

75 June 25, 2022 – America Early to Present

We are taught in school and in history books that Christopher Columbus discovered America and we memorize the poem, “In fourteen hundred ninety-two, Columbus sailed the ocean blue”. Historians, however, give credit to Leif Erickson, a Viking from Norway, who reached the shores of our continent nearly 500 years earlier. He built a settlement in Newfoundland, Canada. There is even some evidence that his father sailed to this area earlier, and that inspired Lief to follow in his footsteps. We like to celebrate the Pilgrims who arrived from England on the Mayflower in 1620 and formed the Plymouth Colony in what is now Massachusetts. But there were many who set foot on our land in the previous century—including Ponce de Leon, Verrazano, Cartier, De Soto, and Drake. There has been much written about black slavery in America, however, the first slave was actually an Indian named Squanto of the Patuxent tribe. In the early 1600s he was kidnaped by the British explorer, George Weymouth, and taken to England, where he learned to speak English and was converted to Christianity. Then he was returned to his native people in America. The Mayflower made its 66-day voyage across the Atlantic with 102 passengers and another 50 crewmen. Upon arrival, since it was bitter cold in November and no settlement had been built, the people remained on board, anchored in the harbor of Cape Cod until springtime. Sadly, there was an outbreak of a contagious disease on the vessel, described as a mixture of scurvy, pneumonia, and tuberculous. When it was over, only 53 of the passengers were alive—and half the crew had died. After the snows finally melted and the Pilgrims disembarked, an Indian came to meet them. They were shocked when he spoke perfect English. Yes, it was Squanto, who became a negotiator with the local Indian tribes and taught the settlers how to plant corn, draw sap from trees, and survive on the land. That fall, they enjoyed their first Thanksgiving meal. These early settlers were religious separatists who journeyed to America for one reason—to discover a land where they could pursue God with freedom and not be under a state-controlled government and the tyranny of England. Later, when America was being formed, William Bradford, governor of the Plymouth Colony, wanted to make Hebrew the official language of this new territory. The early settlers considered themselves “spiritual Jews” who were settling in a new Promised Land. The hand of God was everywhere to form a Republican Democracy so much unlike any other government in past history. The Constitution, Bill of Rights, and Declaration of Independence are so unlike other charters in history that no other Nation has been able to duplicate them. This is because God was in them, and the people were tuned into the Word of God as a living and governing standard.

So what happened to America the land of freedom and the home of the brave. Ezekiel 14:13-14 we read, *“If a country sins against Me by committing unfaithfulness, and I stretch out My hand against it; destroy its supply of bread, send famine against it, and cut off from it both man and beast, even though these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job were in its midst, by their own righteousness they could only deliver themselves, declares the Lord God”*.

Something went wrong with the church of today. The Bible says, *“and MY people who are called by My name humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin, and will heal their land”* (2 Chronicles 7:14). Without question, God wants to pour out His Spirit on America—from the east coast to the west coast, from north to south. The Lord desires to visit our nation again with the greatest revival the world has ever seen. But America may never see widespread revival instead concentrated to real Christian believing, praying, and worshipping congregations. The forces of evil have been so focused by government and politicians that even the core of the United States of America and its founding principles are being overturned. The outstretched hand

of the Lord to the world that is reaching out toward the church may only touch the few that really know Him. The reason is because we have grown far too comfortable and complacent in our darkness. We live like the world lives; we talk like the world talks; we walk like the world walks; we see and watch the same things that the world sees. We are much too familiar and “at home” in the night that surrounds us. We know there is danger in the darkness, yet we will not come into the light. The Apostle Paul saw these days approaching when he wrote, “*But the Spirit explicitly says that in latter times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons*” (1 Timothy 4:1). In other words, darkness has come into the church. God has never had a problem with the carnal world; but He certainly has a problem with His church. We are far too contented in our present state. We need to stop and ask once more, “*Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and, or what fellowship has light with darkness?*” (2 Corinthians 6:14). We are called to be the light of the world, a city that is set on a hill (Matthew 5:14). People everywhere should know who we are because of our shining witness. The problem, however, is that the body of Christ is asleep—and the light’s not on! We are still playing church, going through the motions and rituals. We may have moments of emotion, but the light of the glory of God is not brightly shining. How will we ever see revival if we behave cowardly in the midst of danger. When one atheistic woman was able to rid our schools of prayer and Bible reading, where was the church? When the Supreme Court was allowed to legalize abortion on demand and not recognize marriage can only be between a man and woman where was the church? On June 24, 2022, the Supreme Court finally overturned the Federal abortion act that has killed upwards of 67,000,000 babies. Now it needs to go after the injustice of the Federal Law that destroyed marriage as between a man and a woman – but Wo God is still and will ever be on the throne. In the midst of the charismatic renewal or in the opportunity for revival after 9/11 in 2001, we were too busy to stand up and be counted. Where are the believers when politicians prosecute our money, when there are perverts in our pulpits, when our government is erasing the name of God from our institutions? The church is not standing up because we are cowards. We are “yellow” from head to tail. It is time for a good dose of courage to be stirred up in our souls; something that rises within us which boldly says, “I know there is danger knocking at the door, but devil, if you think you’re getting what’s in my house, forget it! I’ll come out and fight you if that’s what you want, but I am not going to be a coward in the midst of danger.” SOMETHING MUST CHANGE”. Another reason America may fail in revival is because our concern is totally displaced. We do not have a passion for the presence of God. Let’s be honest and quit deceiving ourselves. If we enter the sanctuary and the lights, the atmosphere, or the music are not just to our liking, we can’t seem to worship. If the pastor doesn’t tickle our ears, we’ll find another church to attend. We will flee from truth and run to error because **we don’t want to hear somebody tell it like it is** and declare what is required for revival. Why is this happening? Because our concern is displaced. We want our needs served—someone to turn down our sheets, fluff our pillow, shine our shoes, and make our cup of coffee! Something has to drastically change in the church. Instead of our personal comfort, we should be focused on welcoming the presence of the Ancient of Days—the Great I AM—God Almighty. If we are truly concerned, we would say with David, “*I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord’*” (Psalm 122:1). Far too many enter God’s house grumbling and complaining, thinking only of themselves instead of the King of Glory. America may never see revival because we are comatose in our duty. The church of Jesus Christ is asleep. It is time for us to arise and awaken from our slumber, to shake ourselves and let God use us as an instrument in the earth.

Inspired from the book “Last Days of America”.

