



ARISE! MINISTRIES

Mount Up On Wings - Isaiah 40:31

Tom Stiles, Editor

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Forgetting God

“...when thou shalt have eaten and be full; Then beware lest thou forget the LORD, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.” -- Deuteronomy 6:11b-12

Since 1863, the Presidents of the United States have released a proclamation for Thanksgiving Day.

But this year, there was something very different in **President Biden’s Thanksgiving Day Proclamation:**

“As families, loved ones, and friends across the country come together to celebrate Thanksgiving, let us be grateful for all the blessings of this Nation and its limitless possibilities.

Throughout our country’s history, this season of reflection and giving thanks comes in good times and tough ones...

This week, Americans will gather with their loved ones and families, celebrating the love they share and the traditions they built together. To those who are also enduring hard times or grieving the loss of a loved one, know that we are thinking of you.

We are truly a good Nation because we are a good people...

This Thanksgiving we are grateful for our Nation and the incredible soul of America. May we all remember that we are the United States of America — there is nothing beyond our capacity if we do it together...

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR., President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim Thursday, November 23, 2023, as a National Day of Thanksgiving. I encourage the people of the United States of America to join together and give thanks for the friends, neighbors, family members, and strangers who have supported each other over the past year in a reflection of goodwill and unity.

[A Proclamation on Thanksgiving Day, 2023 | The White House](#)

What was left out of the President’s Proclamation?

Any reference to God! It is true that President Biden says we should be “grateful for all the blessings of this nation,” but he does not suggest who we are to give thanks to.



Furthermore, he attributes these blessings of “limitless possibilities” to our goodness (“We are a truly good nation”).

This is a great contrast to the Presidential Proclamations of the past: **President George Washington**, for example, began his Proclamation for a Thanksgiving Day with the words:

“Whereas it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor—and Whereas both Houses of Congress have by their Joint Committee requested me “to recommend to the People of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness.”

He included a call for repentance, “And also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech him to pardon our national and other transgressions...” - October 3, 1789

<https://www.si.edu/spotlight/thanksgiving/proclamation>

President Abraham Lincoln, who began the annual observance of Thanksgiving Day, wrote in 1863:

“I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens”

He also included a call for national repentance:

“And I recommend to them that, while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience.”

Although some Presidential Proclamations are less devout, President Biden is the first President to leave God out of his Proclamation of Thanksgiving.

But he is not the only American who left God out of Thanksgiving Day. Unfortunately, Thanksgiving Day has become more about feasting, family, and football, rather than giving thanks to our heavenly Father.

And this trend to leaving God out is not just in Thanksgiving celebrations. We have seen attempts made to remove it from the Democratic Presidential Platform, The Pledge of Allegiance, and the National Motto ("In God We Trust").

President Ronald Reagan said in a Prayer Breakfast in 1984, "If we ever forget that we're one nation under God, then we will be one nation gone under."

Eagle's Eye on the Nation

"For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape." --1 Thess. 5:3

THE ENEMY WITHIN: The explosion at the Rainbow Bridge on Wednesday turned out not to be an act of terrorism, but the threat of terrorist attacks is becoming a real possibility.

Last month, Christopher Wray, the Director of the FBI told the House Homeland Security Committee that: "In a year where terrorism threat was already elevated, the ongoing war in the Middle East has raised the threat of an attack against Americans in United States to a whole 'nother' level... Since October 7th, we have seen a rogues gallery of foreign terrorist organizations call for attacks against Americans and our allies."

Since [Hamas' attack on Israel](#) last month, in which terrorists killed 1,400 Israelis and took 240 people hostage, Wray noted that Hezbollah has expressed support for Hamas and has made threats against U.S. interests in the Middle East.

"Al-Qaeda issued its most specific call to attack the United States in the past five years," Wray said, adding that "[al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula](#) called on jihadists to attack Americans and Jewish people everywhere."

ATTACKS ON THE US FORCES: Iranian-backed militias have carried out at least 66 attacks on U.S. bases in Iraq and Syria, using drones, rockets and even ballistic missiles, [according](#) to ABC News; American forces carried out multiple [strikes](#) Wednesday, with a Lockheed [AC-130](#) gunship [killing](#) some militants involved in an attack using ballistic missiles.

THE OLDEST PRESIDENT: President Joe Biden set a record last week by celebrating his 81st birthday, becoming the oldest man to serve as President of the United States. The record comes as many voters are questioning his ability to handle the demands of the presidency. I would not be surprised if he chooses not to run for a second term.

Eagle's Eye on New York

"For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether *it be good*, or whether *it be evil*."

-- Ecclesiastes 12:14

Governor Kathy Hochul has been busy either signing or vetoing bills submitted to her by the NYS Legislature.

She signed:

- **S.7424/A.366A** requiring camps and youth sports programs to establish automated external defibrillator, or AED, implementation plans, and to have at least one person trained to properly use the AED at camps, games and practices.
- **S.7230/A.237** which aims to protect consumers during storms and other emergencies by requiring utility companies to develop plans to prioritize responding to reports of downed wires. If a member of the public identifies a downed wire that presents a hazard, they now can report that wire to their utility, which must respond no later than seventy-two hours after the report of an emergency.
- **S.5026/A.6040**, known as the "Freelance Isn't Free" Act, which provides protections, rights and opportunities for recourse to freelance workers experiencing non-payment for their services.
- **S.5495/A.6806** Provides for the Continuation of State Health Benefit Plans for Certain Survivors of State Employees.

She vetoed several bills including a bill to study Crypto Impact on Tax Receipts; a bill forming an Artificial Intelligence Commission, a limo safety task force recommendation, and a bill to recognize the Montaukettos on Long Island as an Indian tribe

Ministry Report

The Week of November 19-25

I preached at Faith Bible Church in Sprakers, NY on Sunday, November 19. This church is led by Pastor Mark Kelly, a good friend and a dynamic pastor. It was a pleasure to minister there.

My missionary daughter, Wendy Patton, and her family came to our home on Tuesday. She and her family serve in Iquitos, Peru with ABWE. Our son and his family arrived on Wednesday and together we had a joyous Thanksgiving Day.

Wendy's girls, Julia (11) and Jessica (10) made a turkey with feather pull-outs. Each feather had a question about what we were thankful for – favorite hymn, favorite verse, special blessing this year, etc.

Tom Stiles Speaking Schedule

- December 3** Seneca Falls Bible Baptist Church
- December 10** Lighthouse Baptist Church, Schenectady, NY
- December 12** Metro NYC Independent Baptist Fellowship
- December 17** Bible Baptist Church, Cortland, NY
- December 31** First Baptist Church, Hemlock, NY