

PSALM 9:1-8 – Prayer and Thanksgiving for the LORD’s Righteous Judgments! Revolutionary War – Bunker Hill & Dorchester Heights

5/8/21 – Sat. Morn. Prayer - P. Twente, 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com www.ptwente.com

PRAISE TO THE LORD – Joachim Neander; Billy Graham choir (1:41)

Praise to the Lord, The Almighty, the king of creation! O my soul, praise Him, For He is thy health and salvation! All ye who hear, brothers and sisters draw near; Praise Him in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me adore Him! All that hath life and breath, Come now with praises before Him. Let the Amen sound from His people again, Gladly for aye we adore Him. Praise Him in adoration, Oh, Praise to the Lord!

PSALM 9:1-8: *I will praise You, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works. [2] I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High. [3] When my enemies turn back, They shall fall and perish at Your presence. [4] For You have maintained my right and my cause; You sat on the throne judging in righteousness. [5] You have rebuked the nations, You have destroyed the wicked; You have blotted out their name forever and ever. [6] O enemy, destructions are finished forever! And you have destroyed cities; Even their memory has perished. [7] But the LORD shall endure forever; He has prepared His throne for judgment. [8] He shall judge the world in righteousness, And He shall administer judgment for the peoples in uprightness.*

PARTIAL TIME LINE – Revolutionary War:

March 22, 1765 – The Stamp Act

March 5, 1770 – Boston Massacre kills five colonists

Dec 16, 1773 – Boston Tea Party

Sep 5, 1774 – 1st Continental Congress meets in Philadelphia to issue the Declaration of Rights

Mar 23, 1775 – Patrick Henry’s speech, “Give me liberty or give me death”

April 18, 1775 – Paul Revere’s ride

April 19, 1775 – Clash at Lexington and Concord “The shot heard around the world”

May 10, 1775 – 2nd Continental Congress; Ethan Allen with Green Mountain Boys take Ft. Ticonderoga

June 15, 1775 – Washington made commander. Takes charge of Continental Army

June 17, 1775 – Battle of Bunker Hill, 1st major battle

March 1776 – Victory at higher ground of Dorchester Heights!

Oct 19, 1791 – End of Revolutionary War; Cornwallis defeated at Yorktown.

BATTLE OF BUNKER HILL! - A military loss, but a huge victory

- A Patriot loss, about 400 dead and wounded, but a victory! For the British, a very costly victory, which was really a defeat! In just two hours of fighting, 1,054 British soldiers—almost half of all those engaged—had been killed or wounded, including many officers. American losses totaled about 400. The first true battle of the Revolutionary War was to prove the bloodiest of the entire conflict. Though the British had achieved their aim in capturing the hill, it was a victory that inflicted such a devastating toll that it was tantamount to a defeat! “The success is too dearly bought,” wrote Gen. William Howe, who lost every member of his staff, as the patriot focused on going after British officers. Patriot leader Nathanael Greene wrote that he wished the colonials could “sell them another hill at the same price.”
- The Patriots were energized! The British were demoralized! The Americans, meanwhile, hailed the defeat as a moral victory. They had gone head-to-head with a larger and better-equipped enemy, and had shown they would not be beaten without a fight!
- The importance of holding the high ground was recognized! British General Howe, failed to move to secure the highest point, Dorchester Heights, saying, This is high enough!
- The British now held the entire city of Boston. They brought 2 slave ships, into the Boston Harbor using them as prisoner ships for the captured Patriot soldiers. The stench from these ships could be smelled around the whole area.
- Months of stalemate followed. Morale among the Patriots was low. Boston was one of the most difficult cities to take and it was firmly in British control.

IF ONLY WE HAD MORE FIREPOWER!

- Colonel Henry Knox floated an idea to General Washington, that if we only had more guns, more firepower, we could take the city. But from where? Knox said, if we could just get to Ft. Ticonderoga, guns has been captured a little earlier, but it was 300 miles away and it was now in the dead of winter.
- Knox said, give me permission and I'll get a group together and get the guns.
- Many of Washington's advisors thought the plan was hopeless. The sixty tons of guns would have to be dismantled and loaded onto barges, transported down Lake George before the great 30-mile-long lake froze, then later at Albany, cross over the Hudson River; then hauled the rest of the way by sledge and oxen over rough trails. Knox would need good luck and better weather — warm days for crossing the lake; cold, snowy nights for the sleds. The operation involved mobilizing a large corps of men, assembling a flotilla of flat-bottomed boats for the lake trip, building 40 special sleds, and gathering 80 yoke of oxen to pull the 5400-pound sleds.
- “But God!” God is in the equation! Knox was persuasive; if the mission succeeded, the advantage gained would be spectacular. Washington agreed to the idea, and said, yes! On December 1, 1775, Henry Knox set off on horseback for Ticonderoga.

FORT TICONDEROGA, GUNS TO BOSTON - GOD IS IN THE OPERATION!

- Dec 5, 1775 - Knox arrived at Ticonderoga four days later. He immediately set about disassembling the guns — 43 heavy brass and iron cannon, six small mortars, eight mortars, and two howitzers. His men removed the guns from their mountings and transported them by boat and ox cart to the head of Lake George. By December 9th, all 59 guns were loaded onto flat-bottomed boats and headed down the lake.
- Until that point, the weather had remained mild, but now the wind picked up and forced Knox's freezing men to row into an icy gale. With heroic effort, they succeeded in getting the last of the cannon to the southern end of the lake just as it began to freeze over.
- The next challenge was to move the cannon overland. From Fort George on December 12th, Knox wrote asking a local farmer to "purchase or get made immediately 40 good strong sleds that will each be able to carry a long cannon clear from dragging on the ground and which will weigh 5400 pound each and likewise that you would procure oxen or horse as you shall judge most proper to drag them. . . . The sleds . . . are to go to camp near Boston."
- "I hope in 16 or 17 days to be able to present your Excellency a noble train of artillery."
- (But God!) In less than a week, the determined Knox had acquired the sleds he needed and loaded the cannon. On December 17th, he wrote to Washington, "I have had made forty-two exceedingly strong sleds & have provided eighty yoke of oxen to drag them as far as Springfield where I shall get fresh cattle to carry them to camp. . . . I hope in 16 or 17 days to be able to present your Excellency a noble train of artillery."
- Knox was ready, but he could not move. The ground was bare. A good base of snow was needed for the oxen to drag the heavy sleds. Finally, on Christmas morning (“But God!”), Knox awakened to several feet of fresh snow. It was too much of a good thing, since it was difficult to cut a new path through such deep snow. Still, Knox and his men pushed on toward Boston.
- By January 5th, the artillery had reached Albany, but once again, nature did not cooperate. The ice on the Hudson River was not deep enough to support the weight of the sleds. During each of the first two attempts at crossing, Knox saw a precious cannon lost to the river. But by the evening of January 8th, he was able to write in his diary, "Went on the ice about 8 o'clock in the morning & proceeded so carefully that before night we got over 23 sleds & were so fortunate as to get the Cannon out of the River, owing to the assistance the good people of the City of Albany gave."
- Continuing eastward, Knox and his men crossed the border into Massachusetts and struggled on to Springfield. From here both the roads and the weather improved. With 80 yoke of fresh oxen, the expedition passed through Brookfield, Spencer, Leicester, Worcester, Shrewsbury, Northborough, Marlborough, Southborough, Framingham, Wayland, Weston, Waltham, and Watertown.
- On Jan 24, 1776, Knox's "noble train of artillery" entered Cambridge. Colonel Henry Knox, the young Boston bookseller had pulled off a daring plan. He had led a small group of men on a 300-mile journey from Boston to Fort Ticonderoga in New York State. Once there, the party disassembled the cannon taken when the British surrendered the fort and retreated to Canada in

May 1775. In less than two months' time, Knox and his men moved 60 tons of artillery across lakes and rivers, through ice and snow to Boston!

THE IMPORTANT HIGH GROUND OF DORCHESTER HEIGHTS!

- Washington's gun batteries in Cambridge distracted British troops while several thousand Americans quietly maneuvered the artillery, out of British view, up the back side of Dorchester Heights and frantically constructed emplacements. By muffling their wagon-wheels with straw, the Patriots were able to move their cannon unnoticed. Washington would use this same strategy to evade British General Charles Cornwallis after the Battle of Trenton.
- Mar 4, 1776 (some say Mar 7) - Six weeks later, on the night of March 4th, Washington's gun batteries in Cambridge distracted British troops while several thousand Americans quietly maneuvered the artillery up Dorchester Heights and frantically constructed emplacements. Logs painted to look like cannon made it seem as if they had even more firepower than they did.
- (But God!) The night proved to be perfect for the work operation to come. A low-lying haze prevented the British from seeing much of anything beyond Boston, and a full moon provided the Americans with the light they needed to see their way. On the Heights, the troops went to work with picks and shovels to arrange the guns, dig ditches and build breastworks.
- The next morning an astonished British General Howe looked up at Dorchester Heights and remarked, "The rebels did more in one night than my whole army would have done in one month."
- The vaunted British Army, now had little chance of holding on to Boston. On March 17th, British troops and Tory sympathizers began the evacuation of Boston and moved to Halifax, Nova Scotia! (But God!)

GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON'S PRAYER FOLLOWING THE CONTINENTAL ARMY'S VICTORY OVER LORD CORNWALLIS AT YORKTOWN ON 10/19/1781:

The General congratulates the army upon the glorious event of yesterday.... In order to diffuse the general Joy through every Breast, the General orders that those men belonging to the Army who may now be in confinement shall be pardoned released and join their respective corps. "Divine Service is to be performed tomorrow in the several Brigades or Divisions. The Commander in Chief earnestly recommends that the troop not on duty should universally attend with that seriousness of Deportment and Gratitude of Heart which the recognition of such reiterated and astonishing interpositions of Providence demand of us."

The first orders given by the Commander-in-Chief to the Continental Army following this momentous victory over the British was to honor God's day and give Him thanks!

SUMMARY:

- With God in our lives, may we not fail to attain the highest point, never to stop short as General Howe did, saying, we've gone high enough. Persevere!
- When we hear God's call. We need to step out! Even though we have no firepower; no cannon, no sleds, no way to do what we know we are being called to do! Our God is able!
- There is no "that's impossible", in Him! Or in anyone who totally trusts and follows the LORD's perfect will!
- When there is no snow for the sleds – we pray! When the ice over the river Hudson breaks, as we are trying to cross. We continue on! (But God!)
- At times, we need to work all night to get ready to meet the enemy! We sacrifice! We must be obedient to show up for the battles!
- We need to be thankful and grateful to Him always!
- Are we ready and willing to heed the LORD's call? Time is short!

HOW GREAT THOU ART –

Stuart Hine – Phil Wickham (2:04)

Then sings my soul my Savior God to Thee, How great Thou art! How great Thou art! Then sings my soul my Savior God to Thee! How great Thou art! How great Thou art! (2X)

PRAY FOR THE LOST; FOR THE CHURCH; FOR OUR NATION! FOR HIS SOON RETURN!

Lost episodes Devotional Daily - <https://drkenyncureton.selz.com/item/556a49aab79872054c569bad>