

THE MESSENGER



“... How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!” Romans 10:15

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Pray for the Nation

The following proclamation was written and issued by Abraham Lincoln in August 1861. After the defeat at Bull Run on July 21 in the same year, it became evident to Lincoln that a brief and low casualty war was only a fool's hope. Thousands of others would probably die before it was all over at the hands of their fellow countrymen and in some cases their own brethren. It was in this atmosphere of realizing the gravity of the conflict and the peril of his country that Lincoln proclaimed a day of prayer, fasting and humiliation for the nation in September 1861.

The respect and reverence which Lincoln expresses toward God is very moving and humbling. It clearly shows the general attitude of the country toward God at this time in our history. It also shows a recognition on the part of Lincoln that God is the true ruler of nations and it is only by His hand that nations stand or fall.

by Dempsey Collins

By the President of the United States of America

A PROCLAMATION

Whereas a joint Committee of both Houses of Congress has waited on the President of the United States, and requested him to “recommend a day of public humiliation, prayer and fasting, to be observed by the people of the United States with religious solemnities, and the offering of fervent supplication to Almighty God for the safety and welfare of these States, His blessings on their arms, and a speedy restoration of peace”.

And whereas it is fit and becoming in all people, at all times, to acknowledge and revere the Supreme Government of God, to bow in humble submission to His chastisements, to confess and deplore their sins and transgressions in the full conviction that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and to pray, with all fervency and contrition, for the pardon of their past offenses, and for a blessing upon their present and prospective action.

And whereas, when our own beloved Country, once, by the blessing of God, united, prosperous and happy, is now afflicted with faction and civil war, it is peculiarly fit for us to recognize the hand of God in this terrible visitation, and in sorrowful remembrance of our own faults and crimes as a nation and as individuals, to humble ourselves before Him and to pray of His mercy, to pray that we may be spared further punishment, though most justly deserved, that our arms may

be blessed and made effectual for the reestablishment of law, order and peace, throughout the wide extent of our country, and that the inestimable boon of civil and religious liberty, earned under His guidance and blessing, by the labors and sufferings of our fathers may be restored in all its original excellence.

Therefore, I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, do appoint the last Thursday in September next, as a day of humiliation, prayer and fasting for all the people of the nation. And I do earnestly recommend to all the people, and especially to all heads of families, to observe and keep that day according to their several creeds and modes of worship, in all humility and with all religious solemnity, to the end that the united prayer of the nation may ascend to the Throne of Grace, and bring down plentiful blessings upon our Country.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the Seal of the United States to be affixed, this 12th day of August AD 1861, and of the Independence of the United States of America the 86th.

By the President

Abraham Lincoln
William H. Seward,
Secretary of State

What a sad, sad contrast to such words of reverence toward God is the attitude and actions of our current president. Mr. Clinton has not only disgraced the office of the presidency but he has also brought great reproach upon the entire nation by his deceitfulness and disgusting lifestyle. He has proven himself to be grossly immoral, an adulterer, a bold faced liar and a hypocrite. Mr. Clinton speaks of his respect for God but his actions and words prove that he is only using religion to further his political ambitions (I Tim. 6:5). We respect the institution of government including the office of the presidency, but the man that presently fills that office is not worthy of one ounce of respect.

It is largely because of leaders like Mr. Clinton that our nation is in great peril. There has never been a time when our nation has been in greater danger than at present. Character does matter. It determines every thought and decision we make. Jesus said, "The bad tree bears bad fruit" (Matt. 7:17). The character of Mr. Clinton has become evident. The fruit is rotten and therefore so is the tree.

The prophets Hosea, Joel, Amos, Micah, Ezekiel, etc. warned Israel repeatedly about their character. Unless the nation would repent of its evil character, God would bring certain judgment upon it (Ezek. 14:12-14).

It is not a strong military or a strong economy that exalts a nation. It is righteousness (Prov. 14:34). Brethren, we are taught to pray for rulers and those in authority (I Tim. 2:1-2). Earnest, fervent praying on behalf of this nation is urgently needed. Lest we fall from within and perish let us trust that our "prayers will ascend to the throne of grace and bring down plentiful blessings upon our country."

by Dempsey Collins

NOTES & NEWS:

Remember to check the prayer list for those with ongoing spiritual weaknesses and physical illnesses.

"...Pray for one another...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:16