



REFLECTIONS

August 24, 2014

When the Lord your God brings you into the land... with large, flourishing cities you did not build, houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant — then when you eat and are satisfied, be careful that you do not forget the Lord,

Deuteronomy 6:10-12

Discovering America

One by one they journeyed home. Jack and Jimmy and Joe and Glenn and Cecil and Floyd and thousands of other warriors returned to their roots to resume their lives. They picked up where they left off as grocers, tailors, merchants, and salesmen. These men made it through, but untold numbers did not return. But the cause for which they sacrificed their time and their very lives had been served. Our world, and especially our country, is the better for it.

World War II was the most recent of the great wars fought for our liberty. Before and since, there were numerous more limited wars to protect our freedom; and countless lives have been sacrificed that we may enjoy prosperity like no other land in the history of the world. And it all began with an adventurous explorer named Columbus.

In discovering America he found a new land of Milk and Honey that would later be known as the United States of America. Just as God led the Israelites out of slavery, he set the stage for other daring men and women to seek a new life in a new land. And just as Joshua led the people in battle to subdue the land, George Washington and other military leaders have led dedicated citizens in battles for our liberty. So, here we are, the most prosperous nation the world has ever known, a nation founded and blessed by God.

The parallels between Israel and the United States are seldom drawn. But the presence of God is clearly seen in the founding of both. So as Moses instructed the Israelites, we must tell our children and our children's children lest they forget. For we live in *a land with large, flourishing cities we did not build, houses filled with all kinds of good things we did not provide, wells we did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves we did not plant—then when we eat and are satisfied, [let us] be careful that we do not forget the LORD* who brought us to this land with its many blessings. Israel did forget. And God removed them from the land he had promised them. So let us not forget.

Let us tell the story—the story of Jesus and God's great love for us.

You are the light of the world,

Richard +

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