

## Prayer

**Bible** - Exodus 13:5

## Quiz

1. True or false: By “general principles of Christianity,” John Adams must have meant such doctrines as God as Trinity and Christ as Mediator. false
2. True or false: John Adams estimated that all Americans of his time were Bible-believing Christians. false
3. True or false: John Adams wrote that God cannot change. true
4. True or false: John Adams believed that human nature is evolving from a lower to a higher condition. false
5. True or false: John Adams believed that research in science and philosophy eventually would discover moral principles superior to what Americans knew at the time. false

BONUS: True or false: Mr. Young enjoyed Spring Break, but also missed you and is happy we are back together for class today. true

## Recitation

**Excerpt to Memorize** - Thomas Jefferson 1805

In 1805, Thomas Jefferson, third president of the United States, said:

I shall need...the favor of that Being in whose hands we are, who led our forefathers, as Israel of old, from their native land, and planted them in a country flowing with all the necessaries and comforts of life; who has covered our infancy with his providence, and our riper years with his wisdom and power; and to whose goodness I ask you to join with me in supplications...

**President** - Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826)

1743 born in Virginia colony; third oldest of ten children

not primarily homeschooled; took education from various teachers; played violin

started college 1761, age 16; after graduation, worked as a law clerk, then became lawyer 1767

loved reading, collected thousands of books during his lifetime

over 6' tall and red-headed

aged 21 inherited 5,000 acre farm

1772 age 28 married third cousin Martha Skelton, widow age 23; inherited her family's 11,000 acres

-they had six children; only two daughters survived to adulthood

-she died after last childbirth, when they had been married ten years

1775 member of Second Continental Congress; primary author of Declaration of Independence

1779-81 governor of Virginia

1783 member of Congress

1784-1789 Minister to France

1789 Secretary of State

1796 Vice President

1801-1809 President

1819 founded the University of Virginia; served as first rector 1825 until his death

**Text** - Excerpts from First and Second Inaugural Addresses

### **Identifiable Bible References**

Second inaugural address:

“Israel”

“flowing with”

### **Expressed Belief Compatible with Deism?**

no, because of reference to scriptures as true revelation of God

# Thomas Jefferson - Excerpts from Inaugural Addresses

First Inaugural Address - March 4, 1801

...it is proper you should understand what I deem the essential principles of our Government... Equal and exact justice to all men, of whatever state or persuasion, religious or political; peace, commerce, and honest friendship with all nations, entangling alliances with none; the support of the State governments in all their rights, as the most competent administrations for our domestic concerns and the surest bulwarks against antirepublican tendencies; the preservation of the General Government in its whole constitutional vigor, as the sheet anchor of our peace at home and safety abroad; a jealous care of the right of election by the people...absolute acquiescence in the decisions of the majority, the vital principle of republics, from which is no appeal but to force, the vital principle and immediate parent of despotism; a well-disciplined militia, our best reliance in peace and for the first moments of war till regulars may relieve them; the supremacy of the civil over the military authority; economy in the public expense, that labor may be lightly burthened; the honest payment of our debts and sacred preservation of the public faith; encouragement of agriculture, and of commerce as its handmaid; the diffusion of information and arraignment of all abuses at the bar of the public reason; freedom of religion; freedom of the press, and freedom of person under the protection of the habeas corpus, and trial by juries impartially selected. These principles form the bright constellation which has gone before us and guided our steps through an age of revolution and reformation. The wisdom of our sages and blood of our heroes have been devoted to their attainment. They should be the creed of our political faith, the text of civic instruction, the touchstone by which to try the services of those we trust; and should we wander from them in moments of error or of alarm, let us hasten to retrace our steps and to regain the road which alone leads to peace, liberty, and safety.

...And may that Infinite Power which rules the destinies of the universe lead our councils to what is best, and give them a favorable issue for your peace and prosperity.

Second Inaugural Address - March 4, 1805

. . . The suppression of unnecessary offices, of useless establishments and expenses, enabled us to discontinue our internal taxes. These covering our land with officers, and opening our doors to their intrusions, had already begun that process of domiciliary vexation which, once entered, is scarcely to be restrained from reaching successively every article of produce and property. If among these taxes some minor ones fell which had not been inconvenient, it was because their amount would not have paid the officers who collected them, and because, if they had any merit, the state authorities might adopt them, instead of others less approved.

The remaining revenue on the consumption of foreign articles, is paid cheerfully by those who can afford to add foreign luxuries to domestic comforts, being collected on our seaboard and frontiers only, and incorporated with the transactions of our mercantile citizens, it may be the pleasure and pride of an American to ask, what farmer, what mechanic, what laborer, ever sees a tax-gatherer of the United States? These contributions enable us to support the current expenses of the government...

. . . I shall need, too, the favor of that Being in whose hands we are, who led our forefathers, as Israel of old, from their native land, and planted them in a country flowing with all the necessaries and comforts of life; who has covered our infancy with his providence, and our riper years with his wisdom and power; and to whose goodness I ask you to join with me in supplications, that he will so enlighten the minds of your servants, guide their councils, and prosper their measures, that whatsoever they do, shall result in your good, and shall secure to you the peace, friendship, and approbation of all nations.

first inaugural address March 4, 1801

[https://avalon.law.yale.edu/19th\\_century/jefinau1.asp](https://avalon.law.yale.edu/19th_century/jefinau1.asp)

... it is proper you should understand what I deem the essential principles of our Government...

And may that Infinite Power which rules the destinies of the universe lead our councils to what is best, and give them a favorable issue for your peace and prosperity.

second inaugural address March 4, 1805

[https://avalon.law.yale.edu/19th\\_century/jefinau2.asp](https://avalon.law.yale.edu/19th_century/jefinau2.asp)

I shall need, too, the favor of that Being in whose hands we are, who led our forefathers, as Israel of old, from their native land, and planted them in a country flowing with all the necessaries and comforts of life; who has covered our infancy with his providence, and our riper years with his wisdom and power; and to whose goodness I ask you to join with me in supplications, that he will so enlighten the minds of your servants, guide their councils, and prosper their measures, that

whatsoever they do, shall result in your good, and shall secure to you the peace, friendship, and approbation of all nations.

resource

[https://www.academia.edu/55640650/The\\_Religious\\_Correspondance\\_of\\_Thomas\\_Jefferson\\_in\\_Context](https://www.academia.edu/55640650/The_Religious_Correspondance_of_Thomas_Jefferson_in_Context)

Letter to John Adams June 15, 1813

<https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Jefferson/03-06-02-0178>

the last is on the subject of religion, and by it's publication will gratify the priesthood with new occasion of repeating their Comminations against me. they wish it to be believed that he can have no religion who advocates it's freedom. this was not the doctrine of Priestley, and I honored him for the example of liberality he set to his order.

Wikipedia article on Joseph Priestley

In 1782 he published the fourth volume of his *Institutes*, *An History of the Corruptions of Christianity*, describing how he thought the teachings of the early Christian church had been "corrupted" or distorted.<sup>[139]</sup> Schofield describes the work as "derivative, disorganized, wordy, and repetitive, detailed, exhaustive, and devastatingly argued".<sup>[140]</sup> The text addresses issues ranging from the divinity of Christ to the proper form for the Lord's Supper. Priestley followed up in 1786 with the provocatively titled book, *An History of Early Opinions concerning Jesus Christ, compiled from Original Writers, proving that the Christian Church was at first Unitarian*. Thomas Jefferson would later write of the profound effect that these two books had on him: "I have read his Corruptions of Christianity, and Early Opinions of Jesus, over and over again; and I rest on them ... as the basis of my own faith. These writings have never been answered."