

“And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.”

-- Declaration of Independence

CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.
Declaration of the thirteen united States of America

in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that the reasons which justify their separation should be explained to all men. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.— That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Liberty. But in all these Cases, the People are entitled to a reasonable Notice of their Rights; and in the first Place, to that they know what they are about, and what they are doing. And that they have the opportunity of sending to their Representatives in the Legislature, to declare the Causes, which have brought them to that Measure; and to petition for redress of their Grievances. That the People have the Right to institute new Government, whenever the existing one becomes destructive of the ends of Government, and to secure the Blessings of Liberty, Peace and Union, to themselves and their Posterity. That the Declaration of Independence, which is the first Step towards the formation of a new Government, is a solemn and important Act, and one which demands the most careful Consideration and Deliberation. That the People are entitled to a reasonable Notice of their Rights; and in the first Place, to that they know what they are about, and what they are doing. And that they have the opportunity of sending to their Representatives in the Legislature, to declare the Causes, which have brought them to that Measure; and to petition for redress of their Grievances. That the People have the Right to institute new Government, whenever the existing one becomes destructive of the ends of Government, and to secure the Blessings of Liberty, Peace and Union, to themselves and their Posterity.

GENERAL WASHINGTON DISPATCH #1209 – August 1776

To the Congress:

I can now report with some certainty that the eve of battle is near at hand...At the present time my forces consist entirely of ...a total of 5000 troops to stand against 25,000 of the enemy, and I begin to notice that many of us are lads under 15 and old men, none of whom could truly be called soldiers...

...As I write these words the enemy is plainly in sight beyond the river. How it will end only Providence can direct, but...what brave men I shall lose before this business ends.

**Your obedient,
G. Washington**

Trusting in the Unknown

- **Isaac, the son of promise – Gen. 21:1-7**
- **Abraham's test of faith – Gen. 22:1-14**
 - **Abraham's thoughts – Heb. 11:17-19**
- **To our knowledge, in the history of the world, raising the dead had never been done before**
 - **Abraham believed in something he had never seen, and acted accordingly**
 - **Noah did not see the flood, yet moved with faith regarding God's words – Heb. 11:7**
 - **Why?**

Trusting in the Unknown

- **In what do we believe that we have never seen?**
 - **We believe in a spiritual realm –
II Cor. 4:16-18; Eph. 6:11-13, Jn. 4:24**
 - **We believe in “intelligent design” –
Heb. 11:3; Rom. 1:18-20; Psm. 19:1**
 - **We believe in the resurrection of the dead –
Rom. 8:9-11; I Cor. 15:50-53**
 - **We believe in Heaven – New Jerusalem –
Heb. 11:13-16; Rev. 21:2**

Trusting in the Unknown

- **Do we believe in vain? Are we wasting our time?**
 - Hope that is seen is not hope – **Rom. 8:24**
 - Faith is substance, evidence – **Heb. 11:1**
 - We stand on the promises of God –
Titus 1:2, Heb. 6:13, 17, 11:6, 11
- **Why did Abraham/Noah believe?**
 - The question we must ask is “Do we believe...?” **I Jn. 5:13-15; Rev. 22:20**