

---

*Independence Day Message - 2023*

## A DIFFERENT WAY TO PRAY ON INDEPENDENCE DAY

*Genesis 1:1; 2 Chronicles 7:14; Jeremiah 29:4-7*

By Rod MacIlvaine

**Introduction:** The founding fathers of our country believed that July 4<sup>th</sup> should be celebrated as a major holiday as long as our country endures. John Adams put it this way, “[America’s Independence] ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more.” Adam’s aspirations reveal his very hopeful future for our country. Celebrations commenced even as the Revolutionary War continued to rage. In 1778 George Washington issued a double ration of rum to his soldiers, as well as an artillery salute. In the decades that followed, patriotic feelings swelled. Americans loved parades, picnics and pretty fireworks. However, over the past three (plus) decades historical amnesia and growing cultural tribalism have blunted patriotic feelings. At the same time, many followers of Jesus have started wondering how to best pray for our deeply divided country. This morning we try a biblical thought experiment, and our question is this: How should the respective worldviews of Israel and America inform the way we pray for our country? To explore this, we will contrast two very different notions for how we might pray for our country in 2023.

### 1. Ancient Israel

*Genesis 1:1; 2 Chronicles 7:14*

### 2. Colonial America

*Jeremiah 29:4-7*

**3. Main Idea –**

**4. Takeaways –**