



# Faith, Freedom, and the American Constitution

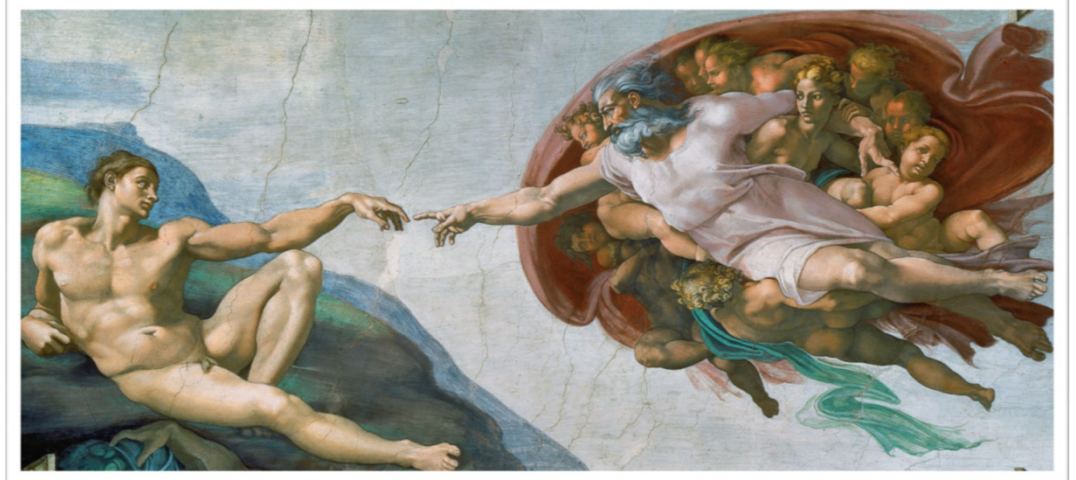
A CHRISTIAN RATIONALE FOR THE CONVENTION OF STATES MOVEMENT

# Introduction

- ▶ Theological foundations for freedom
- ▶ Impact on the American founding
- ▶ America in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century
- ▶ Imminent dangers
- ▶ Solutions

# Theological foundations for freedom

- ▶ Creation
  - ▶ Image of God
    - ▶ Human value and dignity
    - ▶ Natural order
    - ▶ Stewards of the earth and culture
  - ▶ Corruption caused by sin





# Theological foundations for freedom

- ▶ Exodus
  - ▶ Liberty
  - ▶ Law
  - ▶ Covenant
  - ▶ Property



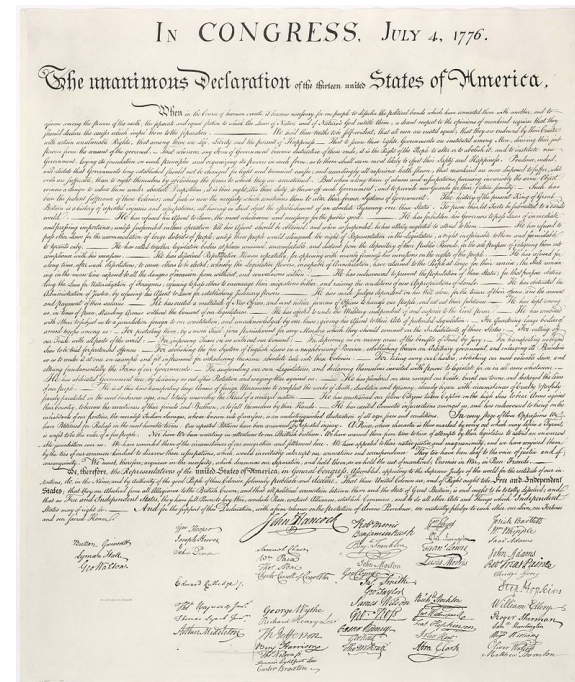
# Theological foundations for freedom

- ▶ New Testament
  - ▶ Liberty and virtue
  - ▶ Priesthood and kingship of believers
  - ▶ Logos: revelation and reason
  - ▶ Historical destiny: fulfillment of Christ's Kingdom



# The American Founding

- ▶ Backdrop: the Reformation
  - ▶ Priesthood of believers
- ▶ Declaration of Independence
  - ▶ Consent of the governed
  - ▶ Natural law
- ▶ Constitution





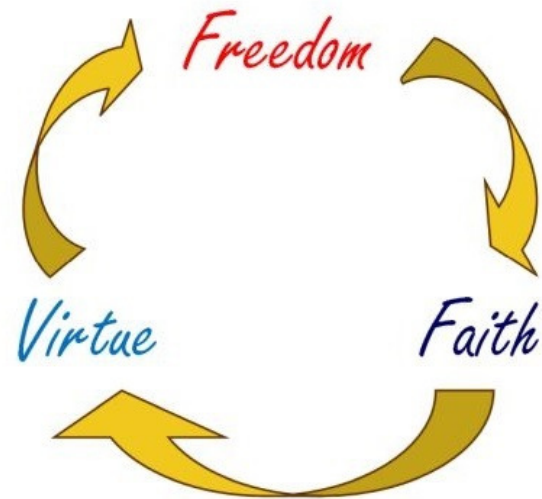
# The American Founding

- ▶ Backdrop: the Reformation
  - ▶ Priesthood of believers
- ▶ Declaration of Independence
- ▶ Constitution
  - ▶ Rooted in covenant
  - ▶ Separation of powers
  - ▶ Self-governance
  - ▶ Freedom of conscience



# The American Founding

- ▶ Golden Triangle of Freedom
  - ▶ Faith requires freedom
  - ▶ Freedom requires virtue
  - ▶ Virtue requires faith





# The American Founding: objections

- ▶ Enlightenment
  - ▶ Attempt to preserve Christian values based on reason, not revelation
  - ▶ Nevertheless, these were *Judeo-Christian* ideas.
  - ▶ No other religion or philosophy did or could serve as the foundation for these principles.
- ▶ Slavery



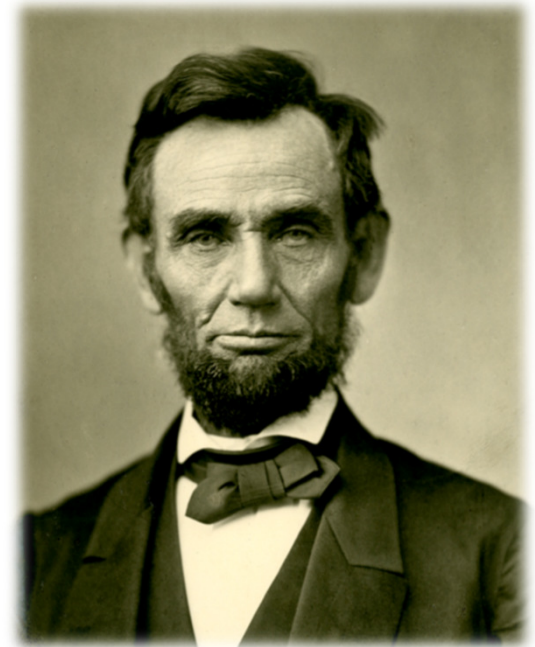
# The American Founding: objections

- ▶ Enlightenment
- ▶ Slavery
  - ▶ Must distinguish between principles and courage/consistency in implementing them
    - ▶ Jefferson, Washington
  - ▶ No great movement has been without its inconsistencies, hypocrisies, and failures.



# The American Founding: a divine purpose?

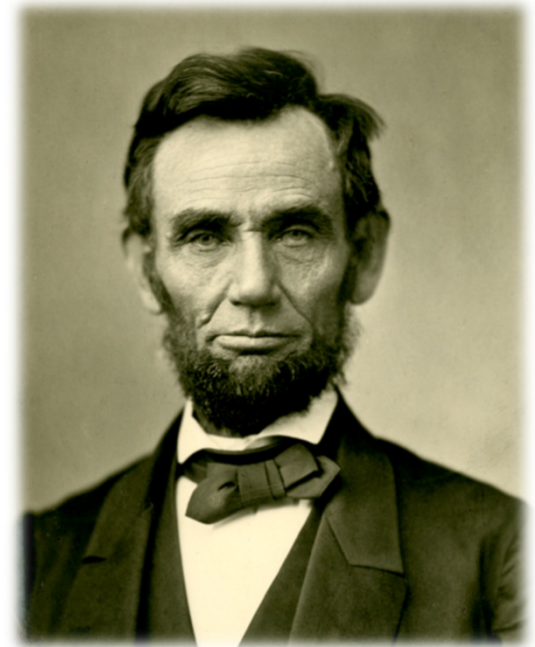
- ▶ Lincoln: we are the “almost-chosen people”
- ▶ God ordains and blesses nations  
Immanent
  - ▶ Noble and common purposes
- ▶ God’s provident blessing toward America
  - ▶ Christian heritage
  - ▶ American Revolution
  - ▶ Constitution and Bill of Rights





# The American Founding: ordained for noble purposes

- ▶ Our immense freedoms and blessings
  - ▶ A gift from God
  - ▶ Intended for noble purposes
  - ▶ Demand our careful stewardship



# America in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

- ▶ Dominant philosophies
  - ▶ Naturalism/Darwinism
    - ▶ Undermines divine authority, sin, freedom and free will, historical destiny
  - ▶ Marxism/socialism
    - ▶ Undermines divine authority, sin, history, unity
  - ▶ Postmodernism
    - ▶ Undermines truth, created order, transcendent values, freedom, virtue, and sin

