Material taken from “American Destiny, God’s Role In America-Historic Quotes from Founding Fathers and Presidents,” by Sam Bartholomew & Stephen Mansfield. (Emphasis supplied in places by this web site.)

QUOTES FROM GEORGE WASHINGTON, first president of the United States:

Prayer of George Washington, written by his own hand in his prayer book:

“Almighty God; We make our earnest prayer that Thou wilt keep the United States in Thy holy protection; that Thou wilt incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government; and entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow citizens of the United States at large.

And finally that Thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the ***Divine Author of our blessed religion, and without a humble imitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a happy nation***. Grant our supplication, we beseech Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

Excerpt from George Washington’s Farewell Address (which used to be required reading in our schools in the 1800s and early 1900s):

“And lit us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both ***forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle***.”

Prayer in a public speech:

“ It would be peculiarly improper to omit, in this official act, my fervent supplication to that ***Almighty Being***, who rules over the universe, who presides in the council of nations, and whose providential aid can supply every human defect, that His benediction may consecrate to the liberties and happiness of the people of the United States....Every step by which they have advanced seems to have been distinguished by some providential agency. We ought to be no less persuaded that the propitious smiles of Heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the ***eternal rules of order and right which Heaven itself has ordained***.”

“It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God.”

To the chiefs of the Delaware Indian tribe:

“You do well to wish to learn our arts and our ways of life, and above all, the ***religion of Jesus Christ***. . . Congress will do everything it can to assist you in this wise intention.”

QUOTES FROM BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, statesman, ambassador, influential leader in congress, inventor:

To the French during the American Revolution (While he was ambassador to that nation).

“He who shall introduce into public affairs principles of primitive ***Christianity*** will change the face of the world.”

“I’ve lived, sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth: That ***God governs*** in the affairs of men. If a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid? We’ve been assured in the sacred writings that ***unless the Lord build*** the house, they labor in vain who build it. I firmly believe this, and I also believe that without His concurring aid, we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel.”

JOHN ADAMS, first vice-president and seconded president of the United States:

“Statesmen. . . may plan and speculate for liberty, but it is ***Religion*** and Morality alone, which can establish the Principles upon which Freedom can securely stand . . .”

“Our Constitution was made only for a ***moral and religious people***. It is wholly ***inadequate to the government of any other***.”

“Is it not that the Declaration of Independence first organized the social compact on the Foundation of the ***Redeemer’s mission*** upon earth? That it laid the cornerstone of human government upon the first ***precepts of Christianity***?”

THOMAS JEFFERSON, third president of the United States, co-author of the Declaration of Independence on July 2-4, 1776, abolitionist, author of the Statute of Virginia for Religious Freedom:

“Can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that ***their liberties are the gift of God***?”

“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 Happiness.”

JAMES MADISON, fourth president of the United States and father of the Bill of Rights:

“No people ought to feel greater obligations to celebrate the goodness of the Great Disposer of events and of the destiny of nations than the people of the United States. His kind providence originally conducted them to one of the best portions of the dwelling place allotted for the great family of the human race. He protected and cherished them under all the difficulties and trials to which they were exposed in their early days. Under His fostering care their habits, their sentiments, and their pursuits prepared them for a transition in due time to a state of independence and self-government . . .”

“. . . Before any man can be considered as a member of Civil Society, he must be considered as a subject of the Governor of the universe.”