

Trump or Harris: Who Will Do the Best Job of Defending the Original American Vision?

America was founded by devout Christians who willingly left family, friends and their homeland in search of a land where they could freely live out their faith without the interference of a tyrannical government. Ronald Reagan spoke truth when he said, "It's always been my belief that by a Divine plan this nation was placed between the two oceans to be sought out and found by those with a special brand of courage and love of freedom."

Indeed, America's founding generation believed the new nation had come forth in the plan and purposes of God to be a land of faith and freedom. Samuel Adams (1722-1803) expressed this in a 1794 Proclamation for a Day of Fasting and Prayer while serving as governor of Massachusetts. He opened his proclamation by saying, "The Supreme Ruler of the Universe, having been pleased, in the course of His Providence, to establish the independence of the United States of America."

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Even those who have suffered at the hands of those who did not understand the original American vision, have been convinced that there was something special and unique about America's founding. This was true of the former slave Frederick Douglass, who in an 1852 speech called the U.S. Constitution "a glorious liberty document," and then declared,

"Fellow Citizens, I am not wanting in respect for the fathers of this republic. The signers of the Declaration of Independence were brave men. They were great men too—great enough to give fame to a great age. It does not often happen

to a nation to raise, at one time, such a number of truly great men."



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In his fight for civil rights, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. understood that the nation, especially the Jim Crow South, had strayed from the original American vision of faith and freedom. Writing from the Birmingham City Jail, where he had been incarcerated, he declared his confidence that his efforts would succeed because of the "will of God" and America's "sacred heritage."

The "sacred heritage" of which he spoke was the vision of America's founding generation that this would be a land characterized by both faith and freedom.

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