

God's Hand in Winning
the American Revolution

American Miracles





God Performed Miracles for Moses and the Israelites

God spoke through Moses and said,

"Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them."

- Deuteronomy 4:9

God Performed Miracles for Joshua and The Israelites

God spoke through Joshua and said,

- "You yourselves have seen everything the LORD your God has done to all these nations for your sake; it was the LORD your God who fought for you." Joshua 23:3
- "As they fled before Israel on the road down from Beth Horon to Azekah, the LORD hurled large hailstones down on them, and more of them died from the hail than were killed by the swords of the Israelites." Joshua 10:11
- God stopped the waters of the Jordan River at flood stage. Joshua 5:1
- God destroyed the walls of Jericho. Joshua 6:20



Isaiah Admonished The Israelites To Remember God's Miracles

"Remember the former things, those of
long ago; I am God, and there is no other;

I am God, and there is none like me...

What I have said, that I will bring about;
what I have planned, that I will
do." Isaiah 46:8-11

688

said,
yourselves

yoke,
receive

close by.

that I have

myself much rest.

The sinful
28 Get instruction with a large amount
of silver,
and you will gain by it much wisdom,
29 May your soul rejoice in the Lord,
and may you not be put to
shame when you praise him,
30 Do your work before the Lord,
time,
and in God's time he will give
you your reward.

THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

son of Amoz,
he saw concerning Judah and
in the days of Uzzi'ah,
Ahaz, and Hezeki'ah, kings of

O heavens, and give ear,
O earth;

the Lord has spoken:
I have I reared and brought up,
they have rebelled against me.
I know its owner,
crib;

your cities are burned with fire,
in your very presence
aliens devour your land;
it is desolate, as overthrown by
aliens.

8 And the daughter of Zion is left
like a booth in a vineyard,
like a lodge in a cucumber field,
like a besieged city.

9 If the LORD of hosts
had not left us a few

God Guides the Course of History



- “He makes nations great, and destroys them; He enlarges nations, and guides them” (Job 12:23-24).
- God “removes kings and raises up kings” and “the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He will” (Daniel 2:21)
- God continues to intervene: We now have peace agreements between Israel, UAE, Bahrain, and soon Oman and others.

God Preserved George Washington So He Consistently Cheated Death

In 1755, during the French and Indian War, then 23-year-old Colonel Washington was an aide to General Braddock marching to capture Fort Duquesne with 1,400 British troops. Near Pittsburgh, they were attacked by a French and Indian force. During the battle, "Braddock was killed and every officer on horseback was shot, *except* Washington."

Washington had two horses shot out from under him. At least four bullets went through his clothing. Throughout the French and Indian War, he had dysentery, making him sit more upright in the saddle and a very good target.





No Weapon Formed Against Him Ever Prospered

In a letter to his brother, then Colonel Washington wrote, "But by the All-Powerful Dispensations of Providence, I have been protected beyond all human probability or expectation; for I had four bullets through my coat, and two horses shot under me, yet escaped unhurt, although death was leveling my companions on every side of me."

A Native American who fought in the battle later was quoted as saying, "Washington was never born to be killed by a bullet! I had seventeen fair fires at him with my rifle and after all could not bring him to the ground" (*Miracles in American History*, Federer, pp. 17–19).

During the 1777 Battle of Princeton, Washington rode on his horse 90 feet from the British troops as bullets whizzed around him. When his troops expressed worries about him getting shot, he simply said, "parade with me my fine fellows, we will have them soon!"

He also couldn't be killed by disease while young. He survived tuberculosis, dysentery, pneumonia, malaria, smallpox, and diphtheria. Most people died from just one. Not only did he survive, he learned how to inoculate his troops against smallpox. He died in bed at age 67.

Early Spring 1776

The Boston Hurricane

With the British in control of Boston, Washington ordered cannons brought through the snow from Fort Ticonderoga (some 300 miles away) to fortify Dorchester Heights overlooking Boston harbor.

Attempting to stop Washington, British General Howe ordered an amphibious assault on the American position.

God Intervened:

"the night before the assault was to begin, "a hurrycane or terrible storm... a southeaster of gale proportions" hit the Boston area and disrupted Howe's plans, so he called off his attack on the American position due to "the badness of the weather." As a result of the sudden storm and the strength of the American position commanding movement in and out of Boston harbor, General Howe ordered the British troops to evacuate Boston" (*The Weather Factor*, Ludlum, pp. 33–34).

Washington again wrote to his brother, "this remarkable Interposition of Providence is for some wise purpose, I have not a doubt" (*Miracles in American History*, p. 41).



A South-East View of the CITY of BOSTON in N

Summer 1776

The 3 Miracles of the Battle of Long Island

General Howe with 30,000 trained soldiers, has Washington's fledgling and inferior force of 8,000 backed up against the raging East River in the midst of a torrential downpour.

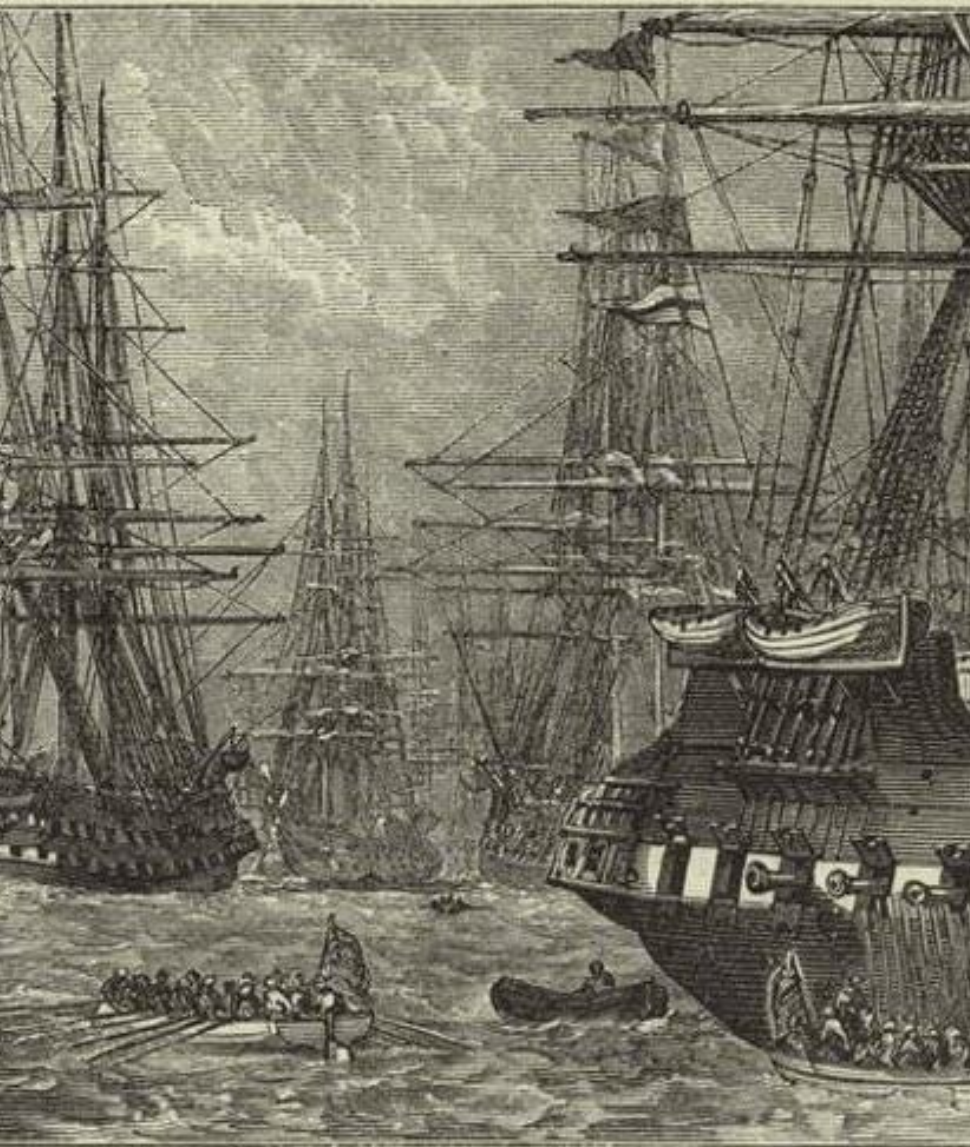
- Miracle 1 - Instead of attacking, Howe decides to wait one day.

Washington called for a prayer meeting.

- Miracle 2 - Suddenly, at 11 pm the storm abated and the wind died down. The rain stopped. The East River was "as smooth as glass". The troops started crossing and a gentle breeze came up behind them to push them along. Even with this miracle, they knew it would still be impossible to get all the troops across to Manhattan Island before daybreak.
- Miracle 3 - just before daybreak, thick fog draped over them, hiding them from British troops. When the fog lifted British commander Howe was shocked. Washington's troops had escaped.



THE BATTLE OF LONG ISLAND.



THE BRITISH FLEET IN THE LOWER BAY.

HM AUG

Universal Agreement: Saved by the Hand of God

- One American soldier wrote, “Providentially for us, a great fog arose, which prevented the enemy from seeing our retreat” (*The Weather Factor*, pp. 36–37).
- The outcome of this battle has been described as “so astonishing that many (including General Washington) attributed the safe retreat of the American army to the hand of God” (*America’s Providential History*, Mark A. Beliles & Stephen K. McDowell, pp. 158–161).
- If the wind, rain, and the fog—termed the “heavenly messenger”—had not intervened for the Americans, they would have been captured, Washington would have been hanged, and the Revolution would have come to an early end.

God's Intervention in The Christmas Miracle of 1776

December of 1776, with morale low and the American Army dwindling to about 2,000 at Valley Forge, Washington decided to cross the ice-filled Delaware River and launch a surprise attack on the British in Trenton, New Jersey.

The Americans attacked at sunrise on December 26 during a driving snow storm, with the wind at their backs and blowing into the faces of the mercenary Hessian troops, who had been celebrating Christmas the day before. In less than an hour, the Americans captured nearly a thousand Hessians and lost only a few men.

God Again Protected General Washington

Crossing the Delaware was far more dangerous than you might think. Giant chunks of ice were in the dark water that night and each threatened to overturn the longboats.

Washington set out with three boats to make the crossing, and only his made it.

Falling into the water likely meant a slow, freezing death for any Continental, even if they managed to get out of it.

Two Continental soldiers who survived the crossing stopped to rest by the side of the road and were frozen by morning.

Artillery officer, Henry Knox wrote: “Providence seemed to have smiled on every part of this enterprise” (*America’s Providential History*, pp. 161–162).



Summer, 1777

The Miracle Rain That Turned the Tide of War

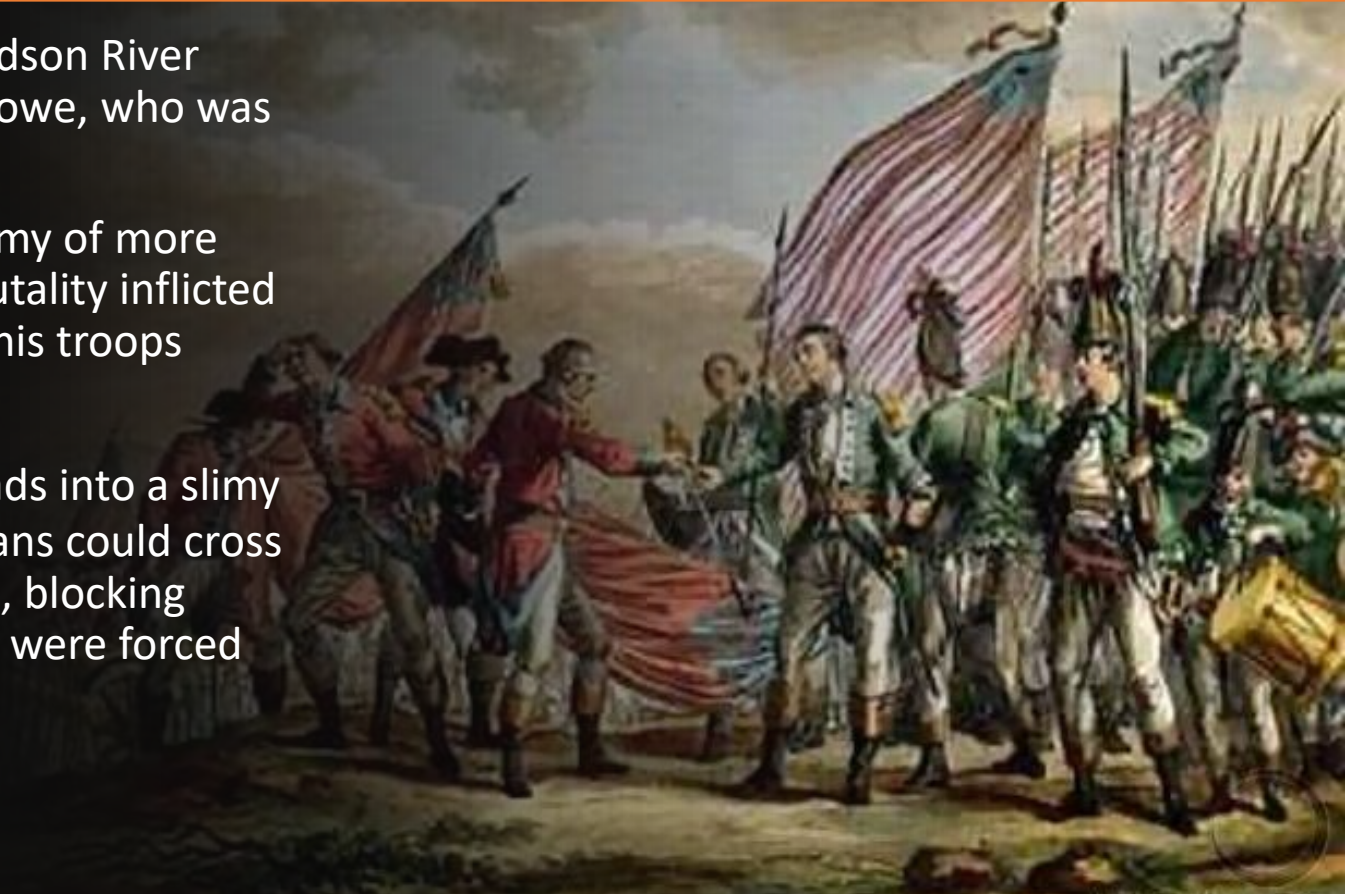


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British General John Burgoyne marched down the Hudson River Valley from Canada with 7,000 men to join General Howe, who was supposed to be marching north to Albany, New York.

However, Burgoyne was stopped at Saratoga by an army of more than 15,000 Americans, who were angered by the brutality inflicted by Burgoyne's Native American allies. Burgoyne and his troops began a retreat.

A sudden massive rainstorm turned the roads into a slimy bog, forcing them to slow enough so that the Americans could cross the Hudson ahead of them and attack from the south, blocking Burgoyne's escape. Burgoyne and 6,000 of his troops were forced to surrender.



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With Help from "Contrary Winds"

"**Contrary winds**" stopped General Howe from bringing reinforcements and supplies from England up the Hudson for three months.

The defeat of one of Burgoyne - who was one of Britain's best generals in North America - by colonials was a shock to London, but it was viewed as a "miracle" in Paris—as it was a turning point in the Revolutionary War that brought France into the conflict on the side of the Americans (*50 Battles that Changed the World*, William Weir, pp. 55–59).

General Washington wrote, "I most devoutly congratulate my country, and every well-wisher to the cause, on this signal stroke of Providence,"

Roger Sherman, a signer of the Declaration of Independence wrote, "This is the Lord's doing, and marvelous in our eyes" (*Miracles in American History*, pp. 55–57).





Fall of 1780

God Breaks Up a Conspiracy

General Benedict Arnold had been the underappreciated hero of the Battle of Saratoga. Arnold's wife was a loyalist and his go between to the British.

Prideful and disillusioned, he worked with the British to give them the American garrison at West Point in return for 20,000 pounds (several million dollars in today's money) and high ranking in the British army). His accomplice was Major John Andre, head of the British Secret Service in America. Andre, dressed as a civilian, was trying to return to the British lines when he was captured. He mistook Colonial sentries for British soldiers. Hidden in his stocking were maps of West Point and the plan of attack in Arnold's handwriting.

Arnold was warned in time to escape to England, where he lived out his life. Andre was hung as a spy.

Washington Would Have Been Captured

Throughout the colonies, the surprise capture of Major Andre and discovery of Arnold's treachery were universally seen as an act of "Divine Protection" (*America's Providential History*, pp. 163ff).

Yale President Ezra Stiles wrote in 1783, "A providential miracle detected the conspiracy of Arnold... The body of the American army, then at West Point, with his excellency General Washington himself, were to have been rendered into the hands of the enemy" (*Miracles of American History*, pp. 63



January 1781

The Miracle at the Battle of Cowpens

American General Daniel Morgan defeated an advancing British force under General Cornwallis at the Battle of Cowpens in South Carolina in what has been called a “tactical masterpiece and turning point of the war” (*Miracles in American History*, p. 67).

After the battle, Morgan retreated north, chased by the British.

The British reinforcements were stopped by the sudden change in the weather.



God Sent a Torrential Downpour

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Cornwallis reached the Catawba River only hours after the Americans had crossed, “but a sudden storm made the river impassable... the British nearly overtook the Americans at the Yadkin River, but again rains flooded the river slowing the British” and “another flash flood blocked the British” at the Dan River—allowing the Americans to cross into friendly territory in Virginia.

British General Henry Clinton described these events as follows: “Here the royal Army was again stopped by a sudden rise of the waters, which had only just fallen (almost miraculously) to let the enemy over” (*ibid.*, pp. 67–68).

George Washington wrote in March of 1781, “We have abundant reasons to thank Providence for its many favorable interpositions in our behalf. It has at times been my only dependence, for all other resources seemed to have failed us” (*ibid.*, p. 69).

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October 1781

The Miracle of the "Shifting Winds"

French and British fleets fought in the Atlantic east of Chesapeake Bay. The "shifting winds" prolonged the battle sufficiently that another squadron of French ships with troops and supplies were able slip into Chesapeake Bay blocking Cornwallis from receiving desperately needed supplies from the British ships. 17,000 French and American troops surrounded him in Yorktown.

Cornwallis attempted a nighttime breakout by starting to ferry his regular troops across the York River as Washington had done in Long Island. One group of soldiers made it across.

Yet more of a miracle: the French fleet arrived at exactly the right moment to delay the British and bring supplies and reinforcements to General Washington.



God Sent Another Storm

- The British escape plan was stymied when a sudden and severe rain squall blew the second contingent of soldiers downriver, leaving Cornwallis with a much-reduced force.
- This sudden “adverse turn of the weather completely disrupted the attempted breakout” and as a British colonel commented, “Thus expired the last hope of the British army” (*The Weather Factor*, pp. 59–64).
- Cornwallis surrendered the next day—while a British military band played “The World Turned Upside Down.” The American victory at Yorktown has been called one of the most influential battles in history, as it ended an eight-year struggle for independence and launched America on a path to becoming a world power (*The Battle 100*, Michael Lee Lanning, pp. 1–4)—and it was aided by a sudden and dramatic change in the weather.



Everyone Knew It Was God Who Won the War

After the Battle of Yorktown, Yale President Ezra Stiles wrote, “Who but God could have ordained the critical arrival of the Gallic (French) fleet, so as to... assist... in the siege of Yorktown?”

George Washington later wrote, “it will not be believed that such a force as Great Britain has employed for eight years in this country could be baffled in their plan of subjugating it... The singular interpositions of Providence in our feeble condition were such, as could scarcely escape the attention of the most unobserving, while the perseverance of the Armies of the United States, through almost every possible suffering and discouragement for the space of eight long years was little short of a standing miracle” (*Miracles in American History*, pp. 71–72)



God Controlled the Weather that Saved the Nation

One day Jesus said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side of the lake." So they got into a boat and set out. As they sailed, he fell asleep. A squall came down on the lake, so that the boat was being swamped, and they were in great danger.

The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we're going to drown!"

They came to Jesus and woke Him up, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!"

And He got up and rebuked the wind and the surging waves, and they stopped, and it became calm. And He said to them, "Where is your faith?" They were fearful and amazed, saying to one another, "Who then is this, that He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey Him?" Luke 8:24-25



