

Overcoming the Impossible

American Miracles



Will Rogers

I don't make jokes. I just
watch the government
and report the facts.

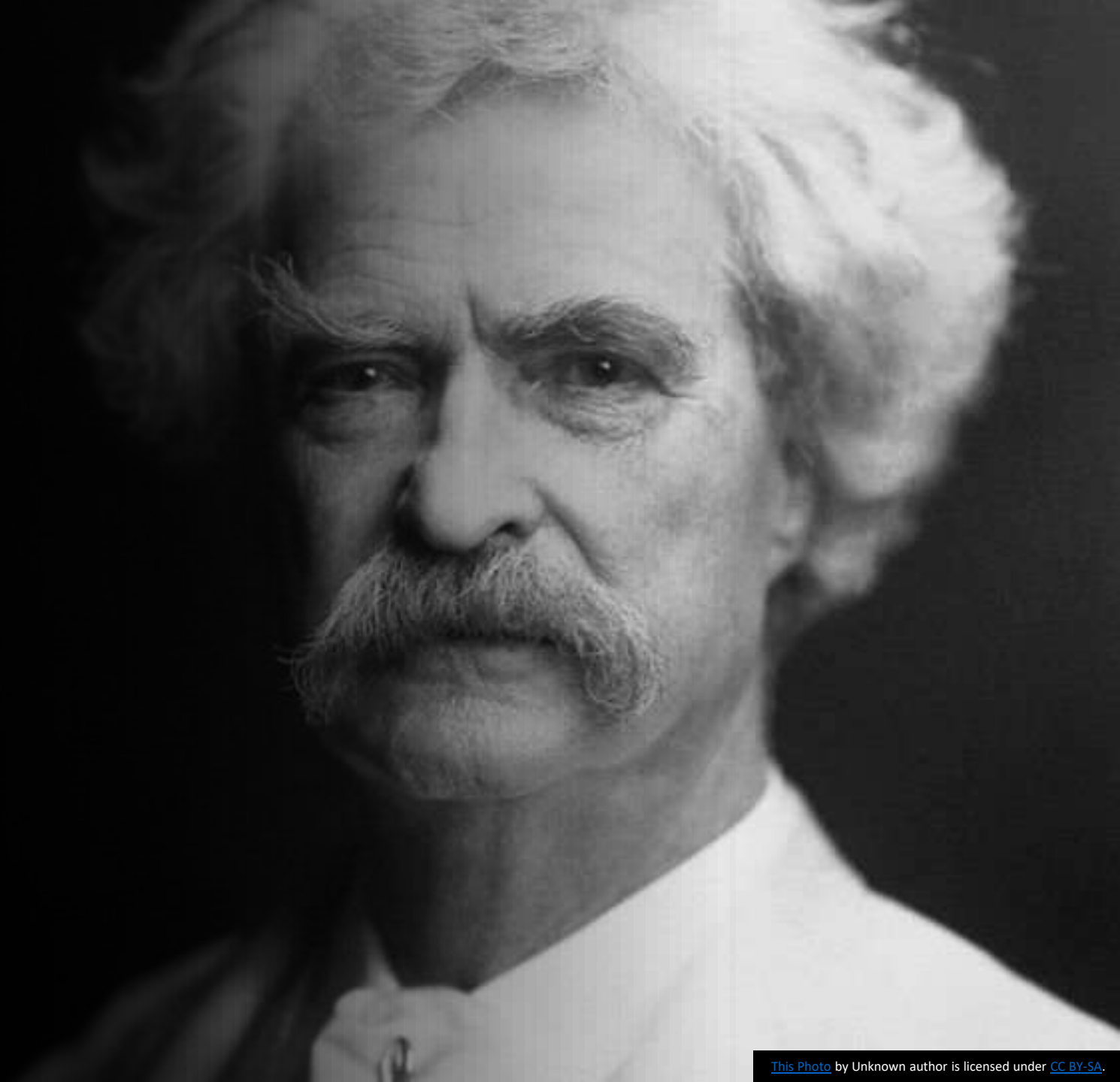




Mark Twain

There is no distinctly
native American criminal
class...except Congress.

Suppose you were an
idiot. And suppose you
were a member of
Congress. But then I
repeat myself.





Unfortunately,
The Current
Situation is No Joke



It May be Overwhelming, But God Does the Impossible:

- Jesus spoke and said:
- It is more difficult for a rich man to get into heaven than for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle.
- With man, this is impossible, but with God, all things are possible.
- God uses the weak things of this world to confound the wise



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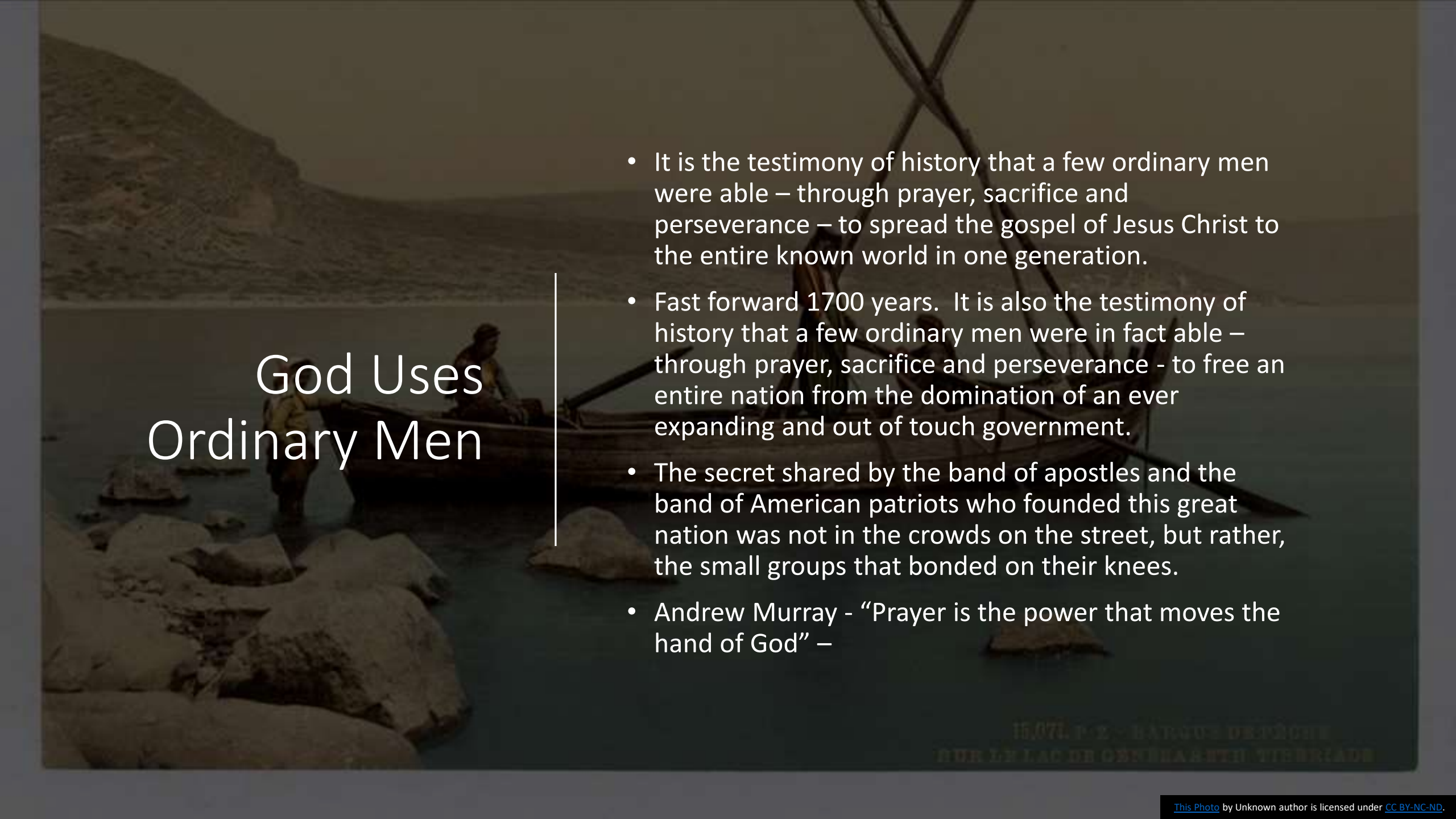
THE BOLDNESS OF PETER AND JOHN.

Acts 4: 1-14.

THERE IS NONE OTHER NAME UNDER HEAVEN GIVEN
AMONG MEN, WHEREBY WE CAN BE SAVED.

How God Saved Israel

- A young boy named David kills a great warrior with his slingshot.
- A baby named Moses becomes a great leader
- A few fishermen confound the religious leaders
- Acts 4:13 – “when they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.”
- Peter and John and the apostles: **Ordinary men who made an Extraordinary Difference.** The men who Jesus selected were just guys. Guys you would be happy to go fishing with, play a pickup game of softball with, got to a football game with. Guys who carried swords then and would be hunters today. Guys who were used to sleeping under the stars. Men’s men. Not rocket scientists or professors. Just ordinary guys. When they came to capture Jesus, Peter is the guy who took out his sword and lopped off a guy’s ear. But these ordinary guys went out and turned the world upside down.



God Uses Ordinary Men

- It is the testimony of history that a few ordinary men were able – through prayer, sacrifice and perseverance – to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ to the entire known world in one generation.
- Fast forward 1700 years. It is also the testimony of history that a few ordinary men were in fact able – through prayer, sacrifice and perseverance - to free an entire nation from the domination of an ever expanding and out of touch government.
- The secret shared by the band of apostles and the band of American patriots who founded this great nation was not in the crowds on the street, but rather, the small groups that bonded on their knees.
- Andrew Murray - “Prayer is the power that moves the hand of God” –

18,071 P. 2. BARQUE DE PÊCHE
SUR LE LAC DE OMBREANTH, TIERRA DE

Courageous Men and Women of Prayer

- We live in a time in the life of America, when the hour cries out for ordinary men and women who can trust God to work through them to do extraordinary things. A time for courageous prayer. Peter's courage came because of his dependence on God. A few verses prior 4:8 we read: Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to Sanhedrin and his captors, "rulers and elders of the people... Know this.. It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you today."
- Prayer – filled with the Holy Spirit – that's the key.



And on May 16, 1776,
the Continental
Congress appointed
an official national day
of fasting and prayer for
the colonies: The
Declaration of
Independence was
composed and America
was founded as a result
of this prayer.

56 men made a pledge to one another and
to God to live or die to free this nation when
they signed the declaration of
Independence:

"For the support of this declaration, **with
firm reliance on the protection of the divine
providence**, we mutually pledge to each
other, our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred
honor." They made the revolutionary
statement that "governments are instituted
among men, deriving their just powers from
the consent of the governed".

Divine Right of Kings

Before these men, power always came from might. Kings were thought to be established by God. So the declaration of Independence is an appeal to God defending the righteousness of their actions in casting off the bonds of the king: "All men are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, amongst which are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." Therefore, King George had no right to take these God given rights away.

Prayer was the power that moved the hand of God to protect and empower the Colonial Army of George Washington to defeat a far superior foe.



The Battle of Long Island



- British commander William Howe was moving 30,000 Veteran British soldiers to take NY. Gen. George Washington only had 18,000 inexperienced troops on Long Island. It was 1776, the very beginning of the revolution.
- Howe's troops easily outflanked Washington. Washington quickly lost 1,000 men and two top Generals. His troops were discouraged.

Divine Intervention

- Without any reason, the British halted their troops. Had they kept on pressing, they would have surely destroyed Washington and his army. The war would have been over before it had really gotten underway.
- Yet Washington's troops were still trapped on Long Island. The only route of escape was across the treacherous East river, but British warships patrolled the waters. Making matters worse, the weather was very stormy and the river seemed impossible to cross.



Gentlemen, Let Us Pray

- Washington ***called for a prayer meeting*** to ask for God's guidance and help. After praying, he decided to attempt to cross the East River.





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God Intervenes a Second Time

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.

God Intervenes a Third Time

- Then another small miracle: just before daybreak, thick fog draped over them, hiding them from British troops.
- When fog lifted British commander Howe was shocked. Washington's troops had escaped. God had miraculously preserved the rag tag colonial army.
- Washington and his men viewed this as a direct answer to their prayer.



Prayer for Guidance

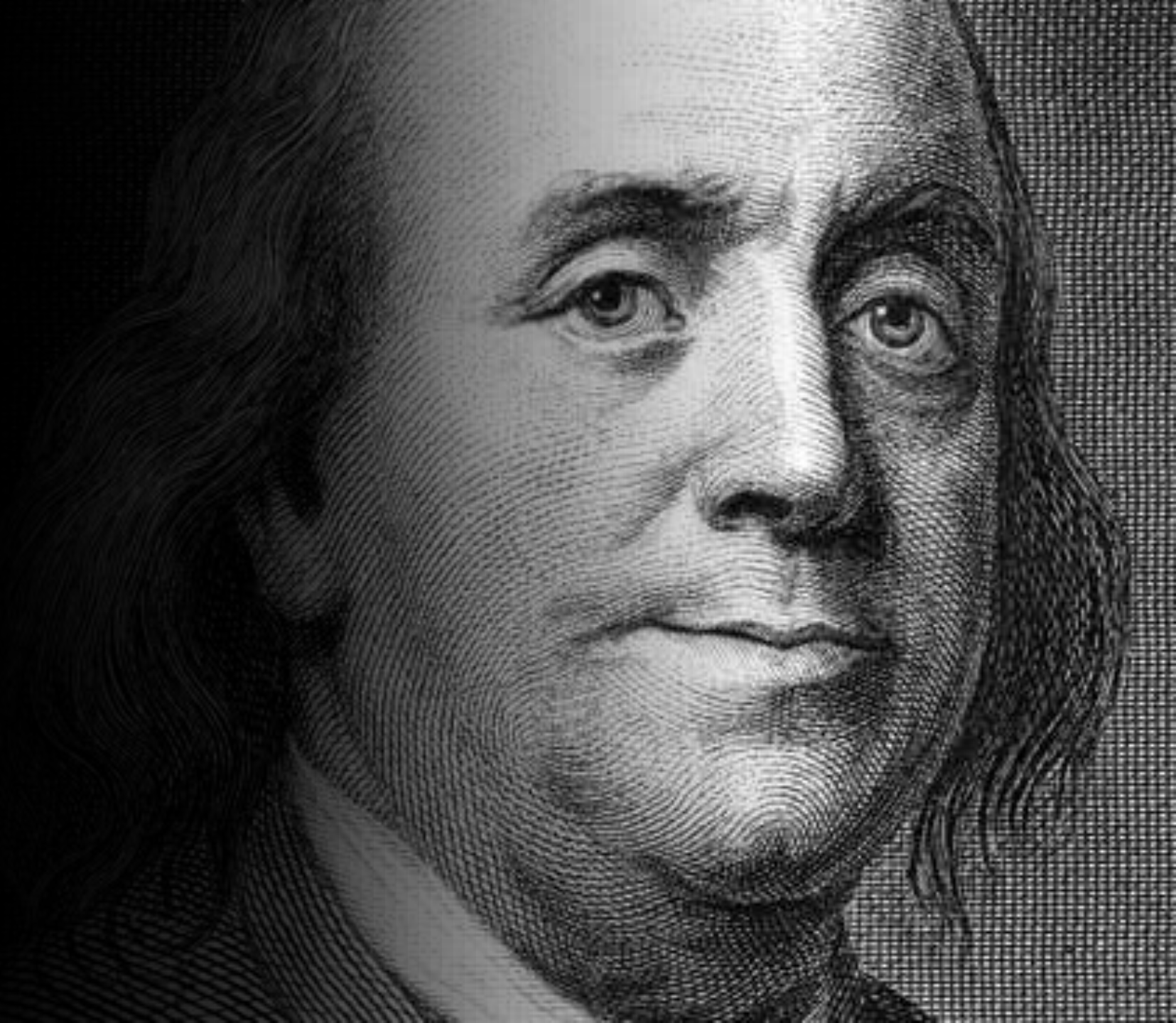
- After Cornwallis surrendered and the founding fathers were victorious over the British, and King George's tyranny was ended, these ordinary men embarked on a noble experiment: the creation of a government ***without*** a king. A government in which the ***people*** would rule themselves. It had never been done before. But **they** didn't know how to implement such a government.
- So they again appealed to God. **Thursday, June 28, 1787:** The constitutional convention was deadlocked with partisanship. This time it was Ben Franklin who called them to pray.





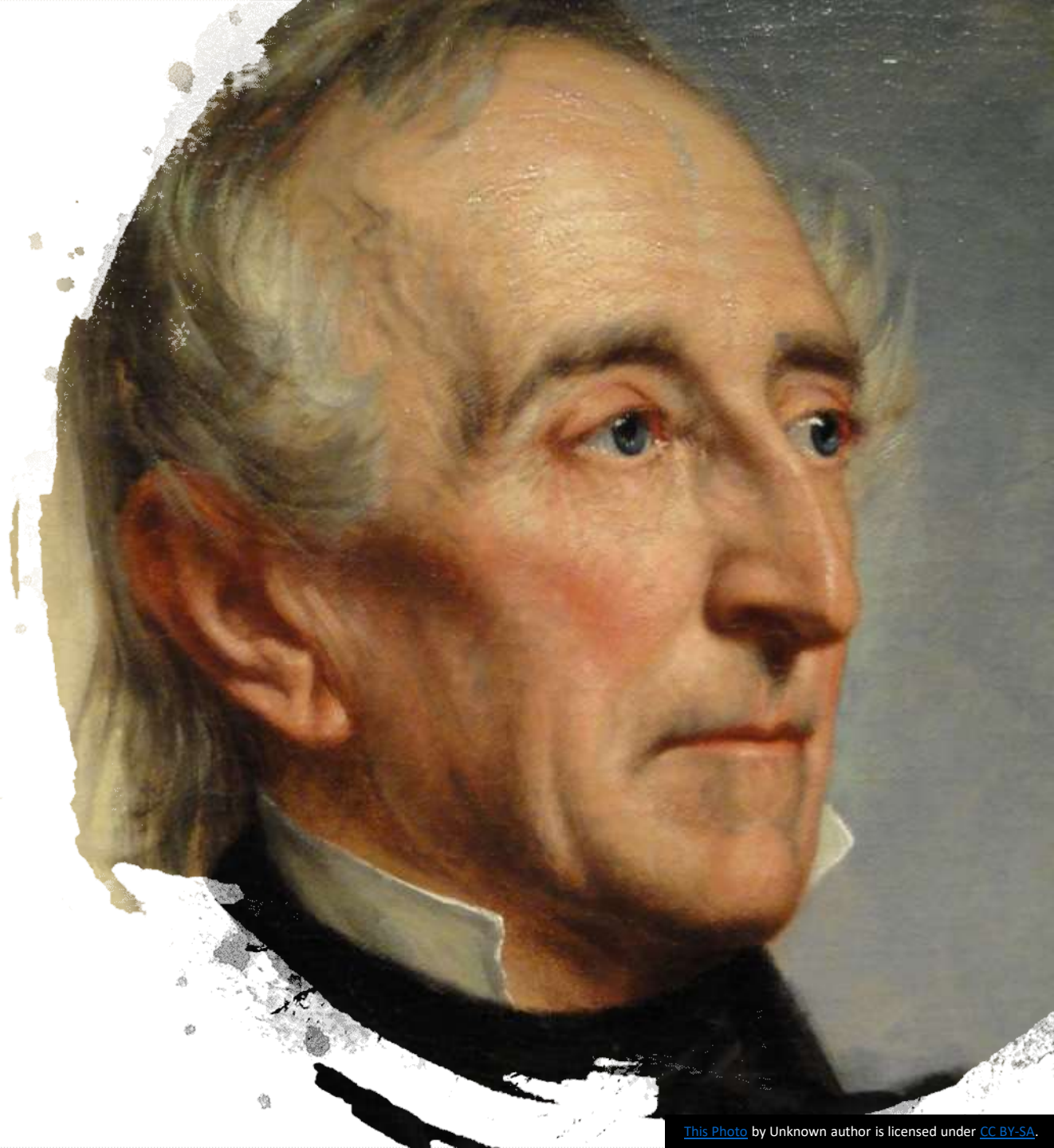
Franklin's Call to Prayer

- Ben Franklin at 81 stood up and said: “God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His Aid?” He then called for prayer.
- *Prayers opened all subsequent meetings of the convention and both houses of Congress ever since.*



Warning Against a Republic

Alexander Fraser Tytler in 1770 warned: "A democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of government. It can only exist until a majority of voters discover that they can vote themselves generous gifts out of the public treasury. From that moment on, the majority always vote for the candidates who promise the most benefits from the public treasury."



Tytler Cycle

- From Faith
- To Courage
- To Liberty
- To Abundance
- To Selfishness
- To Complacency
- To Apathy
- To Dependence
- To Bondage
- Back to Faith



Madison's Response

- Our founders understood this concern. They believed the antidote was for the populace to depend on God rather than the government. And they were convinced the way to do that was through the teaching of core Christian principles.
 - “We have staked the whole future of American civilization, not on the power of government, far from it. We have staked the future of all of our political institutions upon the capacity of mankind for self-government; upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves, to control ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God.”
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And Now Most People Pray to the Government First

- Tyler's fears are coming to pass. Free healthcare, free college, reparations, free everything.
- We pray to the government to bail us out. Oh Mr. President, give me a job. Oh Mr. Congressman, oh Mr. Senator, please get those jobs back from India. Oh please heal me. Oh please keep me from getting Covid. Oh please bail me out of my personal debt on my house. Oh please force my employer to keep me.
- And so we now have a state that wants to be God. We have a god state. The only problem is: you need to be omnipotent to be God and the federal government does not have the power to pull it off. They will run out of money. And the massive amount of money they are borrowing and printing will enslave and indebt our children for generations to come.





What Should We Do?

- Ultimately, we are the government. So it is time to start governing. Work as you have never worked before to get people elected who represent what is good and decent and right – men and women of integrity. Run for office, locally and nationally. And let us pray for our leaders and our country at this dark time, when the very future of our way of life is threatened, both from outside invaders and misguided leaders. The moral capital of past generations has dissipated. It is we who must make a new deposit and restore our nation to fulfill the founding fathers' dream.

1857

Revival in New York City



- The United States was in spiritual, political, and economic decline. Many people were disillusioned with spiritual things because of preachers who had repeatedly predicted the end of the world in the 1840's. Disagreement on slavery was breeding political unrest, and civil war seemed near
- September 23, 1857 in New York City, businessman Jeremiah Lanphier posted a notice on his shop window on Fulton Street, in downtown Manhattan, urging people to join him to pray for revival every noon time. 6 people showed up. The prayer meetings spread across the entire country. In 1858 the revival started and continued throughout the civil war.

The



World

EDITORIAL SECTION

NEW YORK, OCTOBER 11, 1857

IN THE SECTION

AFTERMATH OF A STOCK MARKET CRASH

The Crash of October, 1857

- The Bank of Philadelphia failed.
- Financial panic hit.
- 40 People showed up at the prayer meeting
- Banks failed, railroads went bankrupt, factories closed, unemployment increased massively.
- On October 10, the stock market crashed.
- Suddenly people were flocking to the prayer meetings. Within six months 10,000 people were gathering daily for prayer in New York City alone.

Prayer Meetings Spread to Other Cities

- Chicago, the Metropolitan Theater was filled every day with 2,000 praying people.
- Louisville, several thousand came to the Masonic Temple for prayer each morning.
- Cleveland, 2,000 assembled for daily prayer
- St. Louis, churches were filled for months at a time.
- In many places tents were set up for prayer.
- The newly formed YMCA also played an important role in holding prayer meetings and spreading the revival throughout the country.



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The Media Took Notice

- In February, 1858, Gordon Bennett of the *New York Herald* gave extensive coverage to the prayer revival.
- In April, 1858, the *New York Tribune* devoted an entire issue in to news of the revival.
- News of the revival traveled west by telegraph.
- A Man returning by train from Chicago to New York reported: "there was a meeting praying for revival at every stop of the train".

A Simple Formula that Spread Worldwide

- Lay people, not church leaders led.
- Prayer, not preaching, was the main focus.
- Meetings were informal -- any person might pray, speak, lead in a song, or give a word of testimony, with a five minute limit placed on each speaker.
- Thus the small prayer meeting of Jeremy Lanphier led to the Third Great Awakening.
- The revival spread to Ireland, Scotland, Wales, England, Europe, South Africa, India, Australia, and the Pacific islands.



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Now is the Appointed Time



- And now I am calling you to pray. We need to batter down the doors of heaven with our prayer. We need to march and make noise and openly call upon the God of heaven. He has said clearly, “If my people, who are called by my name, shall humble themselves and pray and confess their sin and turn from their wicked ways, I will forgive their sin, and heal their land.”(2 Chron 7:14)