

Birthday of our country – 250 years

Has God not used us over the years?

Have we not been used to impact millions for good? Reached out to help people?

Are you not privileged (blessed) to be born here?

Are we perfect? Of course not.

Has God not blessed us beyond what we would ever think? Look what people from other countries are saying about US!!

Think of how God has used us!!



- I've been reading recently about Jehu, becoming king of Israel, whom God charges to destroy the dynasty of Ahab, and the wickedness of Jezebel (9:7,22).
- 1st Jehu destroys Joram, king of Israel, Ahab's son.
- Then he kills Jezebel.
- Then (chapter 10) he destroys all 70 of Ahab's sons.
- 2 Kings 10:11 – *"Then Jehu killed all who were left of Ahab's relatives living in Jezreel and all his important officials, his personal friends, and his priests. So Ahab was left without a single survivor."*
- Jehu then destroys all the prophets of Baal (10:10-27).
- And becomes the king of Israel, clearly being used greatly by the Lord!!

God uses Jehu but... Look at 2 Kings 10:27-32: 27 They smashed the sacred pillar and wrecked the temple of Baal, converting it into a public toilet, as it remains to this day. 28 In this way, Jehu destroyed every trace of Baal worship from Israel. 29 He did not, however, destroy the gold calves at Bethel and Dan, with which Jeroboam son of Nebat had caused Israel to sin. 30 Nonetheless the Lord said to Jehu, "You have done well in following my instructions to destroy the family of Ahab. Therefore, your descendants will be kings of Israel down to the fourth generation." 31 But Jehu *did not obey* the Law of the Lord, the God of Israel, with all his heart. *He refused to turn* from the sins that Jeroboam had led Israel to commit.

Think of how God has used us and blessed us!!

- We've always stood with Israel and the Jewish people. (Ben Franklin & the founders seal)
- Stood for right over the years (WW2, & others).
- We have laws that honor God's Word, God's commands. Liberty and Justice for All. One nation under God!
- We've had faithful churches, faithful pastors, dedicated missionaries proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ for years!!
- All over the world! And we continue to be an influence for righteousness.
- THAT, my friend makes you to be proud to be an American!



Birthday of our country –

- 250 years, The longest form of unchanged government in history!
- France, England, Germany can't say that.
- We have the same Constitution, same Bill of Rights.
- But people are trying to change us.
- Here is the question for each of us: What have I done, what am I doing, to help my country? Hasn't some of our thinking been despair over the years?
- Despair because of:
 - Moral decline
 - The atrocity of abortions
 - Our losses of freedom, regulations on regulations
 - Slowly chipping away at our freedoms
 - Bigger and bigger government...
 - But my country is the land of the free, and the home of the brave...
 - And I need to do all I can to as a citizen, preacher, to bring our country back to God! Evangelize here!

- I am so thankful:
- That our founding fathers did not give in to the British!
- Thankful they stood up for their Christian values,
- That preachers stood up and led in the founding of our country!

Today, let me make a couple of observations to help us understand and to be thankful.

I. We were founded a Christian nation:

- Al says:
- That our founding fathers were reverent and conscious of a holy God!
- 10 commandments on courtroom walls...
- I pledge allegiance, under God...!
- I have a coin here...
- The Star-Spangled Banner...do you know the last verse of our national anthem?

Star Spangled Banner 4th verse:

O! thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand
Between their lov'd home and the war's desolation,
Blest with vict'ry and peace, may the Heav'n rescued land
Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation!
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto: "In God is our trust;"
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free, and the home of the brave.

Benjamin Franklin... [prayers at the opening of every congress]

- 12 years after the Declaration of Independence was signed in 1787:
- That our founding fathers got together in Philadelphia:
 - They had 13 individual states (countries)
 - 13 individual currencies
 - 13 individual foreign policies
 - And they said we need to form a nation...
 - Met there for 5 ½ weeks and accomplished absolutely nothing!
- 50% of the people lived in 3 states
- 50% of the people lived in 10 states
- Argued about issues over and over and could not agree.
- The most controversial issue was state's representation.
- Interests clashed, tempers flared, as delegates sought their respective goals.
- Finally, a man in his 80's had not spoken, 2 said this: "Mr. president, the small progress we have made after 4 or 5 weeks – is proof of the imperfection of human understanding..."

II. We are failing morally:

- We are in a moral crisis
- The Declaration of Independence...
- What can we do?
- We can, we must vote!
- We must, we will pray!
- We can run for office! [By the people for the people]

Back to our text: Ezekiel 22:25-31

- Who was the problem, conspiracy?
- Prophets (25,28)
- Priests (26)
- Princes (27)
- People (29)
- What was God's answer? (22:30) One person, not an army, not a group, a crowd or military might. Just one and God!
- What will God do? Does He have His one?
- Who will stand in the gap? *This is our country!*