

American History (*Why We Teach This*)

Acts 17:26-27 — “From one ancestor He made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for Him and find Him — though indeed He is not far from each one of us.” Gen 12:1-3 — “Now the Lord said to Abram, ‘Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’” He is looking to share His work on the earth with man. He wants man to be lifted up to be like His Son.

Acts 17:26-27 — Each nation is set up so individuals will seek Him.

Gen 12:1-3:

- a. A person goes to a strange land to obey Him. (This is normal.) Our Father’s focus is the twelve tribes.
- b. Our presence in society will cause people to be blessed or cursed according to how they treat us. Every nation will be judged on how they treat Abraham’s seed.
- c. “All the families” — Abraham’s seed will be the twelve tribes.

History

1787 — The men in Philadelphia recognized that America was untapped and had to be organized. They knew it was a chance for a new beginning. This was a once-in-a-lifetime chance to make it—the break. Old Israel and the USA were created by the spoken word — in the Old Testament it was the ten commandments and in the US it was in Philadelphia — created by spoken words. The fallen nature, though prevented this new beginning from becoming the Kingdom. They saw the hope that they could do something for the betterment of mankind, but the problem of sin in man’s heart remained. The Constitution starts with “We the People.” This was a radical break. Up to then, there were basically three kinds of government:

7602274. Monarchy — Had king and church (the most stable).

2. Aristocracy — group of ruling families.

3. Democracy — people meet and rule (least stable).

Man must live by his own sweat of his brow. Pr 29:14 — “If a king judges the poor with equity, his throne will be established forever.” The founders of the USA were aware of these three forms of government.

Adams proposed to combine all three. Adams wanted:

- a. Congress elected by the people to make the laws. He wanted to combine aristocracy and democracy.
- b. Executive/President — monarchy. This man has economic power.
- c. Judicial — Make sure the government is lawful. Independent judges to judge the President and Congress.

This is the lasting legacy of the founders. They hoped that even if the President and Congress got out of control the judges could always go back to the Constitution to correct the problem. They wanted the President to be elected by the electoral college. They felt the people as a whole couldn’t choose a good President. They wanted the people to vote delegates to this electoral college, men of discernment would choose the President. This was changed by the party system, which tried to control the electoral college. The founders had a suspicion of democracy.

Congress had the Senate. Each state chose who would be in the Senate. This was the aristocracy, chosen

by the states. The House of Representatives was from the democracy. They were chosen by the popular vote. The senate is the more powerful; all states have two votes. The house is by population. The founders had no faith in the people to rule the country justly. The President was originally supposed to rule over public order, health, and safety, but now the scope of his job has increased greatly. The intention of this was that congress makes laws and the President enforces them and issues executive orders to enforce them.

Preamble of the Constitution

d. The founders were looking for a strong national government depending upon the people forming a more perfect union. They wanted one standard of law based on the external laws of justice. They wanted people to have confidence to find justice in the American system.

e. They wanted a just court system.

f. Insured domestic tranquility.

g. Promote general welfare.

h. Secure the blessings of liberty for them and all generations. (This freed men to be different from the mold of Europe.)

i. Provide for the common defense.

Philosophy of American Government (society)

7602277. Man is fallen.

2. Man has a conscience.

The government is set up somewhere between this. The American government was set up to be strong enough to accomplish this.

Three Things / Guards on the Government

7602279. Electoral process — the founders depended on this intelligent voting.

2. Competing powers and interest — national/state/local. The idea is that they will compete so that they will keep all in control, so no one group will dominate.

3. Inalienable rights: protect rights; movement; earn money; right to life; family life; assemble peacefully; right to freedom and action; right to belief.

The constitution is not just black and white, but it is a structure that protects everything inside of it.

Bill of Rights

a. Congress cannot set up nor prohibit religion. They didn't want Christianity to be the power in America; if it limited religion, it would limit morality. Freedom of the press. The founders weren't trying to list freedom, but they were trying to limit government. Freedom to assemble. We must train up our children in these rights so they will respect them. Freedom to petition government.

b. People can have guns.

c. No soldiers in the home.

d. Search warrants.

e. Right of self disclosure; due process — the government has procedure it must follow. The system won't work without the people.

f. Trial standards.

g. *Jury* The founders believed that with more citizen involvement that the system wouldn't go haywire.

- h. No cruel and unusual punishment; no excessive bail.
- i. This list of rights is not complete.
- j. The state government has rights too and the federal government can't take them away.

The 13th amendment was the first major change to this, which was slavery.

14th — All people were treated the same by the government in all states—government treatment.

The role of minority — They should be able to exist and live in this country, supporting this foundation of America which is justice and righteousness.

What we pray for is for men to be in office who respect these things, so we can live as a people in justice and righteousness. We must pray for the US government to be wise so people can live in this justice and righteousness.