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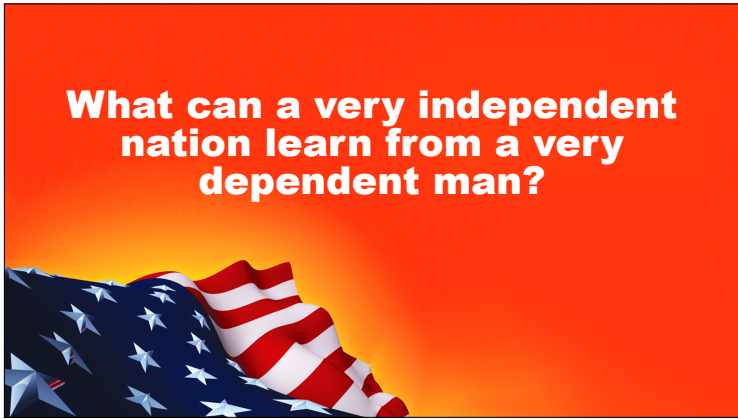
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Acts 17:16-17

<sup>16</sup> Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols.

ATHENS

**ACTS**

EMPOWERED FOR JESUS' MISSION

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Acts 17:16-17

<sup>16</sup> Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols.



ACTS

EMPOWERED FOR JESUS' MISSION

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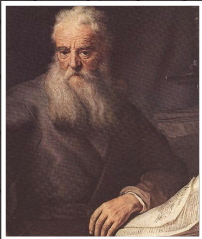
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Acts 17:16-17

<sup>17</sup> So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there.



ACTS

EMPOWERED FOR JESUS' MISSION

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### Acts 17:18-19

**ACTS**

EMPOWERED FOR JESUS' MISSION

<sup>18</sup> Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, "What does this babbler wish to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities"—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. <sup>19</sup> And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?"

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### Acts 17:20-22

**ACTS**

EMPOWERED FOR JESUS' MISSION

<sup>20</sup> For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean." <sup>21</sup> Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new. <sup>22</sup> So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious.

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### Acts 17:23-25

**ACTS**

EMPOWERED FOR JESUS' MISSION

<sup>23</sup> For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup> The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, <sup>25</sup> nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.

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Acts 17:26-27



<sup>26</sup> And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place. <sup>27</sup> that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us,

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John Stott

“Although God cannot be held responsible for the tyranny and oppression of individual nations, yet both the history and geography of each nation is ultimately under his control.”



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Acts 17:28-29



<sup>28</sup> for “‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your poets have said, “‘For we are indeed his offspring.’ <sup>29</sup> Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man.

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Acts 17:30-31

**ACTS**  
EMPOWERED FOR JESUS' MISSION

<sup>30</sup> The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent,

<sup>31</sup> because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.

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**What can a very independent nation learn from a very dependent man?**



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**We need God ...**

“God...does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.” Acts 17:24-25



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**We need God ...  
He does not need U.S.**

“God...does not live in temples made by man,  
nor is he served by human hands, as though he  
needed anything, since he gives to all mankind  
life and breath and everything.” Acts 17:24-25



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Jesus never said that the gates  
of hell would not prevail  
against the United States  
of America.



Ross Douthat



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**We need God ...  
He does not need U.S.**

“God...does not live in temples made by man,  
nor is he served by human hands, as though he  
needed anything, since he gives to all mankind  
life and breath and everything.” Acts 17:24-25



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“And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place.” Acts 17:26



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**God has given U.S. a unique place in history ...**



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**God has given U.S. a unique place in history ... He's done that for every nation.**

“And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place.” Acts 17:26



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Moreover, if we think of ourselves as in anyway analogous to Israel, it must be only by way of analogy. There's only one true Israel, and even the greatest nation can hope only to be an "*almost* – chosen people."

Lincoln address to the New Jersey State Senate, February 21, 1861



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John Winthrop

"Consider that we shall be as a city upon a hill, the eyes of all people are upon us,

Letter to his daughters.



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John Winthrop

"Consider that we shall be as a city upon a hill, the eyes of all people are upon us, so that if we shall deal falsely with our God in this work we have undertaken and so cause him to withdraw his present help from us, we shall be made a story and byword through the world."

Letter to his daughters.



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**Our greatest need is not a  
Christian nation ...**



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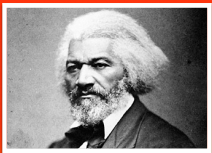
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Frederick Douglass

Between the Christianity of this land, and the Christianity of Christ, I recognize the widest possible difference – so wide, that to receive the one as good, pure, and holy, is of necessity to reject the other is bad, corrupt and wicked...



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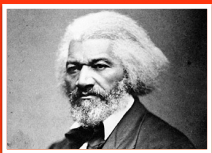
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Frederick Douglass

I love the pure, peaceable, and impartial Christianity of Christ; I therefore hate the corrupt, slaveholding, women-whipping, cradle-plundering, partial and hypocritical Christianity of this land. Indeed, I can see no reason, but the most deceitful one, for calling the religion of this land Christianity.



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**Our greatest need is not a  
Christian nation ...**



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**Our greatest need is not a  
Christian nation ... it is Christ.**

"That they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him.... now he commands all people everywhere to repent." Acts 17:27, 30



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**Our greatest power is not  
political ... it is spiritual.**

And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia..." Acts 16:6ff



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**What can a very independent  
nation learn from a very  
dependent man?**



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**We make the most of our  
independence when we  
live in dependence.**



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**EVENING  
PRAYER SERVICE**



**New Time!**

**SUNDAY JULY 13 | 6:30 PM | YOUTH BUILDING**



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