

giving thanks



THE ALLIANCE

Living the Call together®

MATTHEW 28:18-20

welcome to long beach alliance church
thanksgiving eve service
wednesday, november 27, 2013

The 1863 Thanksgiving Proclamation Of President Abraham Lincoln

The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God.

In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to foreign States to invite and to provoke their aggression, peace has been preserved with all nations, order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere except in the theatre of military conflict; while that theatre has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and navies of the Union.

Needful diversions of wealth and of strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defense, have not arrested the plough, the shuttle or the ship; the axe has enlarged the borders of our settlements, and the mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore.

Population has steadily increased, notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the siege and the battle-field; and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years with large increase of freedom.

No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy.

It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens.

And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility and Union.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the United States to be affixed. Done at the City of Washington, this Third day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States the Eighty-eighth.

Written by William H. Seward, Secretary of State



1) God Bring Big Changes To His People

- A) Moses, who had led Israel for much of their glorious recent history, dies and is replaced by a relatively young man named Joshua as the leader of the Israelite people (Joshua 1:1-18). Joshua's leadership is to be marked by military conquest (Joshua 1:3-5), strength and courage (Joshua 1:6-9), and a priority of God's righteous Law in daily living (Joshua 1:8-9).
- B) The people respond well to God's choice of Joshua as leader and they respond well to Joshua's leadership (Joshua 1:16-17). The people commit themselves to follow Joshua, or pay the price of the death penalty for their treason (Joshua 1:18).

2) Conquering Of New Territory

- A) Israel, who has been wandering around in the desert for 40 years, comes to the Promised Land of Israel with the ark of the covenant out in front of them. They cross the Jordan river into the land of Canaan (Joshua 3), as God dries up the Jordan river so the people can cross, with the ark of the covenant in the middle of the riverbed (Joshua 3:8, 11-13).
- B) The people set up an altar of 12 stones from the middle of the river (near the ark) and when everyone and everything was across, the ark of the covenant followed (Joshua 4:11).
- C) All of Israel's men are then circumcised (?!) in Gibeath-haaraloth (hill of the foreskins), which is later named to Gilgal (which means "rolling") because God 'rolled' away the past connection to Egypt, they are now fully His people in the land which God had promised to them (Joshua 5:8-9).
- D) Soon after the men healed, they were able to eat produce from the land they were occupying, and that very next morning, the manna which God had provided them every day since the Exodus began (41 years and some days earlier) stopped appearing on the ground (Joshua 5:11-12).
- E) In the New Testament, Jesus Christ is the "bread of life," which is celebrated in Communion. And rather than altars being the location of worship, God's people are the "living stones" (1 Peter 2:4-9), which live out authentic worship "in Spirit and truth" (John 4:23-24).