The background of the entire image is a close-up, slightly blurred view of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes in a way that suggests movement and depth. The colors are vibrant, with the blue field of stars on the left and the red and white stripes on the right.

ONE NATION UNDER GOD

The Christian Foundations
of the American Republic

A Joyful Celebration of Our Heritage | Psalm 33:12



THE SOCIAL COMPACT

“Is it not that in the chain of human events, the birthday of the nation is indissolubly linked with the birthday of the Savior? ... Is it not that the Declaration of Independence first organized the social compact on the foundation of the Redeemer’s mission upon earth?”

— John Quincy Adams



THE CORNERSTONES

“It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religions, but on the gospel of Jesus Christ.”

— Patrick Henry

The Sacred & Secular Matrix



The Executive

Acknowledging Divine Providence.

“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.” – *George Washington*



The Legislative

Christianity as the universal sentiment.

“We are a Christian people... not because the law demands it... but from choice and education; and in a land thus universally Christian, what is to be expected... but that we shall pay due regard to Christianity?”
– *Senate Judiciary Committee Report, 1853*



The Judiciary

Rooted in Common Law.

“Christianity is a part of the Common Law. ... There never has been a period in which the Common Law did not recognize Christianity as lying at its foundations.”
– *Joseph Story, U.S. Supreme Court Justice*



Education

Knowing Christ as the foundation of learning.

“Let every student be plainly instructed... the main end of his life and studies is to know God and Jesus Christ.”
– *Harvard 1636 Student Guidelines*



THE CIVIC FOUNDATION

THE UNIVERSITY (Yale, 1787)

All the scholars are required to live a religious and blameless life according to the rules of God's Word, diligently reading the Holy Scriptures, that fountain of Divine light and truth...

THE SUPREME COURT (1844)

Unanimous Decision Commending the Use of the Bible in Government-Run Schools.

"Why may not the Bible, and especially the New Testament... be read and taught as a divine revelation in [schools]... Where can the purest principles of morality be learned so clearly or so perfectly as from the New Testament?"
— *Vidal v. Girard's Executors*

The Foreign Perspective Mirror

The American Reality



Observer:
Alexis de Tocqueville (1831)

“The Americans combine the notions of Christianity and of liberty so intimately in their minds that it is impossible to make them conceive the one without the other.”



The Astonished Europeans




Observer:
Achille Murat (1832)

“There is no country in which the people are so religious as in the United States... societies to distribute the Bible... to build chapels, endow congregations, support seminaries... to prevent drunkenness.”

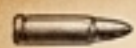
Unlike the secular revolutions of Europe, the American experiment thrived because it recognized that liberty relies on virtue, and virtue relies on faith.

THE PROVIDENTIAL TIMELINE



1755 - DIVINE PROTECTION

Washington survived the Battle of the Monongahela



MAP LEGEND



"By the miraculous care of Providence... I had four bullets through my coat and two horses shot under me and yet escaped unhurt."

1765 - CIVIC SERVICE

Washington elected as a vestryman

MAP LEGEND

Served faithfully in Fairfax and Truro Parishes, overseeing the care of the poor, widows, and orphans

1775 - THE CHRISTIAN SOLDIER

Washington takes command of the Continental Army

MAP LEGEND

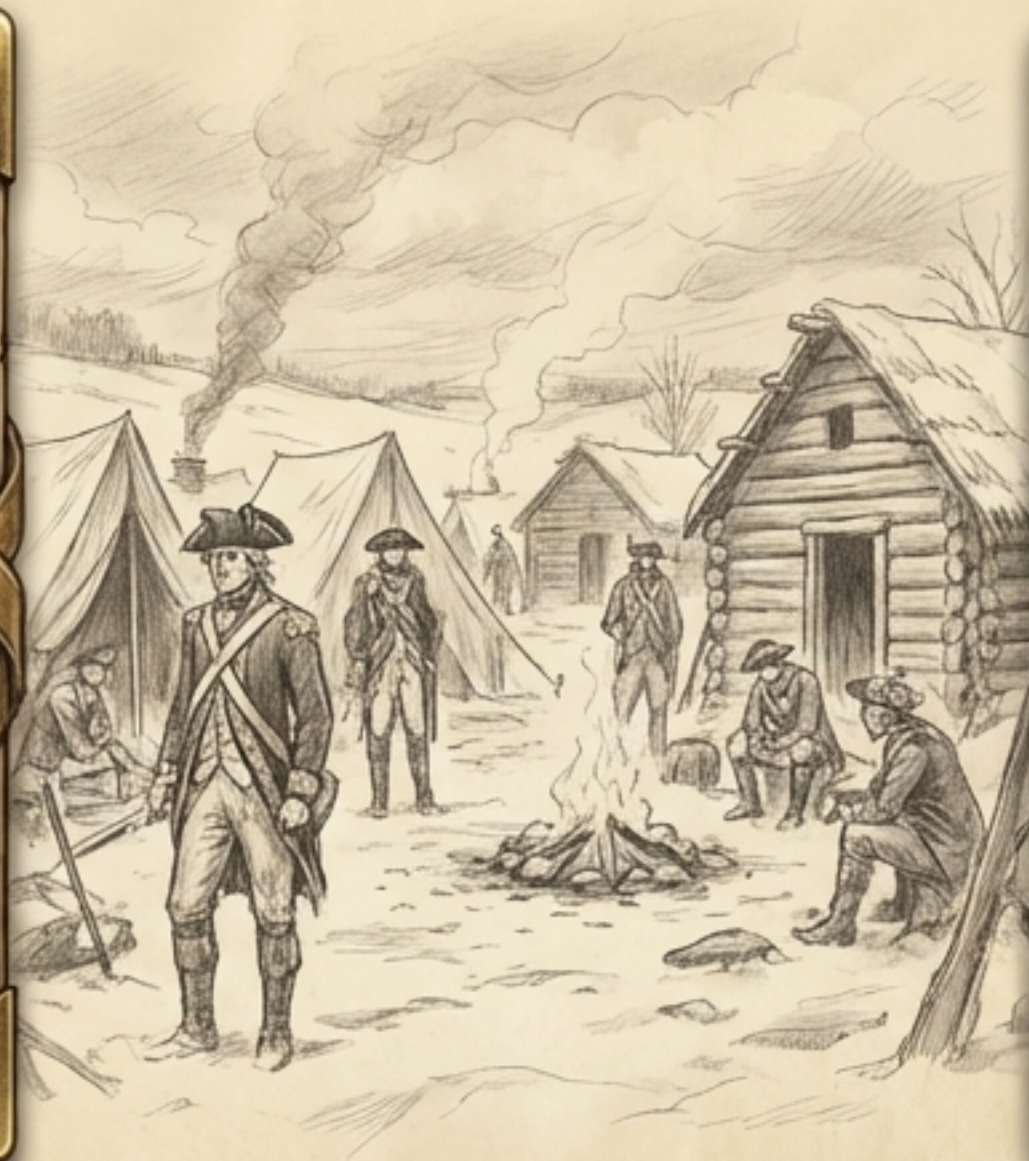
Instructed troops to live as Christian soldiers. *"To the distinguished character of Patriot, it should be our biggest glory to add the more distinguished character of Christian."*

Washington's Moral & Spiritual Leadership

Guides for the Army and the Nation

Morality in the Ranks (July 1775 & June 1777)

Washington issued official orders strictly forbidding “profane cursing, swearing and drunkenness.” He required “punctual attendance on Divine Service” for all troops to “implore the blessings of Heaven.”



The Commander's Character

Rev. Henry Muhlenberg observed Washington in camp: “He respects God’s Word, believes in the atonement through Christ, and bears himself in humility and gentleness... the Lord God has also singularly, yea, marvelously, preserved him from harm.”

Washington's commitment to virtue and faith set the moral foundation for the American Revolution.

ANATOMY OF GEORGE WASHINGTON'S PRESIDENTIAL OATH

The First Inauguration, April 30, 1789



STEP 1: THE SACRED TEXT

The Oath was administered on the balcony of Federal Hall using a 1767 King James Bible, opened to Genesis 49.



STEP 2: THE VOW & THE KISS

Washington placed his left hand on the Bible, raised his right, appended the legally foundational phrase "So help me God," and reverently kissed the open Bible.



STEP 3: THE ADDRESS

Delivered the first Inaugural Address, opening and closing with fervent supplications to "that Almighty Being Who rules over the universe."



STEP 4: THE DIVINE SERVICE

The President, Vice President, and both houses of Congress immediately proceeded en masse to St. Paul's Chapel to hear Divine service led by the Senate Chaplain.

THE EMANCIPATION STRUGGLE MATRIX

Analyzing the legal friction against abolition in early Virginia

GEORGE WASHINGTON

THOMAS JEFFERSON

THE INHERITED BURDEN

Inherited slaves at age 11. Refused to sell them or break up families despite severe financial hardship to Mount Vernon.

Inherited the system but noted, "The Almighty has no attribute which can take side with us in such a contest."

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Signed the 1789 federal law prohibiting slavery in the Northwest Territory (Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, etc.).

Proposed a 1784 law to ban slavery in western territories (failed by one vote) and authored the Declaration's underlying principles of equality.

PERSONAL ACTION AGAINST STATE LAW

CONTEXT: Virginia law aggressively discouraged freeing slaves (requiring severe financial bonds, and passing the 1806 repeal making it nearly impossible).

Circumvented state law by legally freeing his slaves in his 1799 will, ensuring their long-term care, clothing, and education.

(Stymied by the tightened 1806 laws post-Washington, but utilized a profit-sharing plan to pay enslaved artisans).

The Emancipation Struggle Matrix highlights the complex interplay between personal convictions, legislative efforts, and the significant legal barriers faced by early leaders in the fight against slavery.

THE MEASURE OF A MAN

The Tent & The Blanket

During the Revolutionary War, Washington shared a tent with Col. Pickering and his servant, Primus Hall. Discovering Hall sitting up all night so the officers could use the only blankets and straw, Washington insisted: "The blanket is wide enough for two. Come and lie down here with me."

The Commander-in-Chief shared his straw and blanket with the black servant.

The Poet & The General

When black poet Phillis Wheatley wrote a poem praising him, Washington corresponded with her, addressing her with deep respect, honoring her "great poetical talents," and inviting her to visit his headquarters.

"Politeness is cheap, and I never allow any one to be more polite to me than I to him."
– George Washington to a gentleman regarding tipping his hat to a black man.

THE ARCH OF LIBERTY

Political Prosperity

&

National Liberty

Religion

Morality

The Founders did not view faith as a private, compartmentalized belief, but as the structural engineering of the Republic.

“Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports... Reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.” – George Washington, *Farewell Address*



A Prayer for the Nation

I now make it my earnest prayer, that God would have you, and the State over which you preside, in his holy protection... that he would 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 an humble imitation of whose example in these things, we can never hope to be a happy nation.

— George Washington, Circular Letter to the States, 1783

Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD. - Psalm 33:12