



GLC Weekly
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Prayer Proclamation, President Adams (1798)
*GOD Blessing, Protecting & Correcting Individuals & Nations:
Lessons from Scripture 9*

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John Adams (1735-1826) signed the United States Declaration of Independence (4 July 1776), served as the first Vice President under President George Washington (1789-1797), and the second President of the USA (1797-1801). He and Thomas Jefferson died on the same day, 4 July 1826, the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. He was an eminently Godly man, full of wisdom, humility, courage, and knowledge of government. On 23 March 1798, he issued this Proclamation calling the nation to “a day of solemn humiliation, fasting, and prayer.” I encourage you to read the full text; you’ll also find prayer points for our nation(s) today.

“As the safety and prosperity of nations ultimately and essentially depend on the protection and the blessing of Almighty God, and the national acknowledgment of this truth is not only an indispensable duty which the people owe to Him, but a duty whose natural influence is favorable to the promotion of that morality and piety without which social happiness cannot exist nor the blessings of a free government be enjoyed; and as this duty, at all times incumbent, is so especially in seasons of difficulty or of danger, when existing or threatening calamities, the just judgments of God against prevalent iniquity, are a loud call to repentance and reformation; and as the United States of America are at present placed in a hazardous and afflictive situation by the unfriendly disposition, conduct, and demands of a foreign power, evinced by repeated refusals to receive our messengers of reconciliation and peace, by depredations on our commerce, and the infliction of injuries on very many of our fellow-citizens while engaged in their lawful business on the seas—under these considerations it has appeared to me that the duty of imploring the mercy and benediction of Heaven on our country demands at this time a special attention from its inhabitants.

“I have therefore thought fit to recommend, and I do hereby recommend, that Wednesday, the 9th day of May next, be observed throughout the United States as a day of solemn humiliation, fasting, and prayer; that the citizens of these States, abstaining on that day from their customary worldly occupations, offer their devout addresses to the Father of Mercies agreeably to those forms or methods which they have severally adopted as the most suitable and becoming; that all religious congregations do, with the deepest humility, acknowledge before God the manifold sins and transgressions with which we are justly chargeable as individuals and as a nation, beseeching Him at the same time, of His infinite grace, through the Redeemer of the World, freely to remit all our offenses, and to incline us by

His Holy Spirit to that sincere repentance and reformation which may afford us reason to hope for his inestimable favor and heavenly benediction; that it be made the subject of particular and earnest supplication that our country may be protected from all the dangers which threaten it; that our civil and religious privileges may be preserved inviolate and perpetuated to the latest generations; that our public councils and magistrates may be especially enlightened and directed at this critical period; that the American people may be united in those bonds of amity and mutual confidence and inspired with that vigor and fortitude by which they have in times past been so highly distinguished and by which they have obtained such invaluable advantages; that the health of the inhabitants of our land may be preserved, and their agriculture, commerce, fisheries, arts, and manufactures be blessed and prospered; that the principles of genuine piety and sound morality may influence the minds and govern the lives of every description of our citizens, and that the blessings of peace, freedom, and pure religion may be speedily extended to all the nations of the earth.

“And finally, I recommend that on the said day the duties of humiliation and prayer be accompanied by fervent thanksgiving to the Bestower of Every Good Gift, not only for His having hitherto protected and preserved the people of these United States in the independent enjoyment of their religious and civil freedom, but also for having prospered them in a wonderful progress of population, and for conferring on them many and great favors conducive to the happiness and prosperity of a nation.

“Given under my hand and the seal of the United States of America” [SEAL] [23 March 1798] JOHN ADAMS” ([A Compilation of the Messages and Papers of the Presidents, Volume 1](#)).

Question: They humbled themselves and prayed, and the LORD blessed, protected, and restored the nation. Are we, in our time, hearing “a loud call to repentance and reformation”?

Pray that we as God’s people would personally and corporately humble ourselves, fast, and pray for our (your) nation to come back into right relationship with God and His purposes to be restored and fulfilled. Keep praying that the Holy Spirit will “convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment” (John 16:8). Let us believe He has good plans for our future.

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For the sacred gift of every human life and remembrance of children unborn,

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*The purpose of the Global Life Campaign is to **call and equip trustworthy disciples inspired by the Holy Spirit**, to be a catalyst of a movement to establish principles and practices in every nation that align with the Word of God and respect for human life.*