

Is the sun setting on the Republic?

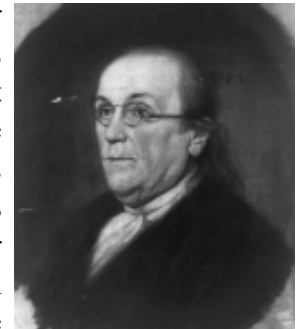


At the conclusion of the Constitutional Convention, Benjamin Franklin commenting on the painting of the sun on the back of Washington's chair said, "I have often in the course of the session ... looked at that sun behind the President without being able to tell whether it was rising or setting. But now at length I have the happiness to know it is a rising and not a setting sun." The sun was indeed rising on the new Republic; because, She had God's blessing and assistance behind her.

When work at the convention had come to a complete standstill, Franklin (one of the least religious) stood requesting the addition of daily prayer. He said, "All of us who were engaged in the struggle [Revolutionary War] must have observed frequent instances of a superintending providence [God] in our favor. . . . And have we now forgotten that powerful friend? Or do we imagine that we no longer need His assistance? . . . without His concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel."

As Franklin emerged from Independence Hall the final day of the convention, he was asked by a woman, "Mr. Franklin what have you given us?" He responded, "A Republic, Madam, if you can keep it." But have we kept it?

What would Benjamin Franklin say today, if he could sit in Congress? Rather than statesman driven by moral Biblical principles, he would see many politicians driven by power and greed. He would see many with a sworn oath to God, to "support and defend the Constitution" with disdain for both God and Constitution. Worse, he would witness politicians working to undermine the very document fellow Founders spent weeks laboring on that hot Philadelphia summer. The document John Adams said was "the greatest single effort of national deliberation that the world has ever seen." He would be grieved to know it is now unread by most Americans. Franklin would be dismayed to see a society largely lacking in manners, piety and virtue. He could only conclude the sun was now setting on the Republic.



Washington said that "It is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor." The Founding Fathers understood that divine blessings and protection could not be expected for a nation that does not acknowledge God, His laws and providence. While God and His laws still remain in hearts and minds of some Americans, too many have substituted atheistic humanism as their truth and foundation of government. Our political buildings today have become towers of Babel. As Franklin voiced at the convention, it is "In the sacred writings that, except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it."

If we hope to survive as a Republic, we must elect men and women to office who fear God and understand the biblical basis of law and government." We need to educate our young and adults on their God given rights, so they know when they are violated by conniving politicians and government. Public education "is favorable to Liberty," said Benjamin Rush "Freedom can exist only in the society of knowledge. Without learning, men are incapable of knowing their rights, and to where learning is confined to a few people, liberty can be neither equal our universal." "The only foundation for a useful education in a republic is to be laid in religion. Without this

there can be no virtue, and without virtue there can be no liberty.”

Samuel Adams warned that “The liberties of our country, the freedom of our civil Constitution, are worth defending at all hazards; and it is our duty to defend them against all attacks. We have received them as a fair inheritance from our worthy ancestors: they purchased them for us with toil and danger and expense of treasure and blood, and transmitted them to us with care and diligence. It will bring an everlasting mark of infamy on the present generation, enlightened as it is, if we should suffer them to be wrested from us by violence without a struggle or to be cheated out of them by the artifices of false and designing men.”

We must return back to founding principles and put God in His proper role over our nation, “One Nation Under God.” If we do not, then the light will continue to dim as sun sets on the republic.

Endnotes:

Photo, courtesy of the Library of Congress, <http://lcweb2.loc.gov>

When a people lose their history, they lose a part of who they are.
Reclaim your heritage, pass this on to a friend or family member.

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