

# Designed by God Built by Man II

**By Captain Bob Webb**



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### By Captain Bob Webb

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Bob was Captain of a training schooner for teenagers.

God orchestrates opportunity when  
fulfilling His purpose for our life.

## Why was the US Constitution written?

The United States Constitution was written with several key purposes in mind:

**Establishing a Stronger National Government:** Prior to the Constitution, the nation operated under the Articles of Confederation, which created a weak central government. The Articles allowed states to function independently, leading to challenges in governance. The Constitutional Convention of 1787 aimed to create a more robust federal government with three branches: executive, legislative, and judicial. This structure ensured a system of checks and balances, preventing any single branch from accumulating excessive power.

**Protecting Individual Rights:** The Constitution guarantees certain basic rights for American citizens. These rights are enshrined in the Bill of Rights, which includes amendments such as freedom of speech, religion, and the right to a fair trial. Over time, additional amendments have been added, totaling 27 to date.

**Uniting the States:** The Articles of Confederation allowed states to act independently for specific purposes. The Constitution, however, united citizens as members of a whole, vesting the power of the union in the people. Without it, the American Experiment might have ended as quickly as it had begun.

The Constitution was written to create a government with enough power to act on a national level while safeguarding fundamental rights and preventing tyranny. It remains a foundational document that shapes the governance of the United States to this day.

## Religious beliefs of the writers of the US Constitution

The religious beliefs of the writers of the US Constitution varied, reflecting a diverse range of perspectives. Most of the Founding Fathers were raised in Protestant traditions—such as Anglicanism, Presbyterianism, and Congregationalism. While many appeared orthodox in public statements, there was also a school of thought called Deism prevalent in 18th-century America. Deists, influenced by figures like Jean-Jacques Rousseau and Isaac Newton, emphasized reason over religious dogma. Thomas Paine, a prominent American Deist, even called Christianity “a fable” in his work *The Age of Reason*. Ultimately, the framers of the Constitution favored a neutral stance toward religion, emphasizing the separation of church and state. Some scholars argue that the Founders were mostly deists, rejecting certain Christian doctrines and believing that God did not directly intervene in human affairs. Their complex blend of faith, reason, and secular ideas continues to shape discussions about religion and governance in the United States.

While most of the Founding Fathers adhered to various Christian denominations, there isn't clear evidence that any of them openly identified as atheists. However, some, like Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin, held Deist views. Deists believed in a distant, rational God who created the universe but did not intervene directly in human affairs. Jefferson, for instance, edited his own version of the New Testament, removing supernatural elements and focusing on Jesus' moral teachings. Franklin, too, expressed skepticism about traditional Christian doctrines. It's essential to recognize that the religious landscape during that time was diverse, and personal beliefs varied widely among these influential figures.

### **Comparing the US Constitution to the Bible**

The US Constitution was drafted by human delegates in 1787, the Constitution serves as the supreme law of the United States. It establishes the framework for government, outlines rights, and defines the separation of powers. It focuses on governance, legal principles, and civil rights. Its authority lies in the consent of the governed. While it acknowledges “the Year of our Lord” in its signatures, it does not explicitly mention God or the Bible. It applies to civil matters, legal systems, and governance.

The Bible is a collection of sacred texts revered by various religious traditions. It encompasses spiritual teachings, moral guidelines, and narratives about God's relationship with humanity. The Bible contains religious teachings, historical accounts, poetry, and prophecy. Its authority is considered divine and transcends human governance. The Bible directly addresses God, His commandments, and His role in creation and redemption. It influences personal faith, morality, and spiritual practices.

In summary, the Constitution is a legal document, while the Bible holds spiritual and moral significance. Both shape different aspects of human life and society.

## The U.S. Constitution and the American Dream.

### **Foundational Principles:**

The Declaration of Independence, which preceded the Constitution, laid the groundwork for the American Dream. It famously states, **“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness”**.

The Constitution, while less mythic in its language, serves as the backdrop for all American Dreams. It establishes the framework for governance, individual rights, and the pursuit of prosperity.

### **First Amendment:** Freedom of Speech:

The First Amendment, enacted on December 15, 1791, guarantees freedom of speech, press, and religion.

This amendment empowers people with independence and a voice, allowing them to pursue their version of the American Dream without restrictions.

It enables individuals and families, including immigrants, to participate in U.S. society and advocate for what they believe is right.

### **Fourteenth Amendment:** Equality:

The Fourteenth Amendment is crucial for achieving the American Dream. It addresses citizenship and equal protection under the law.

The equal protection clause ensures that states cannot deny students a free public education based on their immigration status.

This amendment is vital because it allows equal opportunities and fair education, enabling dreams of success to thrive.

### **Nurturing Success Within a Democratic Nation:**

Implicitly, the view that opportunities arise from a free and democratic nation is established in the Constitution.

The Constitution promises the dream and identifies citizens as the purveyors of success within the American system.

The U.S. Constitution, along with the Declaration of Independence, embodies the principles of freedom, equality, and opportunity—the very essence of the American Dream.

## The Bible shaped the U.S. Constitution

### **Founding Era and Biblical Influence:**

The Puritans in the American colony of Connecticut drafted what is considered to be the first written constitution in the world: the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut in 1639.

American colonial constitutions and the state constitutions in the new nation were heavily influenced by the governing principles and laws of the colonial constitutions that preceded them.

These early constitutions were shaped by a God-oriented worldview, consistent with biblical ideas of moral truth, law, and human dignity.

### **The U.S. Constitution and Its Roots:**

While the U.S. Constitution is a practical legal document, it is based on a consensus of long-held moral, philosophical, and political beliefs recognized and practiced by the American people.

Secular sources that influenced the Constitution aligned with biblical concepts, emphasizing moral truth, justice, and human dignity.

The Constitution frames the United States government, provides for national security, upholds justice, and protects civil and religious liberties.

### **Indirect Influence:**

Specific constitutional provisions may not be directly tied to specific biblical passages.

However, biblical concepts had already found expression in western legal tradition, including the English common law and colonial laws.

The framers started with a **biblical view of human nature**, which indirectly influenced the Constitution.

## The significance of mentioning God in the constitution

The mention of God in a constitution holds various meanings and implications, depending on the context and the country.

### **Historical and Cultural Roots:**

**Tradition and Heritage:** Including references to God reflects a nation's historical and cultural roots. Many constitutions draw from religious traditions that have shaped their societies over centuries.

**National Identity:** Invoking God can reinforce a sense of national identity and unity. It connects citizens to shared values and beliefs.

### **Symbolic and Moral Significance:**

**Moral Foundation:** Mentioning God often implies that the constitution is grounded in moral principles derived from religious teachings. It serves as a moral compass for governance.

**Oath-Taking:** In some countries, public officials take oaths invoking God, emphasizing their commitment to uphold the constitution and serve the people.

### **Legal and Political Implications:**

**Legal Validity:** A constitutional reference to God may not have direct legal consequences, but it can influence legal interpretations. Courts may consider religious values when interpreting laws.

**Religious Freedom:** Balancing the mention of God with provisions for religious freedom is crucial. Constitutions must protect the rights of all citizens, regardless of their beliefs.

### **Controversies and Challenges:**

**Secularism vs. Theocracy:** The inclusion of God can spark debates about the separation of religion and state. Some argue for secular constitutions, while others advocate for theocratic ones.

**Inclusivity:** Constitutions should be inclusive, considering diverse religious and non-religious perspectives. Exclusionary language can alienate minority groups.

### **Global Variation:**

**Diverse Approaches:** Different countries take varying approaches. Some explicitly mention God (e.g., the United States), while others emphasize secularism (e.g., France).

**Evolution Over Time:** Constitutions evolve. Amendments may add or remove religious references based on societal changes.

Mentioning God in a constitution reflects a complex interplay of history, culture, morality, and legal considerations. It shapes a nation's identity and values, but striking the right balance is essential for an inclusive and just society.

## The Biblical view of human nature

### **Creation in God's Image:**

Genesis 1:26-27 states that God created humans in His own image. This concept emphasizes the inherent dignity, worth, and value of every individual.

Despite human imperfections and sin, this foundational truth underscores the unique status of humanity.

### **Fall and Sinfulness:**

Genesis 3 narrates the fall of humanity due to disobedience. Sin entered the world, affecting human nature.

Romans 3:23 declares, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." This acknowledges human brokenness and the need for redemption.

### **Depravity and Total Inability:**

Jeremiah 17:9 describes the human heart as deceitful and desperately wicked. This reflects the depravity inherent in fallen human nature.

Ephesians 2:1-3 speaks of spiritual death and bondage to sin. Humans, left to themselves, are unable to save themselves.

### **Redemption and Restoration:**

The Bible also offers hope. Through Jesus Christ, redemption is possible.

John 3:16 highlights God's love and the provision of eternal life through faith in Jesus.

2 Corinthians 5:17 speaks of becoming new creations in Christ.

### **Free Will and Responsibility:**

While humans are fallen, they retain free will and moral responsibility.

Choices matter, and individuals are accountable for their actions.

### **Compassion:**

The concept of "image of God" calls for treating others with compassion, love, and respect.

Matthew 22:39 instructs believers to love their neighbors as themselves.

### **Hope for Transformation:**

Philippians 1:6 assures that God continues His work in believers, transforming them.

The biblical view acknowledges both human frailty and the potential for spiritual growth.



## Biblical concepts that influenced the Constitution

### **Human Dignity and Equality:**

The Bible teaches that all humans are created in the image of God, emphasizing their inherent worth and dignity.

The Constitution reflects this concept through the equal protection clause and the idea that all citizens have equal rights under the law.

### **Natural Law and Moral Order:**

The Bible emphasizes moral absolutes and a universal moral order.

The framers believed in natural law, which transcends human-made laws. They sought to create a just legal system based on these principles.

### **Individual Rights and Liberty:**

Biblical principles underscore individual freedom and the right to make personal choices.

The Constitution's Bill of Rights protects fundamental liberties such as freedom of speech, religion, and assembly.

### **Justice and Fairness:**

The Bible promotes justice, fairness, and impartiality.

The Constitution establishes a system of checks and balances, ensuring fairness and preventing abuse of power.

### **Covenant and Social Compact:**

The biblical concept of covenant influenced the idea of a social contract between citizens and their government.

The Constitution represents a compact among the people, outlining their mutual obligations.

### **Limited Government:**

The Bible warns against tyranny and excessive concentration of power.

The Constitution divides power among branches and limits government authority.

### **Restraint and Humility:**

The Bible encourages humility and self-restraint.

The framers designed a government that respects individual rights while avoiding arrogance.

Remember, while the Constitution draws from biblical principles, it also incorporates secular ideas and Enlightenment philosophy. The blend of these influences shaped the remarkable document that governs the United States.

## Key writers of the US Constitution

### Their relationship to God

**George Washington:** As the first President of the United States, Washington was a respected leader during the American Revolution. He often invoked divine providence in his speeches and writings, emphasizing the importance of moral virtue and religious faith in maintaining a just society.

**James Madison:** Often called the “Father of the Constitution,” Madison played a crucial role in drafting the Constitution. He believed in a separation of church and state, advocating for religious freedom and tolerance. Madison’s views were influenced by Enlightenment thinkers and his own experiences with religious diversity.

**Benjamin Franklin:** A polymath and diplomat, Franklin contributed to the Constitution. Although he was not a devout Christian, he acknowledged the existence of a Supreme Being and supported the idea of divine providence. His pragmatic approach emphasized practical wisdom and ethical behavior.

**Alexander Hamilton:** A key figure in the Constitutional Convention, Hamilton favored a strong central government. His views on religion were more private, but he recognized the importance of moral order in society. His Federalist Papers reflect a belief in divine guidance.

**John Adams:** As the second President, Adams was deeply religious. He believed that the Constitution should be grounded in moral principles derived from religious teachings. Adams saw religion as essential for maintaining social order and individual virtue.

**Thomas Jefferson:** Although not directly involved in drafting the Constitution (he was in France during the Constitutional Convention), Jefferson’s influence cannot be ignored. His ideas, expressed in the Declaration of Independence, emphasized natural rights and the pursuit of happiness. Jefferson was a Deist who believed in a distant, non-interventionist God.

**Roger Sherman:** A delegate from Connecticut, Sherman was instrumental in shaping the Constitution. He held strong religious convictions and believed that government should promote virtue and morality. His faith influenced his commitment to public service.

**Gouverneur Morris:** Morris was responsible for much of the Constitution’s final wording. His views on religion were complex—he appreciated the role of religion in society but also criticized organized religion. Morris believed in a benign Creator who established natural laws.

The Founding Fathers held diverse views on religion and God. Some were devout Christians, while others leaned toward Deism or secularism. However, they collectively aimed to create a just and stable government that respected individual liberties, including religious freedom.

## Key writers of the Bill of Rights

### Their relation to God

**Thomas Jefferson:** He was the principal drafter of the Declaration of Independence. Although not directly involved in drafting the Bill of Rights, his ideas significantly influenced the broader context. Jefferson believed in natural rights, which he saw as inherent and God-given. These rights formed the foundation for the Bill of Rights.

**James Madison:** Often referred to as the “Father of the Constitution,” Madison played a central role in drafting both the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. His views were deeply influenced by Enlightenment thinkers like John Locke and Charles-Louis de Montesquieu. These philosophers emphasized individual rights and the idea that government’s purpose was to protect those rights. Madison’s belief in natural rights, including religious freedom, aligned with the notion that these rights came from God.

**Gouverneur Morris and James Wilson:** These two Founding Fathers were also principal architects of the Constitution. While not directly involved in drafting the Bill of Rights, their contributions to the constitutional framework were significant. They shared the prevailing belief that certain fundamental rights were inherent and derived from a higher power.

The writers of the Bill of Rights were influenced by a worldview that recognized God-oriented principles. Their commitment to protecting individual liberties, including religious freedom, reflected this perspective. The Bill of Rights, therefore, stands as a testament to the enduring connection between moral, philosophical, and religious beliefs and the legal foundations of the United States.

## The Bill of Rights and Innovation

The Bill of Rights doesn't explicitly mention innovation, but its principles indirectly contribute to fostering an environment conducive to innovation. Let's explore how:

### **Freedom of Speech and Press (First Amendment):**

These rights allow individuals to express new ideas, share knowledge, and challenge existing norms. Innovation often thrives when diverse perspectives and dissenting opinions are protected.

### **Property Rights (Fifth Amendment):**

While the Fifth Amendment primarily addresses property rights related to physical possessions, it also applies to intellectual property. Protecting patents, copyrights, and trademarks encourages innovation by granting creators exclusive rights to their inventions and creative works.

### **Right to Privacy (Fourth Amendment):**

Privacy rights prevent unwarranted intrusion into personal and professional spaces. Innovators need a secure environment to develop and test new technologies without fear of surveillance or interference.

### **Due Process (Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments):**

Fair legal procedures ensure that innovators are treated justly. A transparent legal system promotes confidence in intellectual property rights and encourages investment in research and development.

### **Limitation of Government Power (Tenth Amendment):**

By reserving certain powers to the states or the people, the Tenth Amendment prevents excessive government control. A balanced regulatory environment allows businesses and inventors to thrive.

### **Protection Against Unreasonable Searches (Fourth Amendment):**

Innovators benefit from safeguards against arbitrary searches and seizures. Confidential research, trade secrets, and proprietary information remain secure.

### **Individual Liberties (Ninth Amendment):**

The Ninth Amendment acknowledges that rights not explicitly listed are still protected. This flexibility allows for adaptation to changing technological landscapes.

In summary, the Bill of Rights indirectly supports innovation by safeguarding individual freedoms, intellectual property, and a fair legal framework. It provides the necessary conditions for creativity, invention, and progress.

## Freedom, the spark of innovative visionaries

Freedom, like a spark, ignites the minds of visionaries. It is the fertile soil where innovation takes root and blossoms. When unshackled from constraints, the human spirit soars, and creativity flourishes.

Consider the Wright brothers, pioneers of aviation. Their quest for flight was fueled by the freedom to dream beyond earthly boundaries. They dared to envision a world where humans could soar like birds, defying gravity's grip. Their relentless pursuit led to the invention of the first successful airplane, forever altering the course of history.

Similarly, Steve Jobs, co-founder of Apple, epitomized the power of freedom in innovation. He rebelled against convention, challenging the status quo with products that seamlessly blended art and technology. His vision transformed the way we communicate, work, and play.

Freedom grants permission to explore uncharted territories, question norms, and experiment fearlessly. It whispers to the curious mind, "What if?" It emboldens the artist to paint with unseen colors, the scientist to unravel cosmic mysteries, and the entrepreneur to disrupt established markets.

Yet, innovation isn't solely born from freedom; it thrives when coupled with purpose. Purpose directs the spark, channeling it into meaningful endeavors. Without purpose, freedom becomes chaotic, a tempest of ideas without a compass.

So, let us celebrate the spark of freedom that kindles the flames of innovation. Let it illuminate our path toward a future where visionaries continue to shape our world, guided by purpose and fueled by the audacity to dream.

In the grand tapestry of existence, freedom stitches the fabric of possibility, and innovative visionaries weave the threads of progress.

## God's design inspires capitalism

God did inspire capitalism during the writing of the Constitution, and that capitalism is compatible with biblical principles. Capitalism promotes individual freedom, responsibility, and stewardship, which are values that God endorses. Biblical passages support private property, free trade, and honest work, such as the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30) or the eighth commandment (Exodus 20:15).

Capitalism is neither good nor bad in itself, but depends on how it is used. For this reason we must emphasize the need for balance, moderation, and justice in economic matters, and the primacy of God's kingdom over any human system.

### **Technology is God's power behind capitalism:**

Technology is a tool that God has given us to be used in ways that honor him and help us love our neighbor. The Bible shows us that God has endowed humans with the ability to create and cultivate, and that he has used technology for his purposes throughout history. For example, God gave the Israelites the skills and materials to build the tabernacle, where he would dwell among them. He also used technology such as the ark, the plagues, the pillar of fire and cloud, and the writing on the wall to reveal his power and will to his people.

Technology is not morally neutral, but it can be used for both good and evil purposes. For example, the same skills and materials that were used to build the Hebrew tabernacle were also used to make the golden calf, an idol that the Israelites worshiped instead of God. Technology can also be used to oppress, exploit, deceive, or harm others, or to indulge in sinful desires. We need to be careful and discerning about how we use technology, and not let it become an idol or a master in our lives.

Technology is not the ultimate solution, but it points us to our need for God. The Bible warns us that technology can create a false sense of security, pride, or self-sufficiency, and that it can never satisfy our deepest needs or solve our biggest problems. For example, the tower of Babel was an attempt by humans to make a name for themselves and reach the heavens by their own technology, but God confused their languages and scattered them over the earth. Technology can also be used to challenge or deny God's authority, or to create false gods or images of God. Technology should remind us of our dependence on God, and point us to his grace and power.

God, the ultimate Creator, orchestrates innovation in ways that extend beyond our comprehension. While some may assume that God's providence stops at the boundary lines of Silicon Valley, the truth is that innovators, both virtuous and nefarious, are divinely appointed. Scripture dispels the myth that God seeks to stifle human technology. Instead, He creates blacksmiths and warriors, those who forge and wield new tools.

So, whether you're a software engineer, a hardware designer, or an AI developer, recognize that your brilliance is a part of God's plan. Innovate with reverence, knowing that God's claim as the Creator extends even to the world's most powerful industry. Your creativity is a cosmic checkmate, reminding us that our powers of innovation do not render the Creator irrelevant.

## Industrialist who made America great,

### Their relation to God

In the 1800s, as America underwent rapid industrialization, the relationship between prominent industrialists and religion varied.

**Andrew Carnegie:** A Scottish-American industrialist, philanthropist, and founder of the Carnegie Steel Company. Carnegie was known for his immense wealth and generosity. While he was not particularly religious, he believed in the concept of giving back to society. His famous essay “The Gospel of Wealth” emphasized the responsibility of the wealthy to use their fortunes for the greater good.

**John D. Rockefeller:** An American business magnate who dominated the oil industry through his Standard Oil Company. Rockefeller was a devout Baptist and believed that his wealth was a divine blessing. He donated significantly to religious causes, including building churches and supporting missionary work.

**J.P. Morgan:** A financier and banker who played a crucial role in shaping American finance and industry. Morgan was Episcopalian and actively supported various charitable and educational institutions. His faith influenced his philanthropic endeavors.

**Henry Ford:** The founder of Ford Motor Company and a pioneer in the automobile industry. Ford was raised in a Protestant household and held strong religious beliefs. He funded religious organizations and even published a book titled “The International Jew,” which reflected his controversial views.

**Cornelius Vanderbilt:** A shipping and railroad magnate who amassed great wealth. Vanderbilt was not particularly religious and was known for his ruthless business practices. He focused more on accumulating wealth than on religious matters.

While some industrialists like Rockefeller and Carnegie had strong religious ties and used their wealth for philanthropic purposes, others like Ford and Vanderbilt were less overtly religious and prioritized business success. The relationship between industrialists and God during this period was diverse and multifaceted.