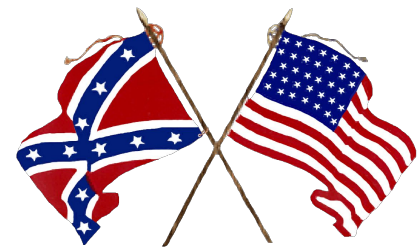
Abraham Lincoln

Some skeptics dismiss Lincoln's faith due to his never joining a specific church denomination. However his speeches, writings and personal values are full of spiritual, Biblical references and evidence.



My friends, no one, not in my situation, can appreciate my feeling of sadness at this parting. To this place, and the kindness of these people, I owe everything. Here I have lived a quarter of a century, and have passed from a young to an old man. Here my children have been born, and one is buried. I now leave, not knowing when, or whether ever, I may return, with a task before me greater than that which rested upon Washington. Without the assistance of the Divine Being who ever attended him, I cannot succeed. With that assistance I cannot fail. Trusting in Him who can go with me, and remain with you, and be everywhere for good, let us confidently hope that all will yet be well. To His care commending you, as I hope in your prayers you will commend me, I bid you an affectionate farewell.

Lincoln's Farewell to Springfield



American Civil War



Lee's army withdraws from defeat at *Gettysburg*, turning point in the east. That same day *Vicksburg* falls, turning point in the west. When Lee learned of the fall of Vicksburg he asked what day it was ? He was told it was the 4th of July.

Lee said, introspectively...

“The good Lord certainly has a sense of humor”!

“The Titanic’s Last Hero”

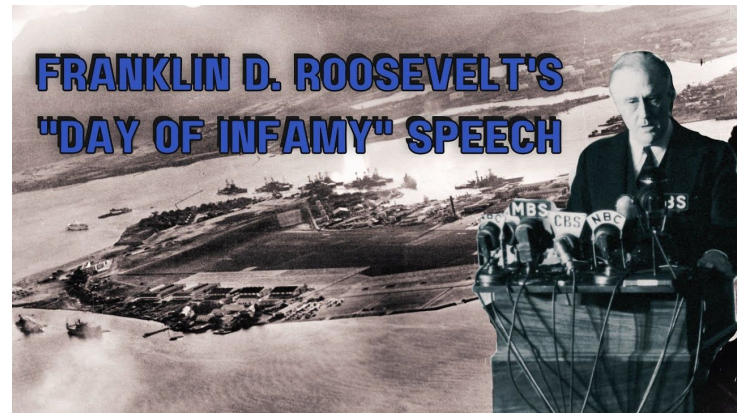
Titanic sinks on April 15th 1912.

Reverend John Harper was lost but is remembered
for his powerful Christian Witness.



World War II

- 1) No aircraft carriers at Pearl Harbor
- 2) F.D.R. Pearl Harbor Quote
- 3) **Miracle at Midway**
- 4) Franklin Roosevelt's D-Day prayer
- 5) General Patton Prayer



F.D.R

D-Day Prayer

June 6th, 1944 Franklin D. Roosevelt broadcasted a famous prayer during one of his “Fireside Chats”

There is a memorial plaque now at the WWII Memorial in Washington D.C.

FDR D-Day Prayer Plaque Unveiling at the National WWII Memorial



"My fellow Americans, last night when I spoke with you about the fall of Rome, I knew at that moment that troops of the United States and our allies were crossing the channel in another and greater operation," Roosevelt said. "It has come to pass with success thus far. And so in this poignant hour I ask you to join with me in prayer."



PRAYER

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, we humbly beseech Thee, of Thy great goodness, to restrain these immoderate rains with which we have had to contend. Grant us fair weather for Battle. Graciously hearken to us as soldiers who call upon Thee that armed with Thy power, we may advance from victory to victory, and crush the oppression and wickedness of our enemies, and establish Thy justice among men and nations. Amen.



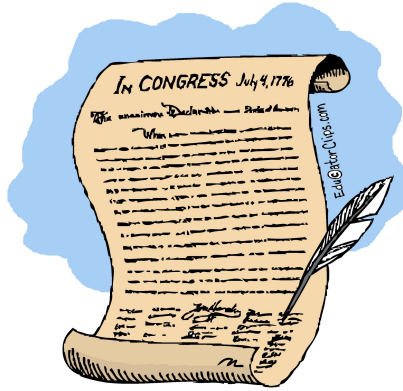
Declaration of Independence



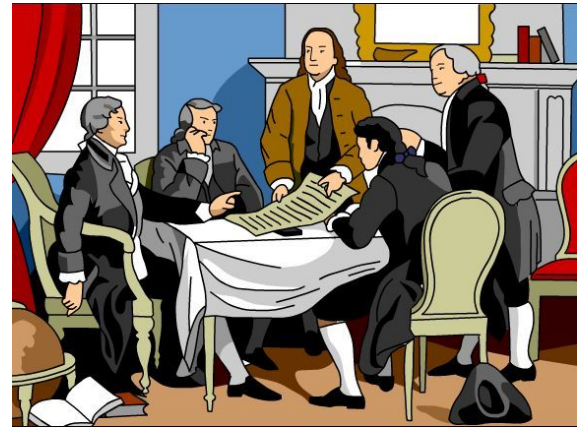
God is mentioned four times in the short Declaration.

Preamble- “And to assume among the powers of the earth the separate and equal station to which The Laws of nature and of **Nature’s God** entitle them”

Famous phrase- “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their **Creator** with certain unalienable Rights that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness”



Declaration of Independence July 4, 1776



“We therefore, the representatives of the United States of America, in general Congress assembled, *appealing to the **Supreme Judge of the world** for rectitude of our intentions...*

“And for the support of this Declaration, *with firm reliance on the protection of **divine Providence***, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our fortunes and our sacred Honor.”



George Washington

When reflecting on the foiling of the plot of Benedict Arnold...

“The providential train of circumstances which led to it affords the most convincing proof that the Liberties of America are the object of divine Protection.”



“Providence”



- 1) The protective care of God
- 2) Divine guidance and care
- 3) Power of God, sustaining and guiding human destiny



What about Us ??

How are we to respond to this obvious interaction with Divine Providence ?

Take it from-John Hancock

A close-up photograph of a handwritten document. The text is written in cursive ink on aged, yellowed paper. The visible text includes: "rown, and that all political connection between these", "War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish", "Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of", and a large, bold signature "John Hancock". Below the signature, the name "Samuel Chase" is partially visible. To the right, there are some numbers and other faint markings, including "13" and "Be".

Hancock- President of the Continental Congress and famous signer of the Declaration of Independence.

“Let us joyfully leave our concerns in the hands of Him who raises up and puts down the empires and kingdoms of the earth as He pleases”

Acts 17:26-27

“And He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God.”

God not only created nations but also determined their times and places in history.

SCREEN
BLUES

1917

