

BLESSED IS THE NATION GOD IS FOR

America's Extraordinary Birthright: A 250-Year Legacy of Providence, Freedom, and Blessing

Over a million visitors from all over the globe came to the United States for the 2026 FIFA World Cup soccer tournament. They expected world-class stadiums, exciting matches and enthusiastic crowds. But many discovered something far more than a soccer tournament. They encountered the breathtaking scale of America's vast landscape; the majesty of its cities; the diversity and abundance of its cuisine; and the generosity, kindness and hospitality of its people. They saw firsthand a nation unlike any other — a country of extraordinary size, remarkable resources and unparalleled achievement.

How did America become such an exceptional nation?

America's ascent to greatness began with a remarkable inheritance.

In 1783, following its defeat in the Revolutionary War, Great Britain formally recognized the independence of the United States and ceded to the new nation the original thirteen states along with a vast territory extending westward to the Mississippi River.

In 1803, the United States purchased the Louisiana Territory from France for just \$15 million. For less than three cents an acre, America acquired more than 530 million acres and nearly doubled the nation's size. More importantly, the fertile lands acquired through the Louisiana Purchase laid the foundation for America's rise as an agricultural powerhouse. That territory would later become all or part of fifteen U.S. states.

Sixteen years later, in 1819, the United States acquired Florida from Spain, completing America's control of the Atlantic and Gulf coasts.

In 1845, the independent Republic of Texas voted to join the Union, becoming America's 28th state. The following year, a treaty with Britain secured the Oregon Territory, giving the United States the Pacific Northwest.

In 1848, victory in the Mexican-American War brought another vast expansion. Under the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, Mexico ceded more than 525,000

square miles — including what are now California, Nevada, Utah, most of Arizona, and parts of New Mexico and Colorado — for \$15 million.

As if on cue, just days before the treaty was signed, gold was discovered at Sutter's Mill near San Francisco. The California Gold Rush that followed drew hundreds of thousands westward and transformed the nation's future.

Five years later, the Gadsden Purchase added another 29,000 square miles in present-day southern Arizona and New Mexico, providing the ideal route for a southern transcontinental railroad.

In just seventy years, the United States assembled the forty-eight contiguous states — an expansion unparalleled in history. It was this remarkable inheritance that prompted French historian and political thinker Alexis de Tocqueville, author of *Democracy in America*, to write: "The whole continent, in short, seemed prepared to be the abode of a great nation."

America did not have to seek or build an empire around the world.

She was blessed with a vast continental inheritance — a huge block of land stretching between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, from the Great Lakes to the Rio Grande, covering nearly 3.5 million square miles.

Its favorable climate and fertile soils produced bumper harvests of agricultural abundance: citrus fruits and apples; cotton and sugar cane; wheat and corn. Its forests yielded timber and Douglas fir. Its rivers and oceans provided fish. Its vast plains supported immense herds of cattle. Its farms produced poultry and dairy products on a massive scale.

Name it, and America had it. Lots and lots of it.

With \$181 billion in agricultural exports, America stands as the world's leading food powerhouse, helping feed nations across the globe.

America's blessings even extend deep into the earth beneath.

Copper in Arizona. Iron ore in Minnesota. Coal in Wyoming and West Virginia. Oil in Texas and North Dakota.

America is an energy superpower, producing more crude oil than any other nation. With one of the largest and most advanced refining systems on earth — processing roughly 17-18 million barrels per day — the United States transforms raw energy into the fuels that power transportation, commerce, and industry around the world.

Today, the United States stands as the world's largest economy, producing more goods and services than any other nation. With the highest level of labor productivity among the world's major economies, America has combined its natural wealth, unmatched innovation, entrepreneurial spirit and industrious workforce to create the most powerful economy on earth.

No other nation has been the beneficiary of such unparalleled blessings — prosperity, freedom, opportunity, and power — as the United States of America. No other single nation has exercised such pre-eminent influence in the political, economic, and military affairs of the modern world. Truly, these United States of America have been blessed like no other nation on earth.

WHERE did all these blessings come from?

WHO poured out these blessings upon America?

George Washington knew. In his first inaugural address on April 30th 1789, Washington declared, "No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the Invisible Hand which conducts the affairs of men more than the people of the United States. Every step by which they have advanced to the character of an independent nation seems to have been distinguished by some token of **providential agency**" (emphasis mine).

Abraham Lincoln knew. In his Thanksgiving Proclamation on October 3rd 1863, Lincoln wrote: "No human counsel has devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the most gracious gifts of the Most High God . . ."

He acknowledged America's greatness was from God!

Prior to entering the promised land of Canaan, Moses warned the nation of Israel that prosperity and abundance must never cause them to forget their Creator.

“Beware lest you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.’ You shall remember the Eternal your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth; that he may confirm his covenant which he swore to your fathers, as at this day” (Deuteronomy 8:17-18).

This timeless principle carries a profound lesson for America. For thousands of years, God has faithfully fulfilled the birthright promises He made to Abraham. The unparalleled blessings bestowed upon the United States testify to that faithfulness.

Our responsibility, then, is not to claim the credit for ourselves, but to remember, honor and obey the God from whom those blessings came.