

This past Sunday David Barton ministered "The History of America's National Fasts."

We live in a very electronically oriented world, and there are times things just don't work the way they are supposed to – what do you do? You do a reset. You are taking back and often things start working the way they're supposed to. This is what happens when we fast.

1 Corinthians 10:

Let's look at some of the historical incidents that happened in Israel. God reminds them about what He did with crossing the Red Sea and what happened with the pillar of fire and the pillar of cloud and the fire in the mountain where the law was given. He reminds them also of what happened where He brought forth water from the rock, and He gave them manna and quail. He gave them what they needed, but that was good stuff. And on the other side, He also reminds them that they rebelled against His leaders and said, "We don't like the system you're setting up." So, He allowed serpents to go among them. Self-gratification didn't work out well at all.

They started grumbling about what they had. He sent a destroying angel among them.

v.11 God says these things happen to them as examples for us and were written down for our instruction. One of the things about history is history is written to teach us how to respond. There's two ways you can learn about the stove being hot. You can be told, "Don't put your hand on a hot stove. You'll get burned." Or you can go put your hand on a hot stove and figure out you get burned.

History is the way to keep us from having to go through those bad experiences. If we study history and learn what's back there, we can

learn what works, what's right and wrong, causes and effects, consequences, et cetera.

When you look at the history of fasting, you can look at the fasting that goes on with Daniel. You can look at the fast of Moses. What can you learn by studying the fast of Moses? Or what can you learn by studying the fast of David which David went through in the same way Elijah fasted. And then you also have Mordecai and Esther, when they were in Babylon.

What happened when Jesus entered the fast? Same thing with the Apostle Paul who talks about fasting.

Fasting is heavily emphasized throughout the scriptures. The Bible is so much in the history that you'll see all these passages where God says, "Look, recall the former days, remember the former times." He says, don't do what they did. Remember here. And it's all about history.

The biggest casualty we have is history where people don't read. You need to know how to read. If you can't read the Bible, you can't read any other thing. You can't learn about history except what somebody tells you. You then must rely on everyone else. **If you're a reader, you can be a self feeder.**

Most third world nations have a better reading level than we do in America. Ninety percent of the elite colleges in America do not require a single hour on history as part of graduation. We often think we've evolved past that. We're progressive. We don't need what's in the past. We want to do something different. And then even in Texas, we have the star test in Texas, which is the end of the course, where we have [72% of our children](#) in Texas that can't read at grade level.

It's amazing over the last three years, how many States have passed laws that in those States that say for the next 10, 12, 14-year period, **the students in our schools will not study the American War for Independence, or the Civil War, or World War I, or World War II, or the Holocaust.** Those have all gone out by State law. We're getting rid of history. And that's a real problem because when you get rid of history, you now see what we see on campuses. 1,100 American campuses a year hold an anti-Israel Day. You wonder why Harvard and University of Pennsylvania; all these places were so pro Hamas when Gaza hit - because that's what we've been teaching.

You can also learn a lot about what God's doing when you look at American history. And I want to do that this morning pertaining to fasting. Let's start in the 19th century and go through different periods in epics.

Let's start with Abraham Lincoln as a young man, he grew up in a Christian family. His father was a professing Christian, they would go to church. **But the problem was his father was a professing Christian, not a Biblical Christian.** Throughout the week, he would get drunk, beat the wife, and beat the kids, along with being abusive. Young Abe says, "If this is what it means to be a Christian. I want nothing of that." So, he became an atheist. He leaves home when he can. He grew as an atheist. He doesn't like anything about Christianity. He's lived it, experienced it. And so, what he does, he memorized much of the Bible so that he could argue with Christians to show them how stupid and how dumb they were.

He knew the Bible better than most Christians, so he could tear them up because most Christians really don't study the Bible well. As he gets a little older, he becomes an attorney. He enters law practice with William Herndon. This is [Herndon Lincoln Law Firm](#), and they're in, in Illinois. Herndon wrote a biography about Lincoln after Lincoln's presidency. Herndon talked about how throughout those years, Lincoln had a lot of mental instability, a lot of mental breakdowns in and out of institutional facilities. A lot of it stemmed from his lifestyle.

He would go into brothels and then come out and would be absolutely convinced he was dying of syphilis, that he caught a venereal disease and would not live.

In addition to being an attorney, he finally became a legislator. He became a judge in Illinois. And while Lincoln is moving up in his life, there's a guy named Pastor James Smith. Pastor of a Presbyterian church in Springfield. In 1841, he has a big public debate against a noted atheist. This big public debate happens between Christian atheist and instead of Christians looking like they're anti-intellectual, Pastor Smith really does a good job. In 1843, he came out with a book, the Christian's Defense, a statement, and partial examinations of the Leading Injections. He took all the arguments to the atheist and very logically disproved them.

Lincoln had never seen anyone with that kind of intellectual capability defending the faith. Lincoln apparently got a hold of that book.

First Peter 3:15. Be able to give a reason for the hope that's within you. This is what we call apologetics. This is where most Christian kids today cannot handle what goes on in the university. Statistics show that right now between 81 and 88% of Christian kids, question their faith while they're at university because they can't handle the arguments of professors.

We're seeing them lose their faith as a result. We don't have the apologetics. We can't defend why we believe what we believe. Lincoln apparently got these compelling arguments. He has a son named Eddie. And when Eddie was three years old in 1850, Eddie died. This is a tragic loss for Lincoln, and he reaches out to Pastor Smith and said, would you be willing to do the funeral for my son? Pastor Smith agrees and reports in this letter.

Lincoln comes to the Pastor's door and says, look, I'm an attorney. I'm a judge. I know there's a defense and a prosecution. I know both sides

to argue. And you try to find the truth. He says, and I've studied enough evidence to know that there really is a God. He said, but I need help coming back to faith. Can you help me come back to faith? And so, Lincoln is, and this is what Pastor Smith explains, Lincoln says, I want to come back to faith. So, Pastor Smith starts mentoring him and, and taking him and helping him and going through the objections and leading it on.

And he finally gets Abe to the point where he says, Abe, you need to be publicly speaking about your faith. You need to do a sermon. You need to do some Bible studies. Oh, I can't, I could never do a sermon. And Pastor Smith said, look, Abe, there's a county Bible society that meets here once a month and their meeting is coming up. Just do a sermon for the county Bible Society. It's a small group so Lincoln did, and Lincoln did a sermon on the 10 Commandments to show how the 10 Commandments are relevant to life today. He took the 10 commandments, showed all 10 how they apply to life, how they apply to law, et cetera. Pastor Smith said, that was the best sermon I've ever heard on the 10th Commandments.

In 1858, Lincoln runs for national office, US Senate. He did not win 1860, he runs for President United States. And he did win in that run. So he became president. He was elected in November. You did not become president until March. It was a four-month period of waiting. Today, we don't want four months for people to undo what the election was. So, Lincoln had four months. Now when Lincoln became president, that was not good news for a lot of folks.

He had not become president yet, not sworn in. South Carolina came out and said, this guy ran on a platform of ending slavery. And we don't believe that. We will not be part of any nation where he's president. So, this is the first secession. 11 states say, we can't be part of any nation that's going to end slavery. And people say, oh, the Civil War wasn't about slavery. Well, maybe, but we've got the documents, and their documents say that it is, this is what they said.

The constitution of the Confederacy says, you cannot be part of this nation unless you embrace slavery and protect and defend slavery. So in the Constitution, it makes it all about slavery. This is about this time is when Lincoln is sworn in as president, he becomes the President. And when he becomes president, the south declares war. This is what he's just inherited. He was elected as president. And in those four months, the whole nation has come apart. It's a polarized nation like we've never seen in politics.

He's now in charge of a civil war. We've been a nation, a united nation for nearly a century. We've been Christians, a Christian nation for nearly a century, and we've all split. As a matter of fact, when the south split from the north, most major denominations in the United States also split. The Baptist split over who were approached slavery, anti-slavery, Presbyterian split, Methodist split. We had a complete split of Christianity in the nation over the issue of slavery and civil rights, whole nation is torn up.

There's no precedent for it. Both sides read the same Bible. Both sides pray to the same God. And each invokes his aid against the others. One side of Christians is praying against the other side.

He said, the prayers of both cannot be answered. And that of neither fully answered, there's no way God can answer the prayers of his people when they're opposite like that. And when they're contradictory with both sides have their own agenda, God can't answer those kinds of prayers. And so, what you see with Lincoln, he talks about the fact he said, "I've been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction. I had nowhere else to go. I have no precedent for what I'm facing now."

This is something I don't know what to do. And the spiritual growth of Lincoln is still developing. Pastor Smith had done a really good job with him, but it's still growing.

Lincoln said, but when I went to Gettysburg I saw there the graves of thousands of our soldiers, and there were 51,000 casualties of American killing Americans just in one battle. Just in one battle there was some 620,000 total killed. He said, when I saw the graves there, I then in there consecrated myself to Christ. Yes, I do love Jesus. So he talks about that as being a turning point in his spiritual life.

In his second inaugural address, it is the most spiritually profound address ever given by any president. It's engraved in stone inside the Lincoln Memorial. The Civil War is going on, and the way he handled it is so different. **He issues a proclamation for a day of humiliation, fasting and prayer.** He's calling the whole nation to fast and pray.

“And whereas it is the duty of nations as well of men to own their dependence upon overruling power of God to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow. Yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon. And to recognize the sublime truth announced in the holy scriptures and proven by all history that those nations only are blessed, whose God is the Lord. And in so much as we know that by his divine law, nations like individuals are subjected to punishments and chastisements in this world, may we not justly fear that the awful calamity of civil war, which now salutes the land, may be the a punishment inflicted upon us for our presumptuous sins to the needful end of our national reformation of a whole people, we have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven. We've been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity.

We have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious land which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us. And we have vainly imagined in the deceitfulness of our hearts that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own intoxicated with unbroken success. We have become too self-sufficient to feel the

necessity of redeeming and preserving grace. Too proud to pray to the God that made us. It behooves us then to humble ourselves before the offended power to confess our national sins and to pray for clemency and forgiveness. Now therefore, in compliance with the request and fully concurring in the views of the Senate, I do by this my proclamation designate and set apart Thursday, the 30th day of April 1863 as a day of national humiliation, fasting and prayer."

He mentioned the Civil War once, but he didn't have anybody praying about the Civil War. He was not praying about the Civil War, not praying about who wins, who lost. **He's praying about us.**

We've become too dependent on ourselves. We don't listen to God. And it's all about reconnecting with God. And it's a unique request. That's a lot of spiritual maturity because a lot of people pray for an outcome.

<Viewed on the screen> This is a timeline of the major battles of the Civil War. Now there's a lot of other minor battles. This shows the Civil War progress, and how the union was doing, the union won Fort Henry and Fort Donaldson, they won Shiloh Low and that's it. Everything else belongs to the Confederacy. Then they get over here <right side of screen>, they win Gettysburg, Vicksburg, Chattanooga, they lose Pennsylvania & Cold Harbor. They beat Petersburg, Richmond, win on Sherman's March, they win Atlanta, they win Mobile Bay, they win Nashville. In the middle of the two boards <onscreen>, that's where he had the national day of fasting & prayer.

He wasn't praying for an outcome. He wasn't praying for a win. He was praying "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done. Get me in line with what you want to do."

Lincoln was in the White House at this time and there was a group of Pastors in the White House talking. He heard them and they were saying, "man, we sure hope God's in our side in the war." They turned

to Lincoln, they said, we trust sir, that God is on our side. And Lincoln's response is, "That's not what I'm after." He said, "it's more important to know that we are on God's side. My concern is not whether God is on our side. My greatest is to be on God's side for God is always right."

So, He did not fast for an outcome. He fasted to get connected to God and hear right, and have the right perspective, right feelings.

Let me shift from that century. Let's go to the 17th century and talk about the pilgrims. It's interesting with most of the old paintings of the pilgrims, you nearly always see them gathered around the Bible that was characteristic. They weren't just professing Christians; they were Biblical Christians.

Queen Elizabeth' father, Henry viii, started the Anglican Church. And most of Europe at that time had what they call state established churches. So, if you're in Great Britain, you must go to the Anglican Church because that's what the king and queen said.

And if you're in France, you're going to go to a Catholic church. If you're in Germany, you're going to go to a Lutheran church.

The government told you what churches you would attend. And so, the pilgrim said, that's not right. That's not biblical. That's not what God did at all. Look at Joshua 24, Joshua talks about, you have the choice. He said, "We're about to enter in the Promised Land." He said, now you can serve the God of the Egyptians from whose land you left, or you can serve the God of the Amorites and whose land we're going.

But as for me and my house, we'll serve the Lord. But you had a choice. You can choose which of those. And that's the way it was with Elijah. Elijah got the false prophets, 450 false prophets. He said, let's have a competition here, my God against yours!

You guys take all the time you want. You do everything you want to invoke your God. And then just gimme my shot. **We're not scared of other religions. We will take free market competition.** Anytime we want people to have choices, God will always show up. Right? It's not an issue, God did with Elijah, but it was never the thing that they forced someone to take a religion. You always had a choice. God always gave choices.

But that's not the way it was at the time of the pilgrims. You didn't have those choices. The pastor of the pilgrims at that time was a guy named John Greenwood. And he said, you know what the queen's doing here is not biblical. He said, she's not the head of the church. Jesus Christ is head of the church. And he specifically said, there can be but one head to the church. And that head is not the queen. That is Jesus Christ. Pretty simple. At that point in time, the Queen had him executed for denying her majesty's ecclesiastical supremacy and attacking the existing ecclesiastical order simply for saying that Jesus Christ was head of the Christian Church. Now, pilgrims don't have a pastor anymore.

The Queen came up with another law to make sure this never happened again. Passed a law that says if any of her Majesty subjects denied the Queen's ecclesiastical supremacy, they should be committed to prison without bail. This is now what the entire congregation of pilgrims are facing. And they said, maybe England's not where we want to be. So, they left and went to Holland. From Holland, they came to America. This is where they set sail for America and coming to America. They're 66 days at sea in the Mayflower. They finally arrive over in Massachusetts. They spent the next two or three weeks going up and down the coast trying to find a suitable place as they had planned to get out in August, but they were months late getting out.

They arrive in Massachusetts in December, they're out of food. There's no place to live. It's a complete wilderness and they're not prepared for it. This is not how they lived in Europe. So, they're looking to find a

good place to settle. And they finally decided that they found the place. It's what we call Plymouth.

They came to the shore and started building their cabins. Now we're in January. We're talking about starting to build your cabins in January. It is frigid, it is rough. It's Massachusetts in January. And because of how bad it was, they lost half the settlers in that winter, death from starvation and exposure and cold, et cetera.

The half that survived were very grateful, very thankful. Their first experience with a Native American named Samoset come wandering in the camp (was an Abenaki leader from what is now Maine. He was visiting Massasoit, the chief of the Wampanoag). Now over in Europe, they'd always heard that all these Indians are savages. They're wild, they'll kill you. And, and so they're scared to death, and they don't know what to do. And here they are in the wilderness and Samoset starts talking to them in English.

He says, "What are you guys doing here?" Well, we're trying to find a place to live. And he said, "I think I can help you with that." He says I know a guy that speaks English better than I do. And so he went and got Squanto and introduced him. Squanto had lived in that region. He says, what a bunch of rookies, you guys have no clue what you're doing. And he took them on, he adopted the pilgrims as his mission from God to help them survive in the new world. He showed them hunting and fishing, how to do it in the new world and, and how to live there. And as a result, the Indians have great relations with the pilgrims.

They meet Chief Massasoit, make a treaty with him. The longest lasting treaty in American history between Native Americans and Anglos is between the pilgrims and Chief Massasoit. And so now they're learning to live in the wilderness. They were great neighbors, loving each other. And so, what happens is that's the fall. They said, let's have a Thanksgiving. And so you have Samoset and Squanto and Massasoit

all get together at the pilgrims. And this is what becomes the first Thanksgiving. So, the first Thanksgiving, you have 90 Indians and 50 pilgrims joining together for three days of festivities and food and athletic events and thanking God and praying.

Now there's another event that goes with that that we don't celebrate much in America that really is significant. The governor William Bradford Pilgrim governor wrote his records. He was reelected their governor 30 different times. Now, I will point out the term of governor back then was one year. So, they elected him 30 years. So, they liked this guy. He was a great Christian leader. We made it through the winter, and came into the next year, we planted our crops, and the corn was growing. It was a good crop.

What happened was a drought came, they got no spring rain. The corn is all dying. And if they don't have that corn, they're going to have another rugged winter like they had the year before. And they're going to lose lots of lives. **They decide we need to do a time of fasting and prayer.** And so, families gathered on that day. They fasted; they prayed the entire day. They committed everything to the Lord. They asked for His guidance and leadership. And the records show that late in the day, clouds started rolling in and gathering over their crop field.

These clouds start rolling and gathering and soon it starts raining on their crops. And it's a very soft rain and it just falls and keeps falling. And it rejuvenates the crops. And it's significant. The Indians watch this because they're not used to seeing people pray like this and pray and fast like this. It's the first time they've ever seen it. And so, as the Indians, one of the Indians is an Indian named Haak. And Haak looked at this and he told the pilgrims, "I just watched you guys pray. Clouds roll in, it starts raining." He says, now I see that the Englishman's God is a good God for Heath. He sent rain. And the kind of rain He sent is not what we're used to in the spring. **He said it was rain without storms.**

It was incidents like that that caused the Indians to start saying, "Hey, we want this Christianity stuff you've got."

Did you know that in New England up until the 20th century, they had an annual fast day. Every April 15th was the annual day of fasting and prayer in those New England states. **So we celebrated fasting as much as we celebrated Thanksgiving.** Back then they had a day for prayer and fasting and a day for Thanksgiving. They knew that the two went together.

Jumping into the 18th century, this is one we taught most about the founding fathers in 1774. Prior to that there were 13 different nations just like Europe was.

But we now have this thing going on with England where we need to come together and cooperate, the first Continental Congress, 1774. And when these guys got together, the first thing they did was pray. **They opened Congress with a two-hour prayer session.** John Adams, he's one of the many people who wrote about what happened in those two hours. He wrote to his wife Abigail, they have 1100 letters back and forth between the two of them.

He told her everything that was going on. She would tell him everything because they were often separated because of the war. John Adams said, "You're not going to believe what just happened today." And he goes through and explains, and said, in addition to praying, we studied four chapters of the Bible this morning in Congress.

He said, and God spoke to us out of Psalm 35 for the first time, we think we might have a chance against the British because of what we saw in Psalm 35. So, he told Abigail, read that psalm to your friends. Read to your father. Let everybody know what God showed us. Her father was the Reverend Williams Smith a pastor.

He said, everybody needs to know what God showed us this morning from Psalm 35. He continued. He says, we've appointed a continental fast. We've called all 13 colonies a time of fasting and prayer. He said, millions will be up on their knees at once before their great creator, employing His forgiveness and blessings of smiles on America. He said, Abigail, we've got 3 million people in America. Can you imagine the impact of having 3 million people pray and fast? Now, this is the first of 15 times that Congress called the nation to prayer. Half of the time is prayer and fasting. Half of them is thanksgiving.

Because you pray and fast. And then after God answers your prayers, you need a time of thanksgiving.

It goes back and forth. It's significant that if you look at that time, by the time you get to 1815, there have been 1400 government issued calls to prayer in America. I'll bet you guys can't name six calls to prayer in your lifetime in the current generation that have come from the government.

Did you know the space program, when Neil Armstrong and Buzz Alder landed on the moon with Apollo 11, before they got out of the capsule, they had communion on the face of the moon, dedicating that to the Lord. And do you know, when you get to Apollo 14, Apollo 14 carried 100 Bibles to the moon. And they built an altar on the moon and left a Bible on the moon from Apollo 14.

When John Adams said to Colonel Smith that a group of his ministers captured British Fort, what he just said is Farmer Smith and a bunch of his neighbors just captured British Ford. That's impressive because the British are trained professional military. And he said, we've captured a 20-gun British man of war and a 64 gun, British man of war, which is really impressive considering we didn't have a Navy at the time.

Now, what happened? John said, a bunch of us are sitting around in a tavern talking about what we're seeing, one of the guys said, it

appears to me the eternal son of God is operating powerfully against the British nation. Again, time of fasting and prayer, unbelievable results. It came as a result. When you look at that point in time, Congress issues so many calls to fasting and prayer. This was a part of who we were as a people.

This is part of the way Christians grew up. This is a part of our life. And show you three other examples in the American Revolution of miracles that God performed after some of these times of fast and prayer. If you go to the Battle of Long Island, this happened only four weeks after we signed the Declaration. So, we still don't have a military, it's still a bunch of volunteers taken on the British. We're up in New York City area, we're backed up against the river. And the problem was **there were 30,000 British soldiers. There were 9,000 American soldiers.** Back then everybody had a single shot musket, and everybody took 15 to 20 seconds to reload.

So, when you've got 30,000 bullets coming at 9,000 bullets and everybody's got just a single shot, you have a real problem. Numbers were different back at that point in time.

The British backed us up against the river. We can't get away. George Washington's command is about to be captured or killed with the rest of them. This is going to be the end of the War of Independence, four weeks, and it's over. General Howell had them backed up the river and for whatever reason, decided not to finish them off and gave them a second chance for two days.

He didn't do anything. He said, we have them surrounded. They can't go anywhere. We'll demoralize them. We have the British fleet back up the river a bit out in the harbor. We're going to send them in, come up behind them, and when they see all those cannons behind them, those 105 gun, British man of wars, and 30,000 of us over here, they'll absolutely surrender. It'll, it'll be over.

The ships started coming up the river, and lo and behold, a storm set up on the river itself, and the storm was so bad they could not get a single ship up the river. The more they tried, the harder the wind got and the worse the storm got.

Washington understands what's happening here. He tells his guys; you go out and find anything that floats. If it floats, bring it here. We're going to get our troops over on the other side. And so they do that. That night, as the British ships are still trying to come up and the wind is so bad, they start launching these guys out and there were 9,000 there. Washington made the pledges; I'm going to be the last guy and last boat going over. He's sending them out and they're going across all night. They're heading out boat after boat, after boat. And it's interesting, at about 11 o'clock that night when it was too dark for the British ships to come up, the wind turned around and got behind our boats and started blowing them across the river on the other side.

So, the British can't do anything now. Now the winds behind our guys are just blowing them on the other side. And so, as the sun comes up, the British see what's happening, and there were still a thousand Americans that had not been evacuated. When the sun came up, a massive fog came up with it and the British couldn't see anything.

Benjamin Talmage, he was Washington's head scout. He's the guy who assembled all the intelligence. He wrote and said a very dense fog began to rise and it seemed to settle in a peculiar manner over both encampments.

I recollect this peculiar providential occurrence perfectly well. And so very dense was the atmosphere that I could scarcely discern a man at six yards distance from here to the door of the saloon. I couldn't see anybody. And so, the Americans continue to get these guys out there under the fog. And British don't know what's happening. So, and it wasn't just the fog, there was something else interesting to happen with that when Washington the night before started sending the boats

across, there were a lot of loyalist families in New York. The loyalist means they supported the British, not the Americans. They're Americans, but they support the British.

One of the loyalist families saw what Washington was getting all these boats going on the other side and they're escaping, so they sent one of their servants to let General Howe know that Washington is escaping. You need to get down to the beaches right now, you need to stop it. And so that servant navigates and get by the Americans. He gets over to the British lines and he heads for the British camps. He is going to deliver the message but is stopped by two Hessian soldiers. Hessians are German speaking mercenaries that the English hired from Germany to fight against us. They were the special forces kind of guys in that war.

The Hessians didn't speak English. So, this guy's trying to take a message into the British line and these two Hessians stop him, ask him, what are you doing? But they're speaking in German. He doesn't speak German; they don't speak English. He says, I've got a message for your superiors. Get me there. And they don't know what he's saying. So, they just threw him in the brig for the night.

The following morning a British soldier hears the message. He lets the commando know and they go rushing down to the shore just in time for the fog to lift. And they see Washington standing on the other shore.

Divine intervention - the Battle of Trenton, which happened at the last part of 1776, a few months after New York.

Washington lost the Battle of Long Island, the battle of Kipps Bay. He lost the Battle of White Plains. He lost the battle of Fort Washington, lost the battle of Fort Lee. He lost the Battle of New York, losing all these battles. We have a total volunteer army, and the enlistments were about a year. So, you go volunteer, you'd serve for a year, and you'd

be out the enlistments go up at the end of December 31st. The enlistments are who want to re-enlist a loser. And that's what we've been, I mean, there's no incentive to re-enlist. Re-enlistments were low, desertions were high, and morale was super low. And here we are in December, we're coming to needing new soldiers to fight next year and we're not getting them.

Washington decided he needed to do something bold, he decided, why don't we attack the Hessian Stronghold at Trenton. There were 1200 Hessian troops there, these are the special forces kind of guys. He said, if we can take down British Special Forces, the Hessians, that will be a big signal.

Washington says, if we can attack them the morning after Christmas, we have a good shot of doing something here. So, he makes the plans, Washington sits it all up, and he's going to take his troops across the Delaware. He wants them on the other side by midnight, then they're going to have to march 10 miles. He'll have them get up at five in the morning. He's going to have them outside the Hessian barracks. And when Hessians wake up, they're going to be looking down at the barrels of 5,400 guns. It didn't go the way he planned.

That midnight as they started crossing, a lot of things did not work right. Among other things, he had 5,400 troops and he had all these cannons to get across on rafts. As they are crossing, they get into solid ice flows and it is so dark, the cloud cover is so dark that the guys guiding the boats can't even see the other side and they can't figure out how to navigate these ice flows and get the other side. So it's a super slow process. As this thing is going, they at four o'clock, Washington wanted them all over by midnight, but it is four o'clock, they're still not even half over.

He said, we got to take what we've got and, and we're going to have to move with that. So, he took the 2,400 troops that they had and they

started moving toward Trenton. As they advanced, they had 10 miles to March.

Now it was brutal. We have letters from the British generals who said, there's no way Washington's going to attack us because most of us troops don't even have shoes. They said, we've been following the American army by the bloody footprints in the snow. So, they don't have jackets, they don't have coats. It's just a really bad situation.

These guys are marching 10 miles in the snow. And, and as they're marching in that 10 mile march, they get into a brutal blizzard. It starts storming on them, starts hailing on them. They get lightning with the hail, the gale force wind. It is so brutal that on the march two Americans froze to death while moving in the march.

What they didn't understand was the weather was so bad that it drove every single Hessian indoors. Nobody's going to stay out in this kind of weather and nobody's going to attack. So, there was not a single guard outside that entire post to see what was going on. Washington arrives there about 8:00 AM in the morning. He gets his troops all lined up. He's hours late, but it doesn't matter because there's no Hessians anywhere. He starts the attack at eight o'clock. It is an absolute complete surprise. The entire battle lasted a total of 35 minutes. And it was a lopsided victory. I mean, it wasn't even close to being a battle.

The result was on the British side, there were 20 soldiers killed. There were a hundred wounded and there were a thousand that surrendered as prisoners of war. On the American side, you had a total of three wounded and that was the whole battle. If you're an American on the march, there's no way for you to see God doing anything. And this weather is so bad, don't tell me God's in this, except God was in that because it was so bad that the enemy went inside and turned into a complete victory. As a result, everybody wants to join the army now.

Independence is what sealed America's independent nation. And it's really come to us between the American commander in Chief Washington and the British commander in Chief, Lord Cornwallis. What had happened was back then in world history, you really didn't fight much in the winter. Usually around November the armies went into their winter encampment, and they stayed there till about May. So about six months of the year you fought and about six months of the year you didn't fight. In the Bible it talks about the season of fighting come and David didn't go out.

Cornwall has got 20,000 troops. Where are we going to put them? He If we go down to Virginia, James River there, it's right on the coast, Chesapeake. And it's a very moderate temperature for the winter. It'd be a good place. There's a lot of supplies there. Ships can come in from Great Britain. We can keep the troops supplied, we can keep food, everything there. Let's take the, the 20,000 troops and move them all down to the Yorktown area and that'll be a good place for the winter.

Washington didn't know anything about what the British are planning to do, except shortly before that Washington had told General Lafayette, you know, we don't know what the British are up to. We need a lot more intelligence. We need to know what's happening. There was a guy named **James Armad**, a black patriot. He went to Lafayette and said, "I want to do something to help." Lafayette said, what we really need are spies.

Armad volunteers as a spy. He went tagging into Wallace's camp. And in camp he said, "Oh, I hate those Americans. They're so brutal. All those slavery guys. Will you nice British please take me in." They take him in; he's there in the camp and he starts serving the officers very diligently. I mean, he does everything they want. One of the generals says, hey, you don't need to be serving all the soldiers. You need to be serving officers like me. I want you to come to be my personal valet.

The general who said that was a guy named Benedict Arnold. So, the traitor Benedict Arnold goes to all the general's meetings with Korn Wallace. And now James Armad is hearing every single plan of the British. And then Benedict Arnold set off on a mission. And so, James stays behind the camp and Lord Korn Wallace comes to James and says, Hey James, you were serving Benedict, but you're so good. Would you serve me? Would you be my personal valet? And so now James is the personal valet. He knows everything happening. And so, he gets word to Lafayette in Washington. He says the entire British army down to Yorktown are ready to move. Lafayette gets that. He goes to Washington, said, I just got word from James. I'm moving the army to Yorktown.

Washington takes his 10,000 troops and makes it to Yorktown before Cornwallis. So instead of coming to a place where it's going to be a quiet winner, he's now come to a place where there's going to be a big battle. Every single battle of the American Revolution has a major black figure associated with it as a hero, not as a participant, as a hero. This is why 30 years ago we were not teaching critical race theory. We were not teaching Black Lives Matters because we knew too much of our own history. We don't know that anymore. And so, we buy a narrative that's not actually even accurate.

God shows up so many times in our lives, and we don't often recognize it. They were due to prayer and fasting. Anytime the weather changes, that isn't us doing that. We won so much because God changed the weather and made it affect one group and not the other.

Washington was talking to General Thomas Nelson. Nelson was one of the generals at Yorktown. Nelson was the governor of Virginia and Washington said, *Thomas, what you and I have seen in this war, the hand of providence has been so conspicuous in all this, that he must be worse than an infidel that lacks faith and more than wicked, that hath not gratitude enough to acknowledge his obligation.*

He said, Thomas, if people would've seen what you and I have seen, and if they didn't feel an obligation to hit their knees and thank God, they're just pagan wicked. Did you know that Washington on more than 250 occasions talked about God's direct intervention in their battles?

Not everyone goes to fasting, but so many of them do. And you can see the direct correlation in the 18 hundreds, probably one of the most popular textbook writers in the 18 hundreds. There's a guy named Charles Coffin. He had been a correspondent during the Civil War. He started writing history books in the 1860s. He told people up front when you read this history, notice that while oppressors have carried out their plans in history, there were other forces, at work, which in time undermine their plans as if the divine hand were directing the Counterplan.

First Corinthians 10:11-13;

"Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

¹² Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

¹³ There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

This is written down for us that we'll know.

The Founder's Bible does the same thing. It shows you God's hand throughout so much of what happened in American history. It has American illustrations of what's going in the Bible.

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