

For God and Country "The Conception of America"

History did not happen in a vacuum. For this reason we will, of necessity, spend a few moments giving some context to the times and circumstances that led to the birth of the United States of America.

If you would, please take a trip with me back in time over 2,000 years. Jesus Christ has completed His earth-walk, He's risen from the dead, ascended into heaven, the Holy Spirit, the "promise of the Father" has come and the church has been empowered.

Great success was the hallmark of Christianity following the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. They were now empowered to withstand opposition and persecution, and even martyrdom! These "who turned the world upside down" simply could not be stopped. That is until sin and corruption was allowed, from within and from without.

Timeline

about 29 AD – the Crucifixion, Resurrection, Ascension, and Pentecost, followed by **great** growth of the church.

about 310 AD - Christianity began to be the favored religion throughout the Roman Empire, eventually being accepted as the "official" state church by edict in 380.

about 500 – 1400's AD - Middle or Dark Ages

1492 - Christopher Columbus sailed to the America's on the Nina, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria. (painting – U.S. Capital Rotunda)

1517 – Martin Luther, the "Father of the Reformation"... dissatisfaction with the Roman Catholic Church... he is himself a priest.

1560 – The Geneva Bible is completed (for the very first time, a mechanically printed, mass-produced English Bible made available directly to the general public which came with chapter and verse divisions.)

1585 - The Lost Colony of Roanoke (of interest to us in NC)

1607 - The **Jamestown** settlement in the Colony of Virginia was the first permanent English settlement in the Americas. Pocahontas, daughter of an Indian chief, converted to Christianity and took the name Rebecca in 1613. (painting in U.S. Capital Rotunda)

1611 – the printing of the King James Version Bible

1620 - Sailing of the Mayflower
Pilgrims = Puritans, Separatists, Strangers
(painting in U.S. Capital Rotunda)

Signing of The Mayflower Compact

In the name of God, Amen. We, whose names are underwritten...Having **undertaken, for the Glory of God, and advancements of the Christian faith** and honor of our King and Country, a voyage to plant the first colony in the Northern parts of Virginia...**in the presence of God**, and one another, covenant and combine ourselves together...

1621 – The 1st Thanksgiving (painting)

Although historic revision is producing textbooks for our children, which minimize or eliminate the mention of God and Christianity, the fact remains that according to historical documents and records, faith played a major role in the formation and development of our beloved United States. This we will trace for the next 4 weeks each Sunday morning.