

One Nation Under God

The Biblical Foundation of the Constitution of the United States of America

A Study by Bill Fortenberry

My fellow countrymen, in spite of the many thousands of deferences to the Christian God and His Holy Word which our founding fathers etched into the very stones of this great nation, it has been oft and publicly proclaimed that our country was founded on human ingenuity alone and that it was the intent of our fathers that we should continue forever without the aid of Heaven. While the preposterousness of such a claim should be obvious to any student of history, I have had the great misfortune of discovering that many of our citizens have come to accept this colossal deception. It is my eternal hope that the following exposition may forever dispel any trace of these lies from our shores.

In this study, I have attempted to reveal the religious foundations upon which the framework of our nation's Constitution rests. Within the following pages, you will discover that not a single major portion of the supreme law of our land is without biblical precedent; and indeed, the significance of many seemingly minor portions, once viewed in light of their biblical foundation, is immediately increased to a level deserving of their mention in this great document.

Without a doubt, there will be many arguments presented against this conclusion, and I wish here to circumvent one such argument which I believe may prove to be the greatest hindrance to your understanding.

It may, perhaps, be argued that any correlation between the Constitution and the Bible is merely a matter of circumstance; that the two share similarities only because they both provide laws for the governing of a country and that any two such codifications must of necessity have many points in common. In response to this argument, let me challenge the dissenter to produce any other document of law with which our constitution shares as many correlations. He will not be able to do so, for there is no other nation in the history of the world whose government has been so closely fitted to the instructions of God.

Let me further remind the dissenter that the unintentional occurrence of such a correlation would be even stronger evidence of the hand of God in our nation's founding, for which would be the greater power, to persuade men to willingly follow a plan written down for their constant perusal or to cause men to conform to that plan with neither their knowledge nor their consent? The answer is obviously the latter, but in either case the biblical foundation of the Constitution cannot be denied. I have attempted to present it clearly and concisely for all to see, and it is my fervent prayer that it will forever change your understanding of our country's Christian heritage.

1. Article 1, Section 2 – “No person shall be a representative who shall not have attained to the age of twenty five years.” The age limits which the constitution places upon those wishing to obtain government positions is founded upon the wisdom expressed in Ecclesiastes 10:16 and Isaiah 3:4 in which great woe is pronounced against a nation that is ruled by children.
2. Article 1, Section 2 – “No person shall be a representative who shall not have... been seven years a citizen of the United States.” Under this law all members of the House of Representatives

must be American citizens. This concept of limiting government positions solely to the citizens of a country is based on the example of the nation of Israel. In Exodus 18:21 as well as in Deuteronomy 1:13-15, it is stated that the elders of Israel were elected from among the people.

3. Article 1, Section 2 – “The number of representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty thousand.” The Great Compromise which led to the bicameral legislature of America is foreshadowed by Israel’s own bicameral system. In their system, the elders of Israel stood in the place of the House of Representatives and were likewise apportioned according to the populations of the tribes. Deuteronomy 1:15 reveals that the appointment of the elders of Israel was based upon an enumeration of the members of each tribe.
4. Article 1, Section 2 – “The House of Representatives... shall have the sole power of impeachment.” The power of impeachment has been recognized in Israel since the removal of their first king from office as recorded in I Samuel 13:13-14, and that power was implemented on several occasions recorded in the Old Testament in accordance with the statement in Proverbs 16:12 that “it is an abomination to kings to commit wickedness.” The concept of impeachment is also illustrated in the New Testament in that the church had the authority to remove a pastor from office as explained in Galatians 1:9 and I Timothy 5:19-20.
5. Article 1, Section 3 – “The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two senators from each state.” The second house of our bicameral legislature is also based on the example of Israel. Numbers 1:1-16 presents a list of the princes of Israel which were chosen to stand with Moses as representatives of the people. In contrast to the elders of Israel, each tribe had equal representation among the princes.
6. Article 1, Section 3 – “Two senators from each state, chosen by the legislature thereof.” Though this stipulation was later amended to allow a public election of the senators, the original wording of the Constitution finds its source in God’s direct appointment of the princes of Israel in contrast to the election of the elders as explained in Numbers 1:1-16.
7. Article 1, Section 3 – “No person shall be a senator who shall not have attained to the age of thirty years.” The implementation of an age limit upon senators also has its origin in the pronouncements of Ecclesiastes 10:16 and Isaiah 3:4.
8. Article 1, Section 3 – “No person shall be a senator who shall not have... been nine years a citizen of the United States.” Membership in the Senate is also limited solely to citizens of the United States. In Numbers 1:4, God explained to Moses that the princes of Israel were to be citizens of Israel.
9. Article 1, Section 5 – “Each house shall be the judge of the elections, returns and qualifications of its own members.” Under this section, the members of each house of Congress are declared

immune from the criticism of the other house. This same principle is found in the Scriptures in Paul's question to the Romans. In Romans 14:4 he asks, "Who art thou that judgest another man's servant?" and answers, "to his own master he standeth or falleth."

10. Article 1, Section 5 – "Each house shall keep a journal of its proceedings." This requirement that congress record all legal proceedings is established on the biblical example of the recorders of ancient Israel. These recorders are mentioned in five Old Testament passages, I Samuel 8:16, I Samuel 20:24, I Kings 4:3, II Kings 18:18 and II Chronicles 34:8.
11. Article 1, Section 6 – "The senators and representatives shall receive a compensation for their services." The requirement that government officials be paid for their service to their country is directly founded upon the teachings of Scripture. The command, "Thou shalt not muzzle the ox when he treadeth out the corn," given in Deuteronomy 25:4 is explained in I Corinthians 9:9-14 and I Timothy 5:18 as a command that those who provide a service should receive due compensation for that service.
12. Article 1, Section 6 – "They shall... be privileged from arrest during their attendance at the session of their respective houses." The legal immunity provided to the members of congress is based on the teaching of Christ in Matthew 12:5 that the priests of Israel were provided immunity from the Sabbath laws so that they could perform the duties of their office unhindered.
13. Article 1, Section 6 – "For any speech or debate in either house, they shall not be questioned in any other place." This precursor to the freedom of speech provided in the first amendment is based on the teachings of Solomon in Ecclesiastes 7:21-22 and on the prophecy recorded in Isaiah 29:20-21.
14. Article 1, Section 8 – "Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes." The power of the government to collect taxes has been recognized in the Bible from Joseph's reign in Egypt recorded in Genesis 41 to Christ's instruction to "render unto Caesar the things which are Caesars" in Matthew 22:17-21 and to Paul's command that we "render to all their dues" in Romans 13:7.
15. Article 1, Section 8 – "To establish an uniform rule of naturalization." In accordance with this law, Congress was to provide a single process through which citizenship could be obtained by anyone who wished to become an American. Israel also had a "uniform rule of naturalization" by which any stranger could become a Jew. Their process of naturalization which consisted of circumcision and observance of the Passover is outlined in Exodus 12:48. The Israelites also had a process by which those born in the land would become citizens by birth in the third generation as explained in Deuteronomy 23:7-8. The Church in the New Testament also has a single rule of naturalization for all those who wished to become citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven. That rule which consists only of salvation is outlined in Ephesians 2.

16. Article 1, Section 8 – “To establish... uniform laws on the subject of bankruptcies throughout the United States.” Bankruptcies, like naturalization, are to be governed by a single national law. This was also the case in ancient Israel where all bankruptcies were governed by the law given in Leviticus 25 which established the practice of a year of jubilee.
17. Article 1, Section 8 – “To coin money, regulate the value thereof... and fix the standard of weights and measures.” This law is based on the biblical mandate to have a just weight as given in Leviticus 19:35-36, Deuteronomy 25:13-16 and Proverbs 11:1.
18. Article 1, Section 8 – “To establish... post roads.” The permission given to congress to establish post roads was foreshadowed by God’s commandment that the Israelite government establish highways between the six cities of refuge. This commandment, given in Deuteronomy 19:3, provides a biblical precept for a government funded system of roadways.
19. Article 1, Section 8 – “To promote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries.” The legal basis of America’s copyright system is founded on the biblical teaching that a man should be allowed to live on the fruits of the service which he provides. This principle is explained in I Corinthians 9:9-14 and I Timothy 5:18.
20. Article 1, Section 8 – “To declare war.” The right of governments to declare war is well established in the Bible, and Israel’s right to do so is expressly stated in Numbers 31:3 and Deuteronomy 20:10-12.
21. Article 1, Section 8 – “To... make rules concerning captures on land and water.” This right is also well documented throughout Scripture, but specific instances of its application can be found in Numbers 31:25-31 and I Samuel 3:24.
22. Article 1, Section 8 – “To raise and support armies.” This right stems directly from the right to declare war, and it is founded on God’s instructions to Moses to raise an army from among the Children of Israel in Numbers 31:4-6.
23. Article 1, Section 8 – “To provide for calling forth the militia to execute the laws of the Union.” The power of the government to enforce the law is founded on the explanation given in Romans 13:1-5 that such enforcement is ordained of God for the punishment of evil.
24. Article 1, Section 9 – “The privilege of the writ of habeas corpus shall not be suspended.” The right of habeas corpus has been recognized in the Bible from the oldest of its books, for it is the right which Job wished for and which he was granted when he requested that he be provided

with a daysman to stand between him and the judgment of God as recorded in Job 9:33. That right is repeatedly mentioned throughout the Bible including New Testament references in I Timothy 2:5, Hebrews 7:25 and I John 2:1; and it is the core doctrine of Scripture from which the whole of Revelation emanates.

25. Article 1, Section 9 – “No bill of attainder... shall be passed.” This restriction of legislative power is also founded on the Scriptures, for in Deuteronomy 1:17, the judges in Israel were instructed to “hear the small as well as the great”; an instruction which is oft repeated and which when disregarded marked one as an unjust judge as evidenced in Luke 18.
26. Article 1, Section 9 – “No... ex post facto law shall be passed.” According to the Romans 2:12-15, only those who sin in the law are judged by the law: those who do not have the law cannot be judged thereby. This scriptural doctrine is the foundation of the constitutional restriction against ex post facto laws.
27. Article 1, Section 9 – “No preference shall be given by any regulation of commerce or revenue to the ports of one state over those of another.” This law demanding equality on a state level stems directly from the biblical doctrine of individual equality as referenced in Proverbs 28:21 and James 2:1-9, and it follows the example of the mutual respect shared among the twelve tribes of Israel.
28. Article 1, Section 9 – “A regular statement and account of the receipts and expenditures of all public money shall be published from time to time.” This philosophy of accountability is based on the biblical teaching that we must all give an account for our actions as explained in Romans 14:12, Matthew 18:23, Luke 16:1-8 and I Corinthians 4:2.
29. Article 1, Section 9 – “No title of nobility shall be granted by the United States.” The denial of the nobility in America stems directly from the biblical teaching found in Matthew 23:8-10 and Job 32:21 that we are neither to seek after such titles nor to grant them to others.
30. Article 2, Section 1 – “The electors shall meet in their respective states, and vote by ballot... The person having the greatest number of votes shall be the President.” Our Electoral College system is very similar to the election system established in Israel in many aspects. According to II Samuel 5:3, II Chronicles 23:2-3 and many other passages, the kings of Israel were chosen jointly by the elders of Israel and by the congregation as a whole.
31. Article 2, Section 1 – “No person except a natural born citizen... shall be eligible to the office of President.” The requirement that the President of the United States be a natural born citizen is identical to the biblical mandate recorded in Deuteronomy 17:14 that any King of Israel must also be a natural born citizen of that nation.

32. Article 2, Section 1 – “The President shall, at stated times, receive for his services, a compensation.” The presidential compensation is based on the teaching to not muzzle the ox which treadeth the corn as explained in I Corinthians 9:9-14 and I Timothy 5:18.
33. Article 2, Section 1 – “Before he enter on the execution of his office, he shall take the following oath or affirmation: - ‘I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will... preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.’” The terms of the presidential oath are nearly the same as those outlined for the kings of Israel in Deuteronomy 17:18-20. Those kings, like the President, were required to preserve and protect the law of the land.
34. Article 2, Section 2 – “The President shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States.” The position of Commander in Chief has been long recognized as one of the responsibilities of the head of state, and that recognition is not without mention in the Scriptures. From Moses to Joshua to David, the Bible always places the responsibility of the nation’s armed forces on the shoulders of its leader. This great responsibility was acknowledged publicly in I Samuel 8:20 when the Children of Israel first chose to have a king.
35. Article 2, Section 2 – “He shall nominate, and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls, judges of the Supreme Court, and all other officers of the United States.” The power herein granted to the President to make nominations is founded on a similar practice of kings of Israel as it is evidenced in I Kings 4:1-19.
36. Article 3, Section 1 – “The judicial power of the United States shall be vested in one Supreme Court, and in such inferior courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish.” The judicial system of America is securely established on the biblical model of the courts of Israel as described in Deuteronomy 1:16-17 and Deuteronomy 16:18-20.
37. Article 3, Section 1 – “The Judges, both of the Supreme and inferior courts, shall hold their offices during good behaviour.” The requirement that judges maintain good behavior is based on an identical command given to the judges of Israel in Deuteronomy 16:20.
38. Article 3, Section 1 – “The Judges... shall, at stated times, receive for their services a compensation.” This law establishing payment for our Judges is founded on the biblical teaching of I Corinthians 9:9-14 and I Timothy 5:18.
39. Article 3, Section 2 – “The trial of all crimes, except in cases of impeachment, shall be by jury.” The right to a trial by jury is also predicated on the example of Israel. Israel’s reliance on a jury system can be found in both Numbers 35:24-26 and Joshua 20:6.
40. Article 3, Section 3 – “Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying war against them, or in adhering to their enemies.” This definition of treason was a precursor to the

freedom of speech which was later to be expressly granted by the first amendment. It is based on the teachings of Solomon in Ecclesiastes 7:21-22 and on the prophecy recorded in Isaiah 29:20-21.

41. Article 3, Section 3 – “No person shall be convicted of treason unless on the testimony of two witnesses to the same overt act.” This law is nearly identical to that given by Moses in Deuteronomy 17:6 and Deuteronomy 19:15 which also required the testimony of at least two witnesses for convictions.
42. Article 4, Section 1 – “Full faith and credit shall be given in each state to the public acts, records, and judicial proceedings of every other state.” The full faith and credit clause of the Constitution is based on God’s instruction to Israel to have one manner of law within their borders as explained in Leviticus 24:22 and Exodus 12:49.
43. Article 4, Section 2 – “The citizens of each state shall be entitled to all privileges and immunities of citizens in the several states.” This guarantee of privileges stems directly from an application of the scriptural principle of the body of Christ as explained in I Corinthians 12:12-26.
44. Article 4, Section 2 – “A person charged in any state with treason, felony, or other crime, who shall flee from justice, and be found in another state, shall on demand of the executive authority of the state from which he fled, be delivered up.” This cooperation between states in matters of extradition is founded on the instructions given in Deuteronomy 19:11-12.
45. Article 6 – “All debts contracted and engagements entered into, before the adoption of this Constitution, shall be as valid against the United States under this Constitution.” The decision to honor all the debts accrued under the previous government system was made in recognition of the biblical command given in Ecclesiastes 5:4-5 to “pay that which thou hast vowed.”
46. Article 6 – “The Constitution, and all laws of the United States which shall be made in pursuance thereof... shall be the supreme law of the land.” This recognition of a supreme law of the land is based on the same recognition given by Israel to the Law of God. According to Deuteronomy 4:2, Deuteronomy 17:18-20 and Proverbs 30:6, the Law given by Moses superseded all laws which may be given by men.
47. Article 6 – “No religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States.” As strange as it might sound, the prohibition against the use of a religious test is also founded on the Bible; for in the laws concerning the choosing of a king given in Deuteronomy 17:14-20; in the laws concerning the election of elders given in Deuteronomy 1:13 and Exodus 18:25; in the laws concerning the appointment of the princes given in Numbers 1:1-16; in all the Law of God, there is not one religious test given as a requirement for holding office.

48. Article 7 – “In the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and Eighty seven and of the Independence of the United States of America the Twelfth.” The concluding line of the Constitution of the United States of America contains direct recognition of its Christian foundation, for in this line our founding fathers publicly recognized the Christian God as their Lord. It is often argued that this line is nothing more than the standard dating method of the day, but a recognition of two facts will successfully assuage such empty accusations – first that the dates given in the Barbary treaties demonstrate that reference to the year of our Lord was strictly limited to those nations who considered themselves to be Christian and second that the use of an additional dating system based on our nation’s independence reveals that the founding fathers were not in any way required to use a uniquely Christian dating system.

The preceding points provide proof that the Constitution of the United States of America is in perfect harmony with the religious beliefs of our founding fathers, and indeed the above evidence is necessary to explain certain unusual claims that they have made. Statements such as Jefferson’s declaration that “the Bible is the cornerstone of all liberty,” George Washington’s admission that “it is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible,” and John Adams’ bold claim that “our constitution was made only for a moral and religious people” can only be properly understood in light of the biblical foundation upon which the Constitution was established. Though it is oft hidden from the present generation, this knowledge of the Christianity of the Constitution must be unveiled, for as Benjamin Franklin so eloquently phrased it, only “a nation of well-informed men who have been taught to know the price of rights which God has given them cannot be enslaved.”

The continued ignorance of our children regarding their religious heritage can only produce the fulfillment of the greatest fears of one of our most noble statesmen, Mr. Daniel Webster. I will conclude with his warning of the dark future which our nation now finds near. “If we and our posterity reject religious instruction and authority, violate the rules of eternal justice, trifle with the injunctions of morality, and recklessly destroy the political constitution which holds us together, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us, that shall bury all our glory in profound obscurity.” May his great dread never come to pass, and may our country always remain one nation under God.