

Sunday, July 2, 2023

Scripture Reading: Genesis 22:1-14

Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves.
—Abraham Lincoln

In two days, we celebrate Independence Day — the day we recognize as the official birth of a new country, the United States of America. Although there were 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence, including two future presidents, three vice presidents, and 10 members of the United States Congress, not everyone those days agreed with the move to sever ties with Great Britain.

They had their reasons, of course. Britain had the better defense and more money than the colonies. The rebels lacked a professional army or navy, and what fighting forces they had were armed only with muskets. Moreover, they had had little training.

Then, too, some people feared the British. If you had been a member of the Second Continental Congress in 1776, you were a rebel and considered a traitor by the king. A reward had been posted for the capture of certain prominent rebel leaders, and the largest British armada ever assembled was just outside New York harbor. If you signed the Declaration of Independence, in effect, you were crossing a point of no return. You had just pledged your life, your fortune and your sacred honor to the cause of freedom.

No wonder that John Dickinson and Robert R. Livingston, among others, did not sign this fabled document of freedom.

But 56 representatives from all 13 colonies did. And the rest, as the saying goes, is history.

And for this, we can give thanks.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Thank you, O God, for the blessing of living in this country where, despite its flaws and its struggles, we can live in freedom and enjoy the fruit of liberty. We pray for those who still feel the sting of prejudice and bigotry and those who knowingly or without malice inflict that pain. Bring us all together as we seek to truly be the “united” States of America. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

*Blessings,
Jessa & Pastor Ben Metz*

Week of July 2, 2023

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Acts 3-5

Monday: Isaiah 40-42

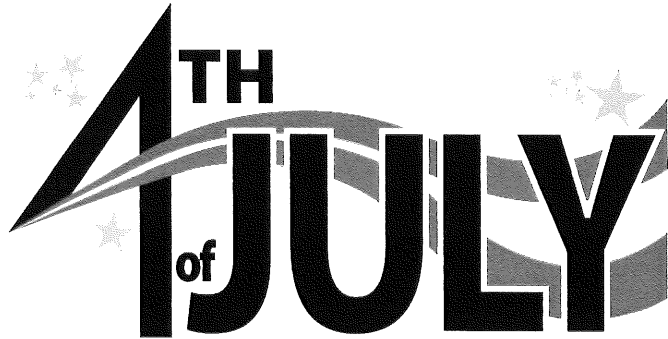
Tuesday: Isaiah 43-45

Wednesday: Isaiah 46-48

Thursday: Isaiah 49-51

Friday: Isaiah 52-54

Saturday: Psalms 73-75



HOW MANY TRIANGLES?

This is a simple test. All you need to do is count all the triangles in the image to the left. Answer next week.

