

GOD'S HOPE FOR AMERICA

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God Loves America and the American People

It has been a cardinal principle of God's providence that in order to receive God's blessing you first must demonstrate your worthiness of the blessing. Throughout history there have been many righteous people who demonstrated their worthiness of God's blessing by leading sacrificial lives. Nevertheless, we know that the world in which we live today is not literally God's kingdom. We learn that human history started on the wrong footing, on the evil side. This is why the Bible says that the god of this world is Satan.

It has been the strategy of God to summon champions out of this evil world in order to restore the world and build His kingdom. To understand His ways, let us examine the history of God's providence.

God's Champions Throughout History

The family of Adam was the first family in God's creation. In this family there was a man, Abel, whom God chose to be His first champion. Abel served God wholeheartedly and became the first human being to give up his life for God's purpose.

Later on God called Noah as His champion. And Noah accomplished a very unusual mission. God directed Noah to build a ship, and he was to build it on the top of a mountain. Now, it is just common sense that in building a ship you need a shipyard by some body of water. But Noah's instructions were to build the ark on top of a mountain rather than at the seashore or riverside. How many of us here could accept that kind of mission? How many of us could obey such a command and set to work without a single shred of doubt?

Noah's wife must have packed his lunch basket every day, using only a little food. Noah was so busy with the ark; he could not find time to provide for his family. Within only a few months the family squabbles must have begun. Why did God ask of Noah such an incomprehensible mission? Why does God have to work that way? There is a reason. It is because of evil.

God cannot dwell together with evil. The direction of God is 180 degrees contrary to the direction of evil. God abhors evil! God cannot accept the things that the evil world accepts. So God does not want anything to do with the evil world, or with whatever is tainted by evil.

We are all in the image of God and can find traits similar to His in our human nature. Consider if you had an enemy toward whom you had strong feelings; you wouldn't want to so much as look at that person. Likewise, God will have nothing to do with the evil, satanic world. Therefore, in dealing with it, He chooses

ways that are often incomprehensible to humans.

God also tests people's faith. He cannot do this by asking just ordinary things of people. We must be willing to comply with God's extraordinary instructions. We must display to God absolute faith. This is not an easy task.

Let us take a look at Abraham. God summoned Abraham not from a family headed by a man of God, but from an idol-maker's house, and ordered him to separate himself from his evil surroundings and leave his homeland. God wanted Abraham to be His champion. This was God's personal command. If Abraham had discussed this matter with his father, the idol-maker undoubtedly would have asked him, "Are you crazy?" Abraham knew better than to mention anything to his father about his instruction from God. Who would have believed him? His mission was not just to say hello to his next-door neighbor. God instructed him to journey to a strange land, as far away as Egypt.

Abraham's decision then was a lonely one, based upon his faith and his reliance upon God. By faith alone he made his decision and departed, with nothing on his mind except following the command of God. I know he stole away in the middle of the night. Suddenly he found himself wandering like a gypsy. He lived in self-denial; he had given up everything.

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Later on God chose Moses as His champion. Imagine how fortunate Moses was to grow up in the Pharaoh's palace, where he could enjoy a luxurious life. But then one day as an adult he suddenly stood up as the champion of his people; he no longer could stand the Egyptians' oppression of his people. At that moment he knew that God was with him. He rejected his surroundings,

denied himself and went to the wilderness of Midian. He awaited his ultimate mission for 40 years, persevering and growing worthy of God's blessing. Moses' life was very humble and meek. Every day he surrendered himself anew to God's purpose and asked His divine guidance, eagerly awaiting his eventual mission, leading his people out of Egypt.

Abel, Noah, Abraham, Jacob and Moses were all champions of God. The champions of God have one characteristic in common. They begin their mission by denying themselves and their surroundings. Isaac's son Jacob was no exception. Jacob had strong willpower in service to God. He wanted to open an exemplary path, accomplishing something nobody else could duplicate.

Let us continue along this line and examine the situation of Jesus Christ himself. I am sure there are many devout Christians among you who have various opinions on the life of Jesus. How would you visualize Jesus' appearance? What was Jesus doing for the 30 years before his public ministry? Was he in a college studying? He was a laborer, an assistant to a carpenter.

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There are many hidden stories not yet revealed. Many of the facts about his suffering are unknown. The Bible leaves a scanty record of the 30 years before Jesus' public ministry. If this were a glorious record, we can be sure that God and Jesus' disciples would have revealed it. But Jesus lived in sorrow and

grief; he was an obscure figure for 30 years. People therefore were shocked one day when they heard him say, "I am the fulfillment of the law," and "Moses wrote of me." He proclaimed, "I am the Son of God," and "the Father in heaven has sent me." "I am the way, the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father but by me." How many of us could have accepted such extraordinary

statements if we had lived in those days? Jesus just bewildered people, he sounded so outrageous. Even John the Baptist had difficulty seeing Jesus as the Son of God, and John was supposed to come to prepare the people and make straight the way of the Lord.

Today it is very easy to accept Jesus Christ as the Son of God because for 2,000 years Christianity has been glorifying him as God. But in those days, the elders did not accept him. And the priests did not accept him either. They were no less intelligent than we are today. In fact, we probably would have compounded their mistakes if we had lived in the days of Jesus of Nazareth. They saw only an outcast, a blasphemer and an outrageous heretic. They simply could not see the Son of God.

Jesus had been long awaited. The Messiah was expected for 2,000 years. But when he finally appeared, there was no reception for him. The faith of the Jews at that time was no less powerful, no less devout, than the faith of Christians today. Yet we know that the people Jesus associated with were not on a par with the rest of society. We know that he mixed with harlots, tax collectors and fishermen. We know the story that one day a young woman poured precious ointment over Jesus' head, then washed his feet with her hair. If we had seen these things, how many of us can say with confidence that we would have accepted Jesus as the Son of God?

The three years of Jesus' public ministry were a far cry from the anticipated messiahship. No one understood Christ's true mission. The people judged the Son of God with sinful eyes, according to their own earthly standards. And they treated him as they pleased. This sinful world can never be hospitable to the purity of Christ. He came to his own people, but the people received him not.

God Seeks World Salvation

As I mentioned, all the saints and prophets and righteous people of history first had to deny themselves totally and give themselves up to God. When He summoned them, they gave up their homes, their fortunes, their families and their nations. God wants His champion on the individual level, on the family level, tribal level, national level and worldwide level. He has summoned His champions on each level. And the qualification for God's champion on any level always remains the same. He needs the absolute and untiring faith required to follow His command wherever it may lead. God needs total obedience to His Will.

We must examine then, what is the Will of God? Why does He appear to give His people such a hard time? Individual salvation is certainly important in the sight of God. God does not neglect that. However, that is not the ultimate purpose of God's work. God's Will is the salvation of the world! God needs an individual to be His champion for the ultimate goal of world salvation. God summoned one family to be an instrument for the salvation of the world. God summoned His people to achieve the salvation of the world. God wants to have a nation as His champion for the ultimate fulfillment of world salvation.

People in the time of Jesus were anxiously awaiting the Messiah. But they were thinking only of their own national concerns as Israel, the chosen people of God. They did not understand the universal mission of Jesus Christ. It was the purpose of God to send the Messiah to the chosen people of Israel so that together they could become soldiers of faith, to fight for and achieve the salvation of the world.

The foundation for the Messiah was laid through Jacob, the

champion of the family, and through Moses, the champion of his people. Finally the Messiah came to the nation of Israel. He was to be the champion of the nation and the champion of the entire world. The purpose of God is not the salvation of one church or one nation alone. It is the Will of God that He sacrifices the lesser for the greater. Therefore He will sacrifice the church or the nation for the world. If Christians today think only of their own salvation, their own Heaven and their own well-being, we are not living in accordance with the purpose of God. If we are only concerned with the salvation of our own families, we are not worthy of God's blessing. If people focus on benefiting their own people alone, or their nation alone, then they are absolutely going against the Will of God.

I received a revelation from Jesus through which I learned that God's grief is great. His heart is broken. Today God is working ceaselessly for the ultimate salvation of all humankind.

God will give you your own salvation. When you become God's champion for world salvation, your own salvation is guaranteed. Now, the Christian population is probably one seventh of the total world population. But among these, very few are devout Christians. And among devout Christians, how many of us really strive for the salvation of humankind? We all must devote ourselves to the salvation of the world!

God cannot be pleased with humankind if we live in a self-centered way. I received a revelation from Jesus through which I learned that God's grief is great. His heart is broken. Today God is working ceaselessly for the ultimate salvation of all humankind. He needs His champion to succeed in this work. The purpose of God's church is to save the entire world. The church is the instrument of God, and it was this very fact that the chosen people of Israel forgot at the time of Jesus.

Beginning with this knowledge, let us now continue our historical perspective and determine how America has become blessed.

The Course of Christianity

After Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, the Christian church spread throughout Asia Minor. The principal thrust was Rome. For the world to be saved, Rome had to be conquered by the army of Jesus Christ. But this was an impossible battle, an inconceivable goal. The Roman Empire appeared as an impregnable fortress not subject to conquest. Jesus' army was barehanded. They used no weapons, neither swords nor spears. They were armed only with their love of God and Jesus Christ. They marched fearlessly onward, in conviction and strength. They paid the price in blood and sacrifice.

There can be no stronger army than the one that fears no death. No enemy is invincible against an army of faith. History is witness to the deeds of that army of Jesus. The Roman Empire fell at last, and Jesus conquered Rome. Roman Catholicism became the center of God's dispensation of world salvation. The pope was in the position to become God's champion.

However, in the Middle Ages great corruption appeared in the Church and Christianity disintegrated in spirit. Medieval church hierarchies were interested in their own power, their own authority and their own welfare. The Church enjoyed formidable power, both politically and economically. The hierarchy preserved this power, abused this power and forgot about God's purpose. They clung tenaciously to their positions and ruthlessly persecuted any opponent. The Church leaders claimed lineage from Jesus' disciples, yet they could not rise above their own sins. The Christian spirit in these leaders was almost dead.

But God had to continue forward. He is never satisfied with less than a total response. The Church needed reform, so religious revolution came. Martin Luther launched the new Protestant Reformation. And the crackling flames of dissatisfaction quickly swept over all Europe, in a storm of revolt against the power of the Church. These protesters disclaimed the old church of their fathers. Throughout the land, righteous people determined to win liberation from the old doctrines and practices. They wanted to worship God, not the Church. Equality in the sight of God was their claim. Direct communication with God was their desire. They helped God bring the world, step by step, closer to the ultimate goal.

Later in England, the people again protested against the intolerable corruption of the autocratic Church. There was an outcry for the purification of the Church of England. The Puritan movement began, and it quickly spread despite great persecution. These new seekers threatened the established Church leaders, who used almost any means to suppress the new movement. Those who truly wanted the freedom of worship soon had either to flee or to be imprisoned. Their spirit was strong, but they had not enough power to resist and yet nowhere to turn. They fled to Holland. And still they longed for some new world, some new heaven and new earth where they could find freedom to worship God.

The Pilgrim Fathers

America must have seemed attractive to those who were dreaming of a new world. Even though America was unknown territory, it promised them the freedom of worship they craved. The Puritans felt a strong desire to create a community of their own. America seemed an ideal place, so they made the

courageous decision to venture there. They committed themselves to the treacherous journey across the Atlantic. They risked their very lives, finding strength in their faith, which was stronger than life itself.

The Pilgrims came to this land full of purpose and hope. They knew that this purpose of theirs was more important than preserving their own lives. Nothing could have given them this kind of courage, this kind of dedication, this kind of sacrificial spirit except their faith in God.

Think of it. They had to give up their families, their relatives, their surroundings and their country, and head toward an unknown land. Their only hope was in God. With every step they took, they depended upon God. Their journey was long, and there were many storms. They prayed unceasingly to God. They had but one way to turn. They turned to God. When they were sick and dying on the voyage, they had no medicine to take, no doctor to care for them; they turned to God. Those Pilgrim men and women were one with God. And that is how they survived.

Put yourself in their position of total reliance on God. What a wonderful faith! I am sure that the faith of the Pilgrim Fathers touched the heart of God. And when God is moved, He offers promises; and when He makes promises, He will fulfill them. God determined to give these faithful people the ultimate thing they wanted—freedom of worship. He then determined to give them even more.

I am sure you know, as I have learned, that the Mayflower arrived at Plymouth Rock in New England almost in the dead of winter. November in New England is rather cold. The destiny of the newcomers could have been only starvation, because there was so little food to eat. Given this fact, it really inspires me to learn about the store of grain in the hold of the Mayflower which they would not touch, even though they were starving

to death. They preserved this grain for planting the next spring. This was truly a supreme example of sacrifice. They preferred to die hoping in tomorrow rather than to act in desperation for only a few more days of life.

The Pilgrims came to this land full of purpose and hope. They knew that this purpose of theirs was more important than preserving their own lives. Nothing could have given them this kind of courage, this kind of dedication, this kind of sacrificial spirit except their faith in God. When they arrived at Plymouth, forty-one passengers got together and organized their ideas for government. The resulting Mayflower Compact was signed, "In the Name of God, Amen." This is really a wonderful story. This little group of people left Europe with their hope set in God. They grew sick and died in God; they survived in God. They formed their first government and signed their official papers, "In the Name of God."

The story of the American Pilgrim Fathers is one of a kind in God's history. It fits into the pattern of the righteous people of history, such as Abraham, Isaac and Moses. These Pilgrims were the Abrahams of modern history. They therefore had to brave many hardships, even after the Mayflower Compact was signed.

A Winter of Heartbreak

During the first winter in America, the population of the hardy Mayflower survivors was cut in half. Each day that winter brought a heartbreaking separation from loved ones. One by one these courageous pioneers died. Yet their life from morning to night, from dusk to dawn, was centered upon the Will of God. God was their only comfort, their only hope and their only security. God was the principal partner for them. Here was an example of such a rare and pure group of God's people. They demonstrated

untiring faith, and God gave them power and courage. They never lost their trust in God and their vision of the future. Their purpose in coming to America was to build a nation where God could dwell, where they really could share fellowship with each other and rejoice in fellowship with God. This was all in God's providence, because He needed a nation to serve as His champion for the ultimate and permanent salvation of the world.

So another miracle came to the Pilgrims. When they were just barely surviving and their population had been halved, the Native Americans easily could have wiped them out with one stroke. But again, God was a shield for them. The first group of Native Americans the Mayflower survivors encountered was not hostile. They welcomed the settlers. If the Pilgrims had been destroyed at that time, there probably would have been no America for God. God intervened to save His people here in America. This is my belief. God wanted them to settle, and He gave the Pilgrims a chance.

As the population of the settlement grew, they had to push the Native Americans away to enlarge their own colony. Of course, this land did not belong to the new American people originally. The Native Americans were the inhabitants of the land, and the Pilgrim settlers must have been invaders in their eyes. Why, then, did God give these settlers their great chance? Here is my interpretation. God sided with the American settlers because it was in His plan. Furthermore, these American settlers met God's requirements and truly demonstrated an unwavering faith in God. God could not help but give them His promise and fulfill that promise.

America's existence was according to God's providence. God needed to build one powerful Christian nation on earth for His future work. After all, America belonged to God first, and only

after that to the Native Americans. This is the only interpretation that can justify the position of the Pilgrim settlers.

This continent of America was hidden away for a special purpose and was not discovered until the appropriate hour. The people of God came at the appointed hour. They came to mold the new way of life. Their principal partner was God. At home, in caring for their children, in farming or cooking or building, they let God share their work. He was the only security they had. A farmer might talk to his son working in the field with him, "Let's plow this field in the name of God." Their everyday life was lived in the name of God.

After the first spring visited them, they cleared the fields, planted, cultivated and harvested the crop. And they attributed all their precious harvest to the grace of God. The beautiful tradition of Thanksgiving thus originated. Following the next severe winter, the first thing they built was a church. At night, at dawn, in the morning and at noon-time, they prayed to God. I am sure they prayed, "God, we want to build a place for You which must be better than the Old World. We want to build a place where You can dwell and be master."

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And they also had a vision of the future that this Christian nation would do more good for the rest of the world than any other country upon the face of the earth. I am sure that after their church they built a school. They wanted outstanding schools for their children, better than any schools existing in the Old World. And their homes came last. After they built these homes, they dedicated them to God. This is the history of your Pilgrim Fathers, I know. I can visualize early America as

a beautiful America, because God was dwelling everywhere. In the school, in the church, in the kitchen, in the street—in any assembly or marketplace God was dwelling.

The Birth of America

I understand that in America you are approaching your nation's 200th birthday. Let us therefore examine the people who led the independence movement in this country in the late 1700s. Those freedom fighters were traitors in the eyes of the British crown. But God could use these traitors as His instruments, as His people, and through them He conceived and built the best nation upon the face of the earth.

George Washington, the commander-in-chief of the Continental Army, tasted the bitterness of defeat in many, many battles. When he finally faced the last heartbreakng winter at Valley Forge, he was serious. I am sure George Washington prayed like this: "God, it is You who led our people out of Europe and brought us over here to the New World. You don't want us to repeat the dull, gray history of Europe. You liberated us and gave us freedom. You don't want to see the mistakes in Europe repeated in this land. Let me give You my pledge. I will build one nation under God." Thus George Washington made his battle God's battle, and therefore the victory won was a victory for God.

I know that this victory and the independence of America came because God accepted George Washington's prayer, along with the prayers of many other Americans. God knew that His champions would work for His new nation. But George Washington had nothing to work with, and the British army had everything—power, authority, tradition and equipment. They were proud of their military strength. The American Continental Army had no ammunition and few soldiers. George Washington finally had one

weapon only: faith in God. I believe that George Washington's position paralleled David's in his fight against the giant Goliath. David won his battle in the name of God. They both let God vanquish their foe. Each of them put his whole heart, his whole being, his whole sacrificial spirit into the battle, and won.

Now it is a significant fact that throughout history, God's people never could be blessed on their own homeland. God moves them out of their homeland and settles them on foreign soil, and there they can become a people and a nation of God. According to the pattern, the American people journeyed in faith out of their homelands, came across the ocean to the New World, and here they received God's blessing. God had a definite plan for America. He needed to have this nation prosper as one nation under God. With God, nothing is impossible. So out of the realm of impossibility the independence of America became a fact, and upon its foundation great prosperity came.

The British army fought for their king. For them, the British crown was supreme. The American army fought for their king. God was their only king, and He alone was supreme. The New World was pioneered in the name of God. America is called "the land of opportunity." Here is the soil on which people find opportunity in God.

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America as God's Instrument

The Judeo-Christian tradition in America is a most beautiful thing for foreigners to behold when they come to this country. I learned that every day your Congress is convened in prayer. Your president is sworn into office by putting his hand on the Bible. One day I visited a small prayer room in your Capitol

building. When your leaders have grave decisions to make, they come to this place, kneel humbly before God and ask His help. There is a stained glass window depicting George Washington on his knees in prayer. Here I saw the true greatness of America. From the highest echelons of Congress way down to the rustic customs of the countryside, evidence of dependence on God can be seen everywhere in America.

In this respect America is a unique nation. Even your money is impressed with such a beautiful inscription, "In God We Trust." No other nation does such a thing. Then whose money is it, your money? Is it American money? No, it is God's money. Every bill or coin says so. You are the stewards, and God has deposited His wealth in your hands. Yes, this nation is not the American nation, it is God's nation. And such a nation exists for the entire world, not just for America itself. Yes, America was formed as a new nation, a new Christian nation under a new tradition. The shackles of old traditions fell away in America. You must want to build a new nation under God.

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God's purpose is the salvation of the world and all humankind. Today in America, therefore, you must not think that you have such wealth because you yourselves are great. We must humbly realize that the blessing of God came to America with the purpose of making it possible for God to use this nation as His instrument in saving the world. If America betrays God, where can God go? If America

rejects God, where can God go to fulfill His aim? Do you want to let Him try to go to the communist world? To underdeveloped countries? God wants to have America as His base, America as His champion. And America was begun in the sacrificial spirit,

pursuing God's purpose. America must consummate her history in the same sacrificial spirit for God's purpose. Then America will endure forever!

Let me compare two striking examples. The people who came to America—to North America—came seeking God and freedom of worship. The sole motive of the first settlers was God. When they came for God, they found not only God but also freedom and wealth. At the same time many people went to South America. Their sole motivation was to find gold. South America is a fertile land, no less than the North American continent. But when the colonists' motivation was gold, they could find neither gold nor God nor freedom. And the South American countries remain underdeveloped nations.

God played a prime role in American history, and this He wants America to know. The time has come for the American people to be awakened.

America is the miracle of modern history. You have built the most powerful nation in history in a short time. Was this miracle possible only because you worked hard? Certainly you did work hard. However, hard work is not explanation enough. If God had not been the principal partner, creating today's America would have been impossible. God played a prime role in American history, and this He wants America to know.

The time has come for the American people to be awakened. Because of the noble beginning of this country, God sent His blessing and promise. The sacrificial devotion of your ancestors was the foundation for God's blessing. If you betray your ancestors, if you betray God, there is only one way for America to go. It will go to destruction. Since America was built on the pillars of faith in God, if God is moved out of American life, your nation will be without support. Your decline will be rapid.

God's Hope for America

In our time, Christians, and all people of faith, should be champions of peace. We must be willing to struggle for the salvation of the world. But religions today are often too busy perfecting their separate sects, denominations and their own interests. We must unite with the coming of the Lord. The "end of the world" signifies that the time of the arrival of the Lord of the Second Advent is near. He must have a base somewhere, some foundation prepared upon which he can begin to fulfill his mission. America is meant to be that base; but America is deeply troubled.

When I first came to America, I went to New York and stood on Fifth Avenue during the rush hour. Suddenly tears began pouring down my face. I looked at the wonder of the Empire State Building and the magnificence of the new Trade Center—the tallest buildings in the world. But I asked myself, "Does God dwell in those buildings?"

New York is becoming more and more a city without God. It is a city of crime. Such a beautiful city is now crumbling. I can see so much immorality and so many signs of godlessness in that city. It was shocking to my eyes as I stood watching during that rush hour. I could see so many things at once that are all intolerable in the sight of God.

I asked God, "Is this the purpose for which you blessed America?" I know God wants to see His spirit prevail in those great buildings. In those beautiful automobiles He wants to see young people bubbling with enthusiasm for God and the love of others. It doesn't take the Empire State Building to glorify God; it doesn't take a 1973 automobile to glorify God. Even if you have only a rock as your altar, when you pour out your hope and your tears

upon it for the service of God, God is with you. I can really see that God is leaving the great cities of America.

America has been known as the “melting pot” where people of all colors, creeds and nationalities are melted together. In order to melt anything, heat is required. Do you know who provided the heat for America? God was that heat. Without God, you never could have melted your people together. America could achieve true brotherhood only through the Christian spirit, but when you begin to lose this foundation, America’s moral fiber will deteriorate.

America IS God’s Hope

You may want to ask, “Who are you, Reverend Moon, to say these things to the American people?” Then please raise your hands if any of you are willing to take responsibility for this country. For the last 10 years American churches have been declining in spirit; American churches are becoming senior citizens’ homes. The future of America depends upon the young people. We need a spiritual revolution in America, a revolution of heart. Individualism must be transformed into God-centered ideology. Who is going to do this? Who is going to kindle the hearts of American youth? Will the president do this? Will wealthy American businessmen do this? Will American churches do this?

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I know that God sent me here to America. I did not come here for the comfortable life in America. Not at all! I came to America not for my own purposes but because God sent me. For

6,000 years God has been working to build this nation. The future of the entire world hinges on America. God has a very great stake in America. Somebody must come to America and stop God from leaving.

We must be humble. We must initiate from this moment the greatest movement ever on earth, the movement to bring God back home. Let's bring God back, and make God's presence in America a living reality.

America must be God's champion. I know clearly that the Will of God is centered upon America. I came from Korea; I gave up my surroundings, just as many people have in the history of God's providence. I do not come to this country to make money. When I came to America, I committed my fortune, my family and my entire life to America. I came to a new country where I can serve the Will of God. If there is no one in America meeting your needs, there is no reason why someone from outside cannot fulfill that role. America belongs to those who love it most.

We must be humble. We must initiate from this moment the greatest movement ever on earth, the movement to bring God back home. All of our pride, our wealth, our cars and our great cities are like dust without God. We must bring God back home. In our homes, our churches, our schools and our national life, our work for God's purpose must begin. Let's bring God back, and make God's presence in America a living reality.

The Quality of Faith

The mere numbers of the Christian and other religious populations in America are not impressive. You cannot impress God with numbers but only with fervent faith. The standard is the quality of Abraham's faith. How many believers in America are really crying out with fervor for God? How many feel that

God's work is their own work? How many people put God first? How many are ready to die for God?

Somebody must begin, and begin now. Even under persecution somebody must begin. Someone must give themselves up for the purpose of God and bring God back home. We must have our churches filled with fiery faith; we must create new homes where our families can be really happy, and we must finally create a new society, a new spiritual nation where God can dwell. America must go beyond America! This is the only way for this country to survive. I know this clearly: This is the Will of God. Therefore, I have come to America, where I am one voice crying in the wilderness.

America has a great tradition. All you have to do is revive it. We need a new movement of Pilgrims with a new vision. This is inevitable, because God left no alternative for America. You have no other direction in which to turn. The new Pilgrim movement has come—not for America alone, but for the world. In other words, the movement for world salvation must begin in this country. America is the base, and when America fulfills its mission you will be eternally blessed.

This is God's hope for America. This is God's ardent hope for you. I have made a covenant with God and the young people of America that we will strive in partnership for this great crusade. I want you to join with us.

There is nowhere else to turn. When you bring God back into your home, your home will be secure. Your juvenile delinquency problem will be solved. There is no good answer to the racial problem except God. Communism will be no threat when God is made real. God will increase your wealth. This is the one way that America can save itself.

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This is my deep desire, from my heart, that America will see the glorious day of renewal. And for this reason I come to speak to you with hope for America.

AMERICA IS GOD'S HOPE

YANKEE STADIUM, NEW YORK,
JUNE 1, 1976

Here in this grand Yankee Stadium we have gathered to celebrate America's 200th birthday. We are now living in an age when we must look at every individual and every nation as vital components of the world.

In our world there are basically two ways of life. One is the selfish way of life, and the other is the unselfish way of life, in which one thinks beyond oneself and one's family and lives for the greater purpose of the nation and the world. Throughout history, whether in the East or the West, those who played the most important roles were often public-minded or selfless persons.

The well-being of the family should come before that of the individual; the nation should come before the family; the world before the nation, and God before the world. This is the philosophy of the selfless way of life. The righteous men and women and saints in history were those people who selflessly sacrificed themselves for God and humankind. It is really God, however, who is supremely selfless, supremely public-minded. When humankind rebelled against Him, God did not take revenge; He forgave.

And God has been working tirelessly to raise humans up into salvation.

God seeks to build one family of humankind. Therefore, the family, church and nation that God desires transcend all barriers of race and nationality. The people who are a unified blending of all colors of skin, and who transcend race and nationality, are most beautiful in the sight of God and most pleasing to Him.

Let us look at America. It is most important that we know whether the United States of America was conceived by God or not. Ladies and gentlemen, it is my firm belief that the United States of America was indeed conceived by God.

There were, however, two kinds of people among your forefathers. One kind came to this land seeking wealth. The others came to this land seeking God and freedom. They dreamed of

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building a new nation centered upon God. If the former had become the mainstream of America, there would have been far greater strife, division and struggle between the different races and national groups. The United States would have been filled with unrighteousness and injustice. From the beginning, however, God intervened. Therefore, of all the immigrants, the righteous people of God were to find their proper place as leaders in America. All the different races and nationalities of the world harmonized upon this land to create God-centered families, churches and the nation of America. The beautiful tradition of America was set by your forefathers.

Look at your own families. Most families have the virtue of a distinct international character. If your lineage has been in America for some time, it probably unites many different nationalities.

In your bloodstream many kinds of blood are blended together. Nations that used to be enemies have united in your blood. When the individual and the families that transcend racial and national barriers gather together to create a church, a society and a nation, that nation will become God's ideal nation for all peoples.

There is only one nation like this in all of history—the United States of America. It is apparent that this unique nation of America is the creation of God. The people of America have come from every corner of the world. To be an American does not depend upon what race you are, what belief you have, or what cultural background you are from. It is only in this nation that no matter where you are from, you can say this is my country. That is America!

America is a microcosm of the world. Transcending nationality and race, America has created a model for the ideal world. God Himself had purposely hidden this land of America from civilization until His time was full, and then upon her, God raised up this model nation. In His Providence, God anointed America with oil; He poured out abundant blessing upon this land. In a short 200 years, God raised this nation to be the mightiest nation on earth.

But blessing never comes alone; it comes with responsibility. If one forsakes the responsibility, one also forsakes God's blessing. Inevitably the blessing of God will leave, and the nation doing this will decline. Is it not true that the signs of such decline are already apparent in America today? The time has come for us to ask for mercy.

In the truest sense, who are the true Americans? True Americans are those who have a universal mind. True Americans are those who believe in the one family of humankind, transcendent of color and nationality as willed by God. True Americans are

those who are proud of such international families, churches and of the nation that consists of all peoples. In the sight of God, there is no black, there is no white, there is no yellow. We must look at the human race as God sees it.

America must return to the true founding spirit of the nation, to the ideals that her ancestors sought to establish with sweat and blood. America must return to Godism, an absolutely God-centered ideology.

God is the motivation, the cause and the foundation of the independence of America. America was born through the Providence of God. If we are centered upon God, we will remain united and enjoy prosperity. However, as soon as we turn away from God, we will be divided.

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If America wants to keep the blessing of God as the leading nation of the world, it must form a partnership with God. Do you have God in your homes? Do you truly have God in your church? Do you have God in your society and nation? God is the cement.

With God, America will stay together like concrete. But if God leaves, it will be like sand. When the flood comes, all will be washed away.

America's greatness and pride stem from God. With Him, America deserves the blessing and can remain as the mightiest nation. With God, you can preserve your dignity and the leadership of the world. If you allow God to leave America, however, this nation will decline. When this happens, the future of America will be dismal, tragic. America will become a living hell.

When the unifying force of God leaves America, nothing will be able to hold America together. The family will break down, churches will divide, and America will become mortally ill

because the cells of its body are decaying. This will be the perfect opportunity for the evil of communism to overtake America. This state of emergency is here now. Someone must do something!

There are critics who say: "Why is Reverend Moon so involved in America's Bicentennial? It is none of his business." If there is an illness in your home, do you not need a doctor from outside? If your home catches on fire, do you not need firefighters from outside? God has sent me to America in the role of a doctor, in the role of a firefighter. That is why I have come to America. Good medicine may taste bitter, and an operation may involve some pain, but the treatment must begin at once. Should a patient complain and push away the doctor's hand when he touches the infected part?

For the last three years, with my entire heart and soul I have been teaching American youth a new revelation from God. They now have a clear concept of what the God-centered family, church and nation should be like. They also know the reality of America. Thus they have become determined fighters to bring new life and salvation to America before it is too late. They know the critical state of the nation. They know the grieving heart of God. And they are absolutely determined to turn the tide back to God. Their enthusiasm is beautiful to behold.

Your dedicated sons and daughters are champions of God crusading for the victory of God's Will. As God's front line, they are declaring war against evil. They are courageously fighting this noble battle. It is our mission to build the Kingdom of God here on earth. Therefore, we must build a model of the Kingdom of God right here in America, which God

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loves and has prepared the most.

Why has Reverend Moon come to America, where he has encountered such tribulation? Am I pursuing my own honor? Is money my goal, or power? No! Never! I came to America because this is the country which God, our Heavenly Parent, has chosen. I came to America because I know the heart of God. I know that in spite of America's rebellion against Him, God will not abandon this country. His Will is to make America an example of a godly nation that the nations of the world can follow. I know God's Will is to save the world, and to do this America must lead the way. This is why I came to America. With God you can win; with Satan you will fail.

Some 200 years ago your brave ancestors in the Continental Army fought the Revolution, the War of Independence, with faith in God. George Washington knelt at Valley Forge asking for divine intervention, and he and his army were able to win over the invincible British army. Only through divine intervention could he win the war and America's independence. At that moment, God laid the "Foundation of Land" for America.

Approximately 100 years later, when, contrary to God's Will, slavery and segregation were rampant here in America, God raised up Abraham Lincoln as His champion and brought about the victory in the Civil War, liberating the slaves and affirming equality for all people. By doing so, God laid the "Foundation of People" for America, transcending race and nationality. Yet this was an external test.

Today, 200 years later, America is undergoing another test. This time the test is an internal or spiritual one. It is a religious test, a historical, ideological test. The God-denying ideology of communism has risen up and is ready to undertake an all-out offensive against the free world. Destroying America is the

communists' final and ultimate goal. They know America is God's final bulwark on earth. More than anything else, this is a test of whether America will stand as God's nation or fall.

America cannot win this battle alone. It needs God. In this test you cannot win without God, who is the foundation of all truth and all true ideology. A confrontation is inevitable between the two worlds—the God-affirming world and the God-denying world. This is a confrontation of ideology. Therefore, as a champion of God, America must win ideologically over atheistic communism on the worldwide scale, with the unity of all races and nationalities. Our faith in God must be stronger than their faith in communism. America must win in the name of God. Thus God would establish the "Foundation of the New World Ideology" in a higher dimension.

The American forefathers fled from religious persecution in Europe, came to the New World, and in the spirit of building "One Nation Under God" they brought about a new nation here in America which is now at the threshold of its third century. In a similar way today, people are fleeing from the communist world of slavery to the free world. Many were persecuted for their religious beliefs and ideological differences. The time has come to unite them to build a new world centered upon God. United, the free world must liberate the enslaved communist world. This time our task is to build "One World Under God."

To do this, Christianity of the world must unite. The church must liberate itself from sectarianism. It must undergo a drastic reform, and achieve an ecumenical and an inter-religious unity. For this, we need a spiritual revolution. We need a new ideology, and this new ideology must incorporate Oriental philosophy, uniting the cultures of the East and the West.

This new ideology also will be capable of unifying all the

existing religions and ideologies of the world. Therefore, it has come in the form of a new religious or spiritual movement. The Unification Church movement has been created by God to fulfill that mission. This spiritual movement first must succeed here in America in order to spread throughout the world. The new ideology which the Unification Church brings is Godism, an absolutely God-centered ideology. It has the power to awaken America, and it has the power to raise the model of the ideal nation of God upon this land.

With that done, the rest of the world will follow America's example and will build the Kingdom of God upon their respective lands. Then we all truly will become brothers and sisters under one Parent, God. This will be a world of love, a world of happiness. Our planet will be one home, and humankind will be

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one family. God's Will, His long-cherished desire from the beginning of time, finally will be fulfilled. This will be the eternal, ideal world of God. Indeed, it will be the Kingdom of God on earth. We will build it with our hands.

This is our supreme mission. It is truly our God-given, sacred mission. God is crying out to the world, and we are His instruments.

The world must respond to His call. Listen to God's commandment. Initiate a courageous march toward the Kingdom of God on earth. Whatever the difficulty, let it not stop us. Our march is God's, and it will go on to the end.

My beloved citizens of America, today let us pledge to God Almighty our loyalty and dedication to the fulfillment of this divine mission. Ladies and gentlemen, in the name of God, let us unite and together build the Kingdom of God on earth!

Let us together give our united thanks to God. In the name of the people of the world, may I congratulate you on the 200th birthday of the great nation of America. May God bless you, and may God bless America and its third century.

Thank you very much.