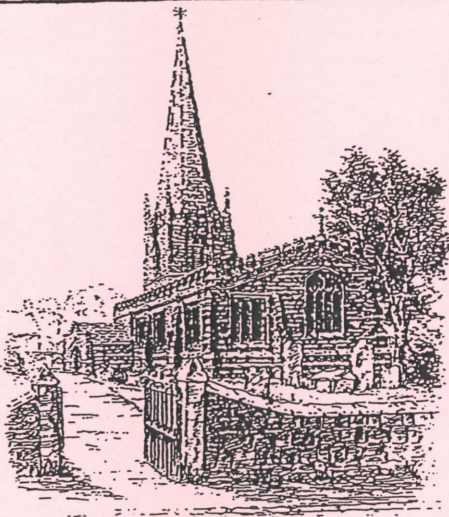
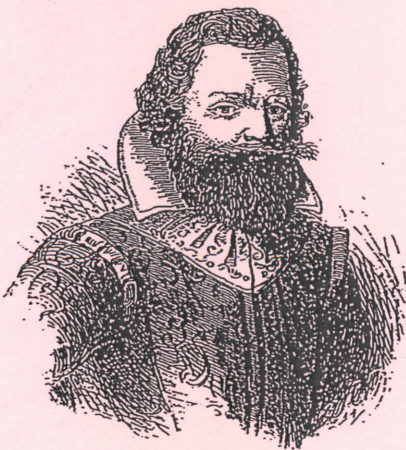
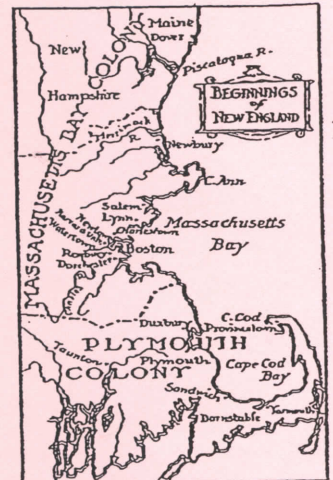
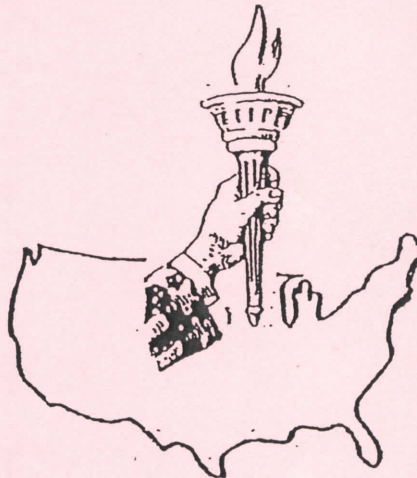
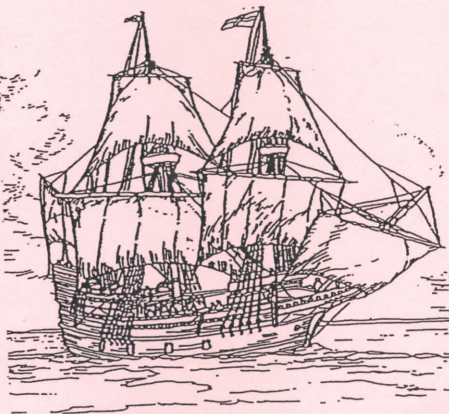


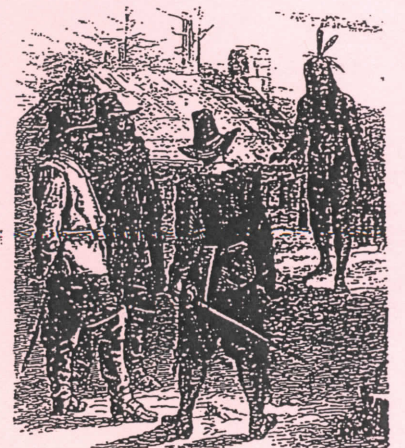
The Secret of America's Greatness



Church at Austerfield, Bradford's Birthplace.

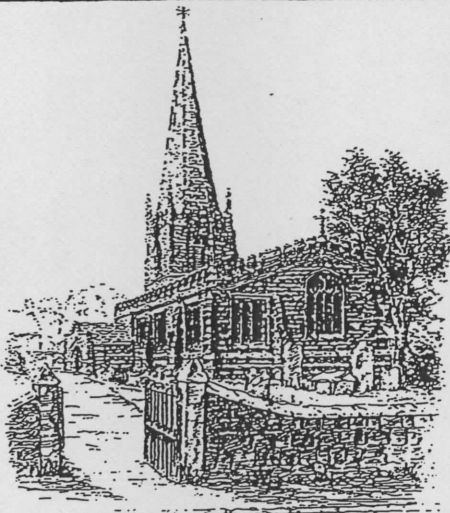


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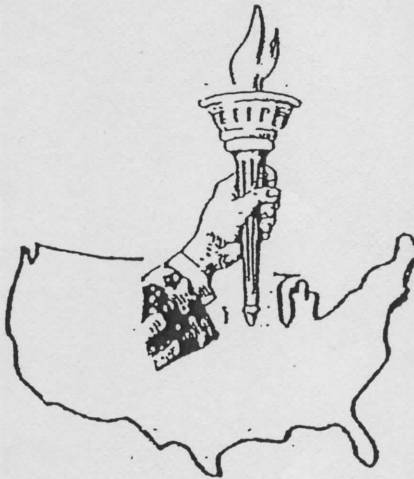
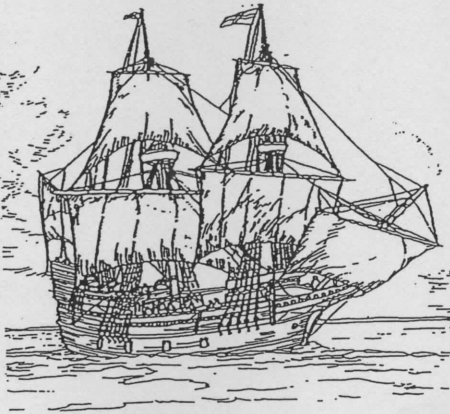


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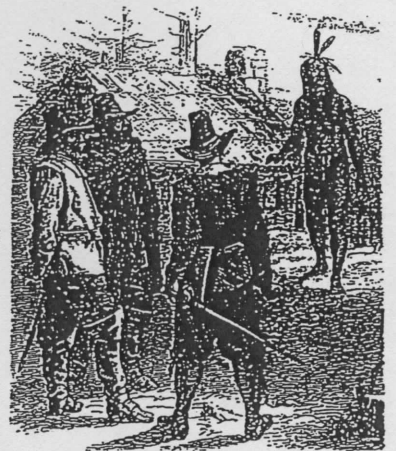
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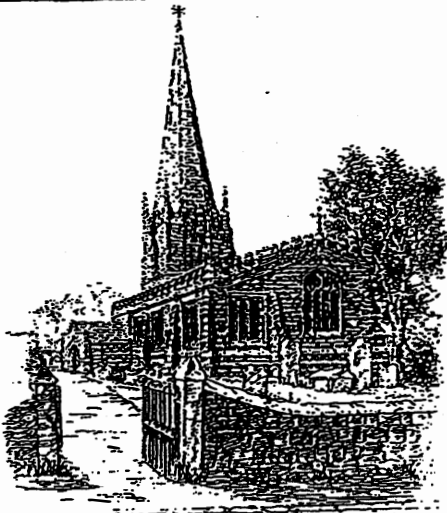


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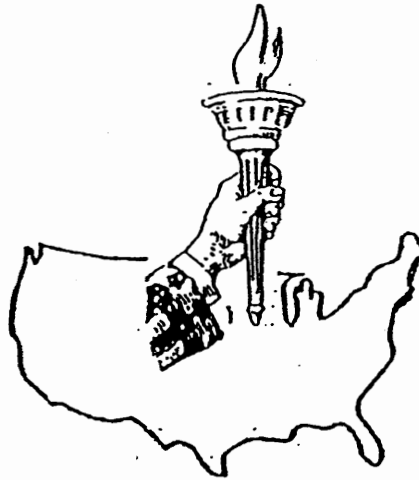
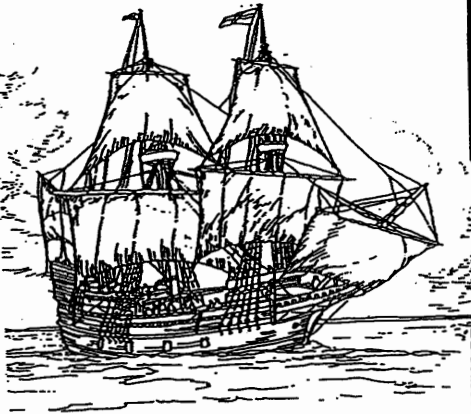


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The Secret of America's Greatness



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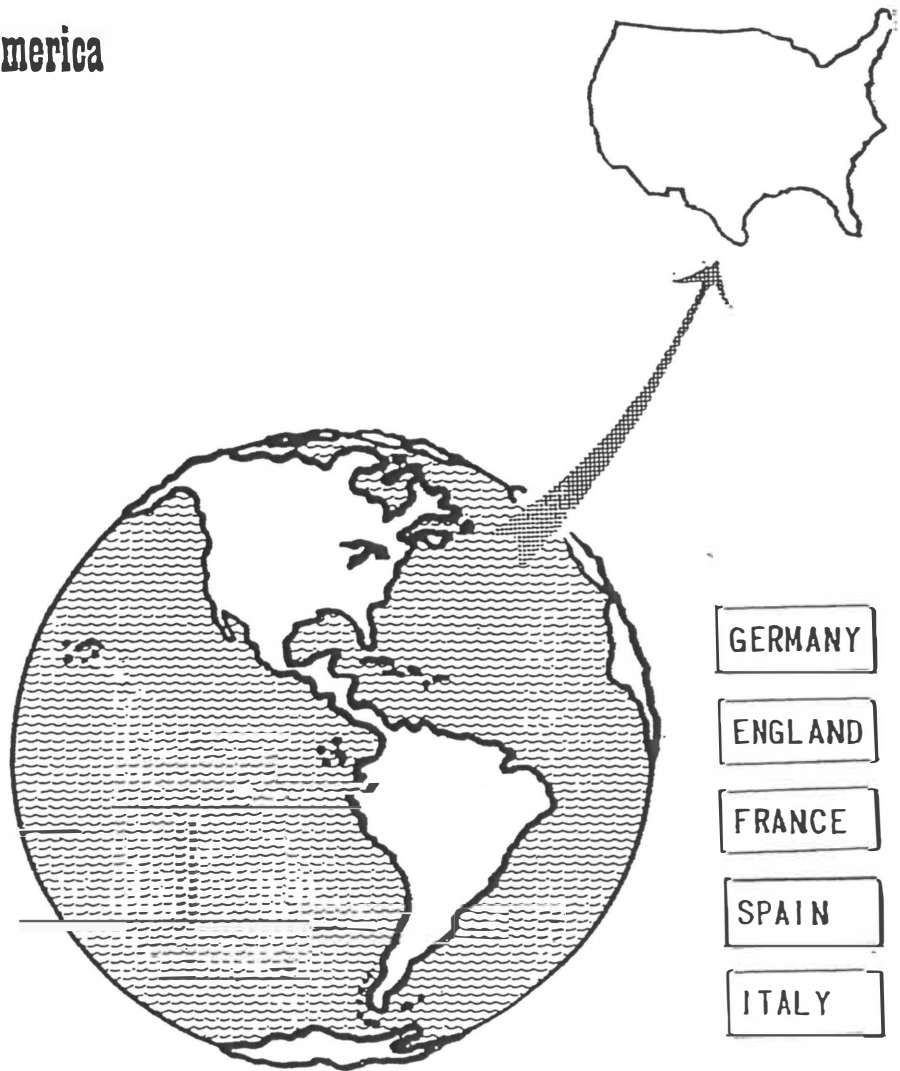
Manfred E. Kober, Th.D.

Why God Has Blessed America

UNIQUE

UNUSUAL

UNPARALLELED



God has ordained three institutions for the benefit of man: the home, the church, and civil government. As there are biblical principles explaining what makes a godly family and a growing church, there are principles explaining what makes a great nation. If a nation follows divine directives, it can expect God to **promote** it, **protect** it, and **preserve** it. Our nation has been graciously blessed by God more than any other nation because certain things are true in our country's background that are not true at all or only partially so of other nations.

We would like to consider four inspired passages and draw from them four important principles that explain why God has uniquely blessed the United States. From each passage we will glean a major premise, from our nation's heritage we will derive a minor premise, resulting in a hopefully cogent conclusion.

Because the effects of these principles continue, God's blessings on America will also continue. God stands by His Word. Predictions concerning our country's demise are premature. Certain things are true of America which are not true of other nations. The following discussion will bear out some of the unique features of the United States.

1A. THE GENUINE PIETY OF OUR FOUNDING FATHERS:

Exodus 20:5,6: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; 6 and shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

1b. The Major Premise:

As the twelve tribes of Israel were camped at the foot of Mount Sinai, they were about to be fused into a nation. Incorporated in the Ten Commandments, which are directed exclusively to Israel, is a timeless principle which applies to any nation. If a nation is begun by an ungodly, idolatrous nucleus, God will mete out punishment to the third and fourth generation (Ex. 20:5). However, if a nation is initiated by a group of godly founding fathers, God will bless that nation to a thousand generations. (See Deut. 7:9, where the word generations is used.) The premise of Exodus 20:6 then is: **God will bless even the remote descendents of a godly people.**

2b. The Minor Premise:

Although denied by many, **our nation more than any other nation, was established by a group of godly men for God's glory.** Though rejected by revisionist historians, this truth can be demonstrated from early American documents. The Mayflower Compact, framed in 1620 by the first permanent English settlers in the North American wilderness, gives three reasons for their settlement: "having undertaken for the glory of God, the advancement of the Christian faith and the honor of King and country...." They loved God and loved the Gospel.

Even in Jamestown, founded in 1607 as a strictly economic venture, a strong Christian nucleus left its imprint on the colony. Their Charter of Virginia of 1606 expressed their desires. They came for the purpose of "propagating of Christian Religion to such People as yet live in darkness and miserable Ignorance of the true Knowledge and Worship of God...."

Not every colonist in those formative years was a Christian, but on those early vessels there came not just sailors, soldiers, servants, and scoundrels, but saints. These individuals helped lay the foundation of each colony. Their Christian piety influenced the colonial politics. They had one overriding passion, to share the Gospel both with their neighboring settlers as well as the noble savages. It is they who qualify for the promise of Exodus 20:6.

3b. Conclusion:

Our country today is blessed not because of what we are now, but because of what we were in those early days when a band of believers framed the foundation of a cluster of colonies with one overriding purpose: for the **worship of God and the witness of the Christian Gospel.** God promised blessings to thousands of generations. Since the Mayflower landed in 1620 we have exhausted only 15 of these generations. And His blessings will continue.

THE GODLY CHARACTER OF OUR FOUNDING FATHERS



ARITHMETIC AND THE ENDURANCE OF AMERICA

1. THE PASSAGES:

EXODUS 20:5-6

Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

⁶ And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

DEUTERONOMY 7:9

Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand **generations;**

2. THE PROMISE:

Blessings to a thousand generations are promised to a nation that begins with a godly nucleus.

3. THE PROBLEM:

How long is a generation? It could be anywhere between 30 years and 100 years (Gen. 15:13, 15). Let us assume a generation is 25 years.

4. THE PROGRESS OF AMERICA:

2022 TODAY

1620-2020

1620 Landing of the Mayflower

400 Years



THE SHIP MAYFLOWER.

402 years : 25 = 16 out of 1000 generations promised

Thus, we have only exhausted 16 generations, leaving 984 generations (or 24, 600 years) for God's blessing upon our nation. Should our nation still exist 5,000 years from now, which it probably won't, we would still be blessed, not because of what we are today as a nation or will be in 7020, but because of our nation's godly beginning. In the history of human nations, the USA alone qualifies for the promise of Exodus 20:6 and Deuteronomy 7:9. If the promise is not to be understood literally, what, pray tell, does it mean? Remember the above passages when someone opines about the demise of the USA.

Rejoice in God's blessings on America! Relate the truth of God's promise to others! Remember to pray daily for our nation and its leaders (Prov. 14:34, 1 Tim. 2:1-2)!

Manfred E. Kober, Th.D.

2A. THE GRACIOUS PROMOTION OF THE JEWS:

Gen. 12:3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

1b. The Major Premise:

The principle of Genesis 12:3 is clear: **God will deal with nations in accordance with how they treat the nation of Israel.** Those who **promote** and **protect** Israel will experience the blessing of God. Those who **persecute** Israel will be cursed by Him. As God avowed in Jeremiah 30:20: "I will punish all that oppress them." History is replete with illustrations of nations that persecuted Israel and the God of Israel in turn punished them. Where are the mighty Assyrians and the militaristic Babylonians? Their empires crumbled. Their races vanished. Why did they disappear? There is one major reason for the demise of these peoples. They touched God's people. Israel is God's special treasure. Even when Israel is in unbelief, He calls His people "the apple of his eye." (Zechariah 2:8; cf. Deut. 32:8)

2b. The Minor Premise:

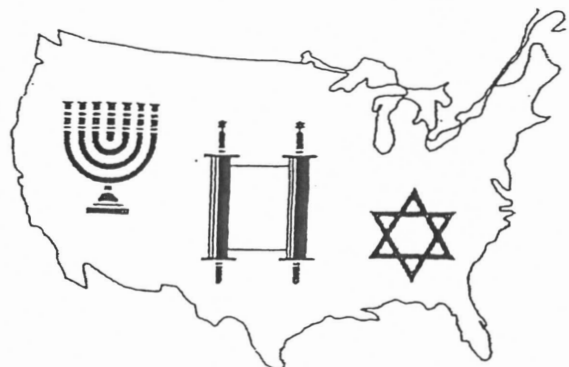
The United States holds a unique place among the world's nations in relation to the Jews. Unlike other nations, we have never once had a governmentally instigated persecution of the Jewish people. The first refuge in history with full freedom for persecuted Jews was called Rhode Island where Roger Williams encouraged all persecuted individuals, especially Jews, to settle. With his blessing the Touro Synagogue, the first synagogue in America, was established by the Jews of Newport, Rhode Island, in 1656. **Our nation's history demonstrates that we have never been guilty of persecuting the Jews but have helped them more than any other nation.**

In modern history it was the political pressure exerted by the United States that brought about a homeland for the Jews in 1948. It is the United States that guarantees the continuous existence of the State of Israel through economic and military aid at the rate of \$1.2 billion annually. When attacked by its intractable Arab enemies, Israel has just one friend it can count on and that is the United States. Former President Jimmy Carter echoed the sentiments of the United States Government toward Israel in his congratulatory comments upon Israel's thirtieth anniversary as a nation: "As the President of the United States I can say without hesitation that we will support Israel, not for just another thirty years, but forever."

3b. Conclusion:

In Genesis 12:3 God promised continuous blessings upon those who bless Israel. Our nation has had many differences with Israel but it has never failed to promote and protect Israel. Because of our gracious promotion of Israel, God has greatly blessed us as a nation.

OUR GRACIOUS TREATMENT OF THE CHOSEN PEOPLE



3A. THE GREAT PREPONDERANCE OF CHRISTIANS:

Genesis 18:23-26 And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴ Peradventure there be fifty righteous within the city: wilt thou also destroy and not spare the place for the fifty righteous that are therein? ²⁵ That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right? ²⁶ And the LORD said, If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes.

1b. The Major Premise:

Before God destroyed the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah because of their "very grievous" sin (18:20), He disclosed to Abraham His purpose in the impending judgment. Abraham, true to his Jewish nature, started to dicker with God and asks whether a righteous God would destroy the righteous with the wicked. God's justice seems to preclude an indiscriminate judgment of the godly with the ungodly. The Lord graciously affirms in response to Abraham's annoying questioning that, indeed, He would not destroy these two abominably wicked cities until the righteous have been delivered, whether they number fifty, forty-five, forty, thirty, twenty, or ten. The main point of the passage is clear: **God is very reluctant to destroy a wicked place with many righteous people in it.** God will normally not destroy the wicked without first delivering the godly.

2b. The Minor Premise:

God always judges sin. He has not forgotten the sins of America and will settle the score someday, but the Just Judge will not allow the righteous to perish with the wicked. The Lord was very reluctant to destroy the world without first delivering Noah and his family. He would not destroy the corrupt cities without first rescuing that one pious person, Lot (2 Pet. 2:7,8). And God is not about to destroy our wicked nation until and unless the believers are removed into the presence of the Lord through the Rapture, then the **well-deserved and long-delayed judgment will come.** Some say that if God does not judge America, He owes Sodom and Gomorrah an apology. This statement ignores the debauchery of these cities where every male individual was a homosexual (Gen. 19:4). Certainly the United States with all its problems has not sunk to their level of degeneracy. Indeed, **we in the United States have the world's preponderance of Christians.** By some estimate we have 88% of the world's believers in the United States. Many thousands of fundamental churches and institutions make America unique in the world. When church attendance in Europe has declined to 2%-3% of the population, some 43% of the people in the United States attend church regularly. America alone has a fundamentalist movement that still influences our nation, represented by 17,000 godly churches.

THE GREAT NUMBER OF AMERICAN CHRISTIANS

3b. Conclusion:

God, the righteous Judge, is very reluctant to punish a place until first delivering the righteous. Our nation has been uniquely blessed by God with the world's majority of believers. It is because of their righteousness that God has exalted our nation (Prov. 14:34). When these believers are removed in the Rapture, the postponed punishment upon America's sins will come, but not before.



4A. THE GRAND PURPOSE FOR AMERICA:

Acts 17:26 And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation.

1b. The Major Premise:

Paul, speaking to the Athenians on Mars Hill, makes an important point: God has determined the course of each nation, including the time a nation begins and ends as well as the geographical boundaries where it is located. While men establish countries and through conquest and treaties fix borders, it is God's sovereign superintendence that determines the existence and extension of nations. God has a purpose for every person, every family, congregation, indeed for every one of His creatures. He works all things after the counsel of His own will to accomplish His purpose (Eph. 1:11). This is especially true of nations whom the Lord raises or removes (Dan. 4:35). Thus we conclude: **The Lord has a special purpose for each country.**

2b. The Minor Premise:

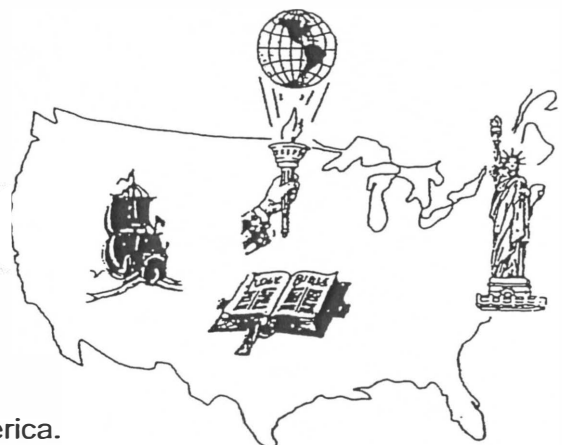
The United States is not specifically mentioned in Scripture; therefore, we cannot point to a passage of Scripture and extrapolate from it God's purpose for our nation. The silence of Scripture is compensated for by the frequent observations by our Founding Fathers concerning the divine design for America.

The First Charter of Virginia of 1606 speaks of the main purpose of the first English settlement as that of "propagating of Christian religion to such people as yet live in darkness." Plymouth, the first permanent English settlement in North America, was established, according to the Mayflower Compact, "for the glory of God and the advancement of the Christian faith." Most American charters spell out the main reason for these settlements: to proclaim the Gospel. America, as our Founding Fathers saw it, was to be a lighthouse for the unsaved. More than that, it was to be a land for the oppressed. God appeared to have at least a two-fold purpose for our country. He **ordained it to be a hope for the world's unsaved and a home for the world's oppressed.** We send out missionaries to all countries and absorb immigrants from all nations. People hated and hounded elsewhere have found a home here. The motto "E pluribus unum" ("Out of many, one") suggests our national destiny. As our founders saw it, this was something totally new, a *novus ordo seclorum*, a new order of the ages. They were establishing a nation where everyone would be welcome and a nation which would bear a witness to the world.

3b. Conclusion:

America, however imperfectly, has been true to its destiny. We have been a lighthouse of the Gospel. Of the world's approximately 50,000 evangelical missionaries, 45,000 come from the United States. We are the land of refugees and immigrants. The boat people from Vietnam as well as the captives of Castro's Cuba all are welcome here. The rejected, the refugees and the refuse of other nations find a refuge in the United States. God has blessed us because we are fulfilling His destiny for our country. As long as we are faithful to that destiny, God will be faithful to America.

GOD'S GRAND PURPOSE FOR THE AMERICAN NATION



With a population of 333.3 million (2022), the USA annually supports Israel with \$3.5 billion in economic and military aid. Each American citizen therefore contributes \$10.50 in aid for Israel. One may consider this an excellent insurance policy in light of Genesis 12:3!

6A / THE DES MOINES REGISTER ■ Wed., May 1, 1985

WORLD NEWS

U.S. eyes \$1.5 billion more for Israel

By BERNARD GWERTZMAN

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WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Reagan administration, in response to a pressing request from Prime Minister Shimon Peres, has decided in principle to grant Israel \$1.5 billion more in economic aid, administration officials said Tuesday.

The aid will sharply increase the amount of assistance the United States provides to Israel's hard-hit economy.

The officials also said Egypt will re-

ceive \$500 million more in aid and that the formal announcement of the decisions might come in a couple of days.

The administration granted Israel \$1.2 billion in economic aid and \$1.4 billion in military aid in the 1985 fiscal year, which ends Sept. 30. It has already agreed to give Israel \$1.8 billion in military aid and \$1.2 billion in economic aid for 1986. The \$1.5 billion mentioned Tuesday will be divided

between the 1985 and 1986 fiscal years, making a total of \$7.1 billion for all aid for those two years.

The military aid is in the form of credits that do not have to be repaid; the economic aid is direct money.


The \$500 million for Egypt is due to be spread over this year and next. Cairo officials had pressed Washington for an increase over the \$1 billion in economic aid Egypt has received in recent years.

Israel, which has suffered from inflation that soared to an annual rate above 1,000 percent a year in 1984, has begun some fiscal changes at the urging of the United States. The administration had said it would not agree to more aid until Israel started a substantial austerity program.

Last week, Peres sent a letter to Secretary of State George Shultz outlining additional steps that would be taken. U.S. officials said Tuesday the letter had convinced the administration that Washington could now send more money to Israel.

The timing of the decision has also been dictated by a hearing due scheduled for today by the House Appropriations foreign operations subcommittee, which is to take up supplemental legislation. And the House is to consider this week the foreign aid authorization bill, which includes the \$1.5 billion in new assistance for Israel already approved by the House Foreign Affairs Committee. The committee had not wanted to wait for the administration to act.

Reagan administration officials said the decision had nothing to do with the timing of President Reagan's visit to the West German military cemetery at Bitburg, which has caused a storm of protest from American Jewish organizations.



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The religious make-up of the US Senate and House is pretty consistent each year. A conservative estimate would suggest that 10% of our legislators are believers. How would the Rapture effect our national government? How would it effect that of Russia?

Top religions for members of Congress

