

## Teachings of Latter-Day Prophets

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### The Role of America

**George Albert Smith:** It is our responsibility to carry the message of the gospel not only to the civilized world but also to those who are not considered to be so civilized. All this has been made possible because the Lord in his wisdom saw the necessity of giving us a nation in which we could thrive. In no other nation under heaven could the Church have been organized and gone forward as we have in this nation. The founding of the United States was not an accident. The giving to us of the Constitution of the United States was not an accident. Our Heavenly Father knew what would be needed, and so he paved the way to give us the Constitution. It came under the influence of prayer, and he guided those who framed that wonderful document.

I hope that the membership of this Church will not be deceived into thinking that other plans, other forms of government, other systems of direction whatsoever, are desirable. I want to say to you without any hesitation that no form of government in the world can be compared favorably with the government God gave to us. This is his plan. [Conf. Report, Apr. 1947, p. 163]

**J. Reuben Clark, Jr. :** The Church unequivocally declares, nothing doubting, that God Himself set up the constitution of the United States, and that He so declared, saying: “I established the Constitution of this land, by the hands of wise men whom I raised up unto this very purpose,” and the Constitution shall “be maintained for the rights and protection of all flesh, according to just and holy principles.” (D&C 101:30, 77)

[James R. Clark, comp., Messages of the First Presidency of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 6 vols. (Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1965-75, 6:67]

**J. Rueben Clark, Jr. :** . . . My faith teaches me that the Constitution is an inspired document drawn by the hands of men whom God raised up for that very purpose; . . .

[Stand Fast by Our Constitution (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1962, pp. 7, 172]

**David O. McKay:** Next to being one in worshipping God, there is nothing in this world upon which this Church should be more united than in upholding and defending the Constitution of the United States!

[Treasures of Life, comp. Clare Middlemiss (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co. 1962, p. 387]

**Brigham Young:** When the Constitution of the United States hangs, as it were, upon a single thread, they will have to call for the “Mormon” Elders to save it from utter destruction; and they will step forth and do it.

[Discourses of Brigham Young, sel. John A. Widtsoe (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1941), p. 361]

**Mark E. Petersen:** You will remember that there have been prophecies made that the Constitution sometime will hang by a thread and that the elders of Israel will save it. I don't believe that that is through some political means particularly. I believe that the way this Church may save our country is by being the leaven in the lump which will be so recognized by the Almighty that he will spare the country for the Church. The country, our nation, was made by act of God to bring about the purposes related to the restoration of the gospel and to the final fulfillment of his work which will lead to the second coming of Jesus Christ.

[Our Divine Destiny, Brigham Young University Speeches of the Year (Provo, 20 Feb. 1968), pp. 2-3]

**J. Reuben Clark, Jr. :** God provided that in this land of liberty, our political allegiance shall run not to individuals, that is, to government officials, no matter how great or how small they may be. Under His plan our allegiance and the only allegiance we owe as citizens or denizens of the United States, runs to our inspired Constitution which God Himself set up. So runs the oath of office of those who participate in government. A certain loyalty we do owe to the office which a man holds, but even here we owe, just by reason of our citizenship, no loyalty to the man himself. In other countries it is to the individual that allegiance runs. This principle of allegiance to the Constitution is basic to our freedom. It is one of the great principles that distinguishes this “land of liberty” from other countries.

[James R. Clark, comp., Messages of the First Presidency of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 6 vols. (Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1965-75), 6:107]

**Ezra Taft Benson:** Our allegiance does not run to any man, to a king, or a dictator, or a president, although we revere and honor those whom we elect to high office. Our allegiance runs to the Constitution and to the principles embodied therein.

[Conf. Report, Oct 1954, p. 119]