

The Source of America's Strength

2 Chronicles 7:14

1. When we think of America, certain expressions come to mind:

Cradle of modern democracy

Lad of opportunity

World's breadbasket

Melting pot

But what is the true source of America's greatness?

French historian Alexia de Tocqueville wrote:

I sought the greatness of America in her harbors and commerce and mines and fertile fields, but it was not there. It was not until I entered her churches and found her pulpits aflame with righteousness that I understood the greatness of her power. America is great because America is good. And if she ever ceases to be good, she'll cease to be great.

2. Our religious faith has been our greatest strength, but today that faith is dying.

- Prayer in schools has been outlawed, churches are losing young people, many are turning to drugs, recreational sex and immorality have become commonplace.
- Our religious heritage, the very foundation of this nation, is crumbling.
- Until we realize that this is the deep source of our national dilemma, no true solution can come about.

3. Before their departure for the New World, Pilgrims viewed their journey to America as both an escape from religious persecution and a special opportunity to advance God's Kingdom by building a model Christian society.

- The Mayflower compact began, "In the Name of God, Amen."
- The first Thanksgiving was an offering to God where people of different cultures, races, and nationalities joined together in a common spirit of thanksgiving and brotherhood; even differences of language were not insurmountable.

4. That original spirit, that commitment to a Nation Under God, has at different times faced different tests.

- The commitment to universal human rights and freedoms, as endowed by Our Creator, was decisively tested by the Revolutionary War; only by a victory inspired

by a sense of primary loyalty to God rather than to king could this democracy be established.

- Similarly, after 100 years the Civil War both challenged and substantiated a previously fragile national unity; as reflected in his Second Inaugural Address, Abraham Lincoln felt the Civil War was a divine judgment intended to purge the nation of slavery:

...now we are engaged in a great Civil war, testing whether than nation or any nation so conceived and so dedicated can long endure.

- Now today, again after a hundred years, we are in a similar providential testing period.
 - We face tremendous economic insecurities, rising crime rates and drug abuse, a breakdown of our moral fabric and a seeming loss of national direction.
 - No matter what we seem to do, these problems remain and worsen; unknowingly, we have attached our outer symptoms rather than the inner, spiritual problem.
 - Solving this spiritual crisis is the challenge our nation now faces; born of God's purpose, we need to live with this purpose at our center. Otherwise we lose touch with the source of our strength.
5. What then is God's purpose. His ultimate ideal is to establish His Kingdom on Earth. In creating this Kingdom, all nations are called to participate.
- For America, this ideal is reflected in the motto of the Revolution: Novus Ordo Seclorum – the New Order of the Ages.
 - Patrick Henry: "America has lighted the candle to all the world."
 - Tom Paine: "We Americans have it in our power to begin the world again...the birthday of a new world is at hand."
6. Internally and externally, our national purpose is the vision of contributing to the Kingdom:
- Internally, our task must be to forge one God-centered American family, uniting all nations, races, creeds, and cultures, forming one worldwide family; to start this process towards One World Under God, He has created one nations where all nationalities are represented.
 - This is America, the "melting pot," called to establish One Nation Under God.

- Externally, we must share the example we've created in our own nation with the family of nations which make up the world. And we must use the abundant resources of our nation to contribute to the material and spiritual prosperity of all the world's peoples.
 - America must become the leader of the world by setting the example of a nation establishing priorities based on the interests of all mankind, fostering a national patriotism which seeks to serve the world community, rather than national self-interest at the expense of the world.

- 7. Building the "New Order of the Ages" requires that we Americans recapture the God-centered spirit of our Founders. Recognizing that we've made mistakes as a nation, but sincerely wanting to correct our shortcomings and improve ourselves as a nation, we must finish the work our forefathers began and share it on a worldwide level.
 - This movement must be developed here, where all nationalities converge; One Nation Under God is the first step toward one world under God, and the fulfillment of our national purpose and the source of our strength.