



# 2026 And Beyond Will We Keep It

July 6, 2025

## INTRODUCTION:

Elizabeth Willing Powel's question to Dr. Benjamin Franklin

**"A lady asked Dr. Franklin Well Doctor what have we got a republic or a monarchy – A republic replied the Doctor if you can keep it."**

The source of this quotation is a journal kept by James McHenry (1753-1816) while he was a Maryland delegate to the Constitutional Convention. On the page where McHenry records the events of the last day of the convention, September 18, 1787, he wrote: "A lady asked Dr. Franklin Well Doctor what have we got a republic or a monarchy – A republic replied the Doctor if you can keep it." Then McHenry added: "The Lady here alluded to was Mrs. Powel of Philada." The journal is at the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress.

How does Scripture speak in regard to the conditional "republic \_\_\_\_ you can keep it?"

1. What do we learn from the \_\_\_\_\_ about nations?

1. Man was given the Genesis \_\_\_\_\_.

"28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and **fill the earth** and **subdue it**, and **have dominion over** the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over **every living thing** that moves on the earth." [Gen 1:28 ESV]

2. After global judgment man is given a \_\_\_\_\_ mandate.

"6 "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image. 7 And you, be fruitful and multiply, increase greatly on the earth and multiply in it." [Gen 9:6-7 ESV]

3. God established the divine \_\_\_\_\_ of nations.

"32 These are the clans of the sons of Noah, according to their genealogies, in their nations, and from these the nations spread abroad on the earth after the flood." [Gen 10:32 ESV]

4. God appoints the times and \_\_\_\_\_ of all nations.

"26 and He made from one [man] every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined [their] appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation," [Act 17:26]

2. What could we learn from \_\_\_\_\_ about nations?

1) The rule of fallen men has been \_\_\_\_\_.

Six thousand years of mankind's history is littered with either a Pharaoh, Caesar, Kaiser, Czar, King, Emperor, Sultan, Dictator, Monarch, Fuhrer, Caliph, Lord or Chief, the default form of human government has always been, a fallen strong man dictator who always subjugates and rules over his subjects.

- **There was no freedom of speech.** If you spoke against the authority, you faced punishment, prison, or death.
- **There was no freedom of religion.** You worshipped the emperor, or you worshiped whomever the emperor worshiped.
- **You had no God given rights; you are granted privileges based upon your king's good graces.**
- **You didn't own private property**, you worked on the king's property as it was the king's dale, the king's forest, the king's deer, the king's navy, the king's army and in fact you were the king's subject.
- **Only in America and only for the last 249 years have we enjoyed the blessings of liberty. Why have we been different?**

2) Influential \_\_\_\_\_ events during our countries founding.

(1) Bloody Mary's persecution 1555 -1558 John Rogers & New England Primer

(2) Europe's Thirty Years War 1618 - 1648

(3) *In 1620 the pilgrim migrate on the Mayflower.*

(4) *In 1625 King Charles 1 persecute Puritans in England*

(5) *Oliver Cromwell Republican Commonwealth of England, Scotland and Ireland 1649-1660*

(6) *John Owen's collapse of the "common wealth of godliness"*

### 3) *The migration of the European \_\_\_\_\_ to the New World.*

(1) *Calvin Coolidge quote July 5, 1926*

🗣️ *"In order that they might have freedom to express these thoughts and opportunity to put them into action. Whole congregations with their pastors migrated to the colonies."*

(2) *William Bradford quote inscribed on the National Monument to the Forefathers*

🗣️ *Thus out of small beginnings greater things have been produced by His hand that made all things of nothing and gives being to all things that are; and as one small candle may light a thousand, so the light here kindled hath shone unto many, yea in some sort to our whole nation; let the glorious name of Jehovah have all praise. Governor William Bradford*

### 3. *"the tempestuous and uncertain Ocean of \_\_\_\_\_ life,"*

*On July 4, 1776, as the Declaration of Independence was signed, thirteen British colonies instantly became 13 sovereign states, each having its own constitution. In each of the 13 original states, one could not serve in office without professing to be a Christian and believing a Biblical Worldview.*

#### 1) *The States \_\_\_\_\_ to their Constitutions.*

(1) *Delawares Constitution 1776*

🗣️ *" I, A B. do profess faith in God the Father, and in Jesus Christ His only Son, and in the Holy Ghost, one God, blessed for evermore; and I do acknowledge the holy scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be given by divine inspiration."*

(2) *Georgia Constitution, 1777*

🗣️ *ART. VI. The representatives shall be chosen ...and they shall be of the Protestant religion, and of the age of twenty-one years, and shall be possessed in their own right of two hundred and fifty acres of land, or some property to the amount of two hundred and fifty pounds.*

(3) *Massachusetts Constitution, 1780, Article III*

🗣️ *And every denomination of Christians, demeaning themselves peaceably, and as good subjects of the commonwealth, shall be equally under the protection of the law: and no subordination of any one sect or denomination to another shall ever be established by law.*

(4) *Virginia*

🗣️ *That religion, or the duty which we owe to our Creator, and the manner of discharging it, can be directed only by reason and conviction, not by force or violence; and therefore all men are equally entitled to the free exercise of religion, according to the dictates of conscience; and that it is the mutual duty of all to practise Christian forbearance, love, and charity toward each other.*

(5) *Rhode Island*

🗣️ *...every person shall be free to worship God according to the dictates of such person's conscience, and to profess and by argument to maintain such person's opinion in matters of religion; and that the same shall in no wise diminish, enlarge, or affect the civil capacity of any person.*

(6) *New Hampshire*

🗣️ *The President shall be chosen annually; and no person shall be eligible to this office, unless at the time of his election, he shall have been an inhabitant of this state for seven years next preceding, and unless he shall be of the age of thirty years; and unless he shall, at the same time, have an estate of the value of five hundred pounds, one half of which shall consist of a freehold, in his own right, within the state; and unless he shall be of the Protestant religion.*

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## (7) Vermont

- " I \_\_\_\_ do believe in one God, the Creator and Governor of the Universe, the rewarder of the good and punisher of the wicked. And I do acknowledge the scriptures of the old and new testament to be given by divine inspiration, and own and profess the protestant religion."
- And no further or other religious test shall ever, hereafter, be required of any civil officer or magistrate in this State.

## (8) Maryland Constitution, 1776

- " I, A. B., do swear, that I do not hold myself bound in allegiance to the King of Great Britain, and that I will be faithful, and bear true allegiance to the State of Maryland; " and
- shall also subscribe a declaration of his belief in the Christian religion.

## (9) New Jersey Constitution, 1776

- Article 19. That there shall be no Establishment of any one religious Sect in this Province in Preference to another; and that no Protestant Inhabitant of this Colony shall be denied the Enjoyment of any civil Right merely on Account of his religious Principles; but that all Persons, professing a Belief in the Faith of any Protestant Sect, who shall demean themselves peaceably under the Government as hereby established, shall be capable of being elected into any office of Profit or Trust, or being a Member of either Branch of the Legislature, & shall fully & freely enjoy every Privilege & Immunity enjoyed by others their Fellow-Subjects.

## (10) Pennsylvania

- "I do believe in one God, the creator and governor of the universe, the rewarder of the good and the punisher of the wicked. And I do acknowledge the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be given by Divine inspiration."
- And no further or other religious test shall ever hereafter be required of any civil officer or magistrate in this State.

## (11) North Carolina Constitution, 1776

- That no person, who shall deny the being of God or the truth of the Protestant religion, or the divine authority either of the Old or New Testaments, or who shall hold religious principles incompatible with the freedom and safety of the State, shall be capable of holding any office or place of trust or profit in the civil department within this State.

## (12) South Carolina Constitution, 1776

- ...and that no person shall be eligible to a seat in the said senate **unless he be of the Protestant religion**, and hath attained the age of thirty years, and hath been a resident in this State at least five years.

## 2) The States \_\_\_\_\_ to their Constitutions.

(1) "The colonists were about 98 percent Protestant." Patricia Banomi,

(2) Pastors and their churches created their State

(3) "The privilege of election belongs to the free consent of the people according to the blessed will and law of God."

(4) Independence Hall

(5) "A nation which does not remember what it was yesterday, does not know what it is today, nor what it is trying to do. We are trying to do a futile thing if we do not know where we came from or what we have been about.... America was born a Christian nation. America was born to exemplify that devotion to the tenets of righteousness which are derived from the revelations of Holy Scripture." Woodrow Wilson, 1911, while campaigning for President

## 3) Elizabeth Powell's letter to \_\_\_\_\_.

(1) She pleaded with him: "For Gods sake do not yield . . . to a Love of Ease, Retirement, rural Pursuits."