

The First Thanksgiving Proclamation

George Washington
October 3, 1789

"Whereas 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, and whereas both Houses of Congress have by their joint Committee requested me to recommend to the People of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness.

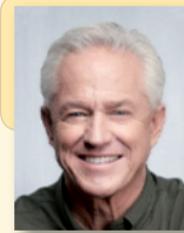
"Now therefore I do recommend and assign Thursday the 26th day of November next to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be. That we may then all unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble thanks, for his kind care and protection of the People of this Country previous to their becoming a Nation, for the signal and manifold mercies, and the favorable interpositions of his providence, which we experienced in the course and conclusion of the late war, for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty, which we have since enjoyed, for the peaceable and rational manner, in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national One now lately instituted, for the civil and religious liberty with



which we are blessed; and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and in general for all the great and various favors which he hath been pleased to confer upon us.

"And also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech him to pardon our national and other transgressions, to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually, to render our national government a blessing to all the people, by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed, to protect and guide all Sovereigns and Nations (especially such as have shown kindness unto us) and to bless them with good government, peace, and concord. To promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the increase of science among them and Us, and generally to grant unto all Mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as he alone knows to be best.

"Given under my hand at the City of New York the third day of October in the year of our Lord 1789."



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More Than Just an Advantage
Ray Bentley Ministries

"Then the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw....the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha." —2 Kings 6:16-17

Sometimes we just don't see what God is doing in our lives, and we are left confused, fearful, and wondering.

Elisha was a finely-tuned prophet of God. So in-tune in fact, he could spiritually "eavesdrop" on Israel's enemies and know everything about their plans to attack. Elisha would pass the information on to Israel's king.

Can you imagine what an advantage this was for Israel?

Even in a football game, if you know the other team's plays—what they're going to do and when they're going to do it—you can take advantage of that to win.

Elisha's eavesdropping must have infuriated the King of Syria. He couldn't catch a break. So he decided to send his entire army after Elisha to take him out.

One day Elisha's servant got up early and saw the Syrians massed against them. Understandably, he panicked! What are we going to do...we're all gonna die!

I can see Elisha yawning and telling his servant not to worry, saying, "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them."

After Elisha prayed, the Lord opened the servant's eyes and oh, what he saw! The hills were full of horses and chariots of fire (2 Kings 6:16-17).

God wants to do the same in His church today. Satan can't make a single plan in

secret. He can't go off and huddle with his demons without God knowing exactly what he's up to. And yet, we

keep looking at the enemy and what he's doing. We see division, hatred, evil, injustice, violence, and murder and feel like the world is falling apart.

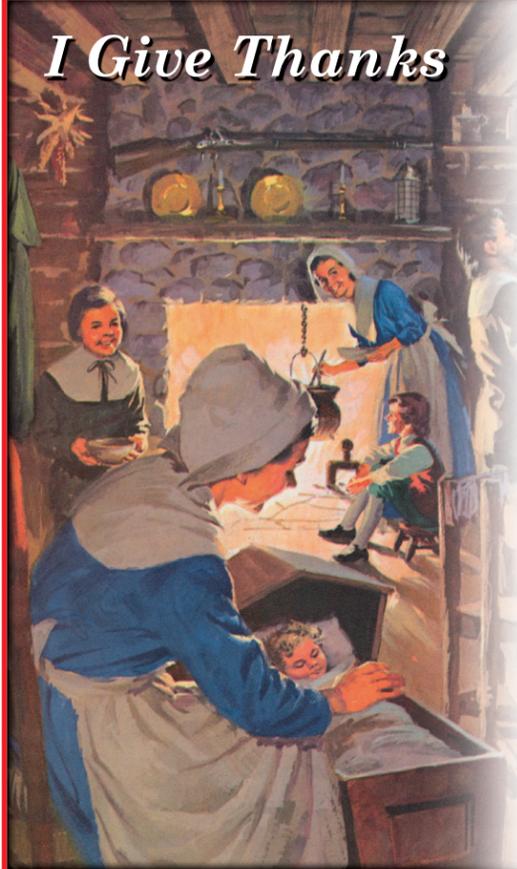
No, it's not!

We have more than just an advantage. God has the world surrounded. He's got every nation surrounded. He already won the battle 2,000 years ago. His Second Coming is simply a "mop up" operation. And as His representatives, we're the occupying army, enforcing the victory, tearing down strongholds, and taking back territory illegally held by the enemy.

May the Lord open our eyes like He did for Elisha's servant, to see that we've already won and are surrounded by heaven's resources.



I Give Thanks



*I'm thankful, Lord, for those great men
Who braved the seas to win this land;
Their sacrifices fill our history's pages.
Unfortunately, they couldn't know
That their heroic lives bestowed
Freedom to this nation through the ages.*

*For such a time, they each one served
Nor from their doubtless purpose swerved
From contribution to the cause of liberty.
Those Pilgrim Fathers never dreamt
What to the world their struggles meant
Or, that they fulfilled their country's destiny.*

*My earnest prayer that I may too,
By life I live, the things I do,
Be mindful of mankind's eternal aim.
Some small thing that men may see
Within this world because of me
A little better than before I came.
If I can smooth the path for those
Who travel after, in the throes*

*Of a world in change, a future none can see.
If, hopefully, while I am here
Within my small self-centered sphere,
I can do this. Lord, I give thanks to Thee!*

Eugene D. Tilley
Ideals Magazine

*Sing unto the Lord with thanksgiving;
sing praise upon the harp unto our
God; Who covereth the heaven
with clouds, who prepareth rain for
the earth, who maketh grass to grow
upon the mountains.*

Psalms 147:7-8

Happy Thanksgiving!



Pilgrim Vision

Clara M. Bode, Ideals Magazine

We have reaped in fields of barley,
Fields of corn and rye and wheat;
Luscious fruits from trees we've gathered,
Ripened neath the summer's heat.

*Oh, how little had the Pilgrims
On that bleak New England sod;
Yet they knelt and sang His praises
As they rendered thanks to God.*

They had suffered bitter trials,
They had seen their loved ones die,
All their dreams seemed dashed to pieces,
They had heard their women cry.

*But with boundless faith and courage
Homes were built and fields were tilled.
Meager was the harvest gathered
But with thanks their hearts were filled.*

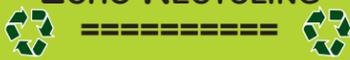
Should not we then sing His praises,
We who have so much today?
Should not we then share our blessings
On this glad Thanksgiving Day?

*Let us thank God for the Pilgrims
Kneeling on the barren sod,
In their hands so little riches . . .
In their hearts so much of God.*

Once again we come rejoicing,
Once again we sing Thy praise.
Thanks, dear Lord, for all Thy blessings . . .
Thanks for golden harvest days.



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