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America's Renewal: Hidden in Plain View

"The theme of this picture is whether men are to be ruled by God's Law or whether they are to be ruled by the whims of a dictator..."

Cecil B. DeMille,
film director of
The Ten Commandments

Every nation is built upon a foundation of laws. Did America always have laws that were thousands of pages long? If not, what were they? Where did they come from?

For centuries America's laws were based on what was referred to as the Divine Law, Laws of God, the Immutable Laws of Good and Evil, the Ten Commandments and other names. These laws were *voluntarily* applied to both personal lives and civil institutions. As early as 1638, Rev.

Thomas Hooker, the founder of Connecticut said, "The choice of public magistrates belongs unto the people, by God's allowance....The privilege of election...must not be exercised according to their humors [whims], but according to the blessed will and law of God."

As the colonies grew and charters and laws were written, each one of the Ten Commandments was adopted as law by 12 of the 13 original colonies. Even Rhode Island, the only exception, established the last six of the Ten Commandments in its legal structure.

The Ten Commandments were the people's choice as the foundation of law for America's founding generation as well. America's sixth president, John Quincy Adams, said, "From the day of the Declaration...they [the American people] were bound by the laws of God, which they all, and by the laws of The Gospel, which they nearly all, acknowledge as the rules of their conduct."

The United States Constitution was also grounded in these unchanging principles.

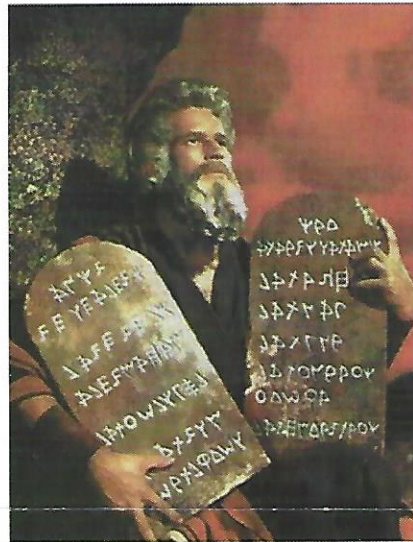
The Constitution derives its fundamental, world-changing concepts from the Hebrew Republic and Laws of God. These concepts include the three branches of government, the separation of powers, checks and balances, the rights of trial by jury, equality of all people before the law, coined, not-inflated money and the unique emphasis in our Constitution which drives nearly all power to the local level.

Even after WWII most Americans knew that their freedoms and their success were based in Divine Law. President Harry Truman said, "The fundamental basis of this nation's laws was given to Moses on the Mount. The fundamental basis of our Bill of Rights comes from the teachings we get from Exodus and St. Mathew, from Isaiah and St. Paul...If we don't have a proper fundamental moral background, we will finally end up with a totalitarian government which does not believe in rights for anybody except the State!"

The Academy Award winning movie of 1956, *The Ten Commandments*, reflected the beliefs of most Americans.

Director Cecil B. DeMille appeared directly on the silver screen as the movie began. He said that this picture is "The story of the birth of freedom, the story of the birth of Moses...The theme of this picture is whether men are to be ruled by God's Law or whether they are to be ruled by the whims of a dictator... are men the property of the state or are they free souls under God? This same battle continues throughout the world today."

As a result of the success of the movie, hundreds of monuments of the



Charlton Heston as Moses
The Ten Commandments



Ten Commandments were placed at court houses and public places throughout America.

The desire for God's clear and fair laws was shared by President Ronald Reagan in the 1980's. He had a kind way of pointing us back to what we know is true in our hearts. He said, "The Lord's Prayer contains 57 words. Lincoln's Gettysburg Address has 266 words. The Ten Commandments are presented in just 297 words, and the Declaration of Independence has only 300 words. And...an Agriculture Department order setting the price of cabbage has 26, 911 words."

Reagan also declared a strategy for restoring liberty and moving mountains. He said, "Standing up for America also means standing up for the God who has blessed this land. If we could just keep remembering that Moses brought down from the mountain the *Ten Commandments*, not ten suggestions – and if those of us who live for the Lord could remember that He wants us to love our Lord and our neighbor, then there's no limit to the problems we could solve or the mountains we could move together as a mighty force for good."

Cecil DeMille and Ronald Reagan, in their generations, were not parroting party lines. They stood in the long line of prophetic voices that have been calling us back to individually and voluntarily embrace the Eternal Laws of the universe - and in doing so bless others.

There has been an attempt over the last 100 years by a small, well positioned, group of secular humanists to push the Ten Commandments out of the fabric of American life. But no

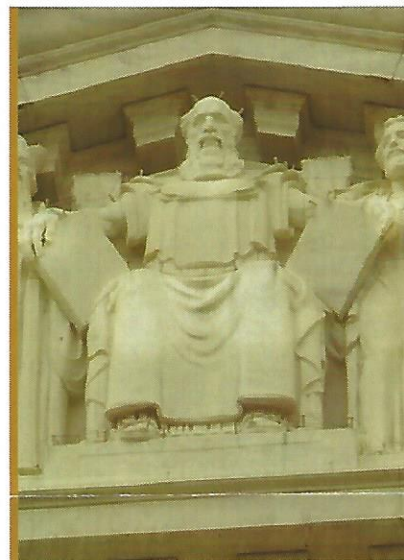
one can eliminate the law that is written on the hearts of all people. In fact, the Ten Commandments are on a winning streak. Since 2005, rulings of the federal court have upheld the fact that the Ten Commandments have shaped America's laws and may be displayed in courts of law and public places.

Today, 50 years after Cecil B. DeMille inspired a national love for the Ten Commandments, a new movement called *Project Moses* is bringing God's loving law center stage. Hundreds of 900 pound monuments of the Ten Commandments and Christ's Beatitudes are being placed on church and other private properties in prominent civic locations across the country. The humanist attacks on the placement of the Commandments in public places have awakened a sleeping giant - the 80% of Americans who believe that these standards are the best rules to live by.

Robert Winthrop, descendent of Massachusetts' Founder John Winthrop, clearly laid out the choice that is before us today. He said "All societies of men must be governed in some way or other. The less they have of stringent State Government, the more they must have of individual self-government. The less they rely on public law or physical force, the more they must rely on private moral restraint. Men, in a word, must necessarily be controlled either by a power within them or a power without them: either by the Bible [voluntary] or the bayonet [force]."

May our Lord empower us to do what we know is right. The secret to America's renewal is hidden in plain view.

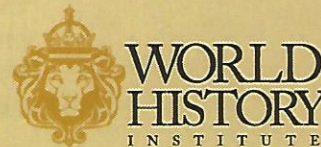
Marshall Foster



Moses and the Ten Commandments at the peak of the U.S. Supreme Court building

"The fundamental basis of this nation's laws was given to Moses on the Mount."

President Harry Truman



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