

LADY LIBERTY

WHAT SHE MEANS TO ME

By WriteARep.net



I still remember when patriotism was drilled into children's heads at school. I remember the old patriotic aphorisms: the closing lines of our National Anthem:

“the land of the free and the home of the brave.”

But the years give one a new perspective on wisdom, and even more so does the Word of God. God himself calls us to liberty.

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THE STATUE OF LIBERTY

THE STATUE OF LIBERTY HAS STOOD FOR DECADES IN NEW YORK HARBOR AS A SYMBOL OF LIBERTY TO ALL THOSE WHO VISIT OUR SHORES. THERE IS, PERHAPS, NO MORE RECOGNIZABLE ICON OF OUR COUNTRY.

LADY LIBERTY

“You, brothers, were called for freedom”

(Galatians 5:13)

Recently I was reflecting on the features of the Statue and some Bible verses came to mind.

“You are the light of the world...”

let your light shine before men; that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven...”

(Matthew 5: 12-14);

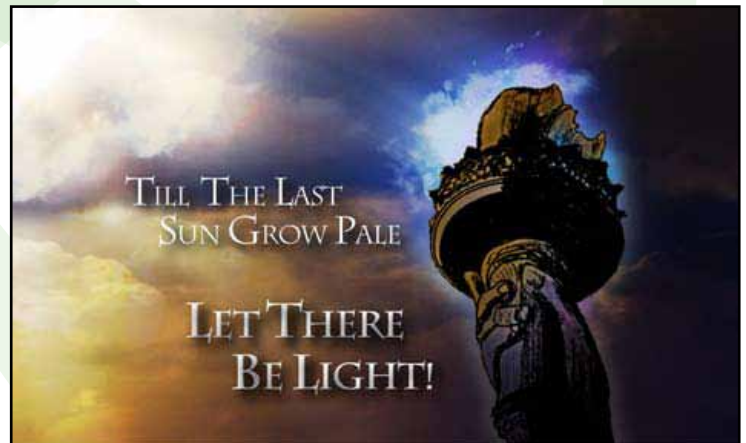


as if she were speaking the words across the ocean.

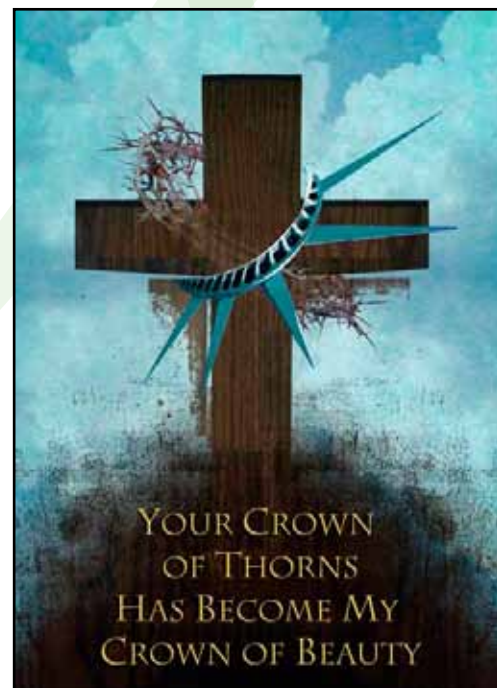
The words of E.C. Stedman in his 1888 poem entitled,

“Liberty Enlightening the World” also

realizes that the Light is the Word of God and Christians are the Messengers.



The greatest sacrifice ever was Christ's sacrifice for our salvation. His crucifixion was terrible and ugly, and His crown of thorns was terrible and ugly.



But for those of us being saved; it is beauty. We celebrate the cross today. The crown of thorns is likewise celebrated as our crown of beauty.

It is commemorated in the Statue of Liberty's crown of thorns, which is beautiful.

Her diadem is also a star with seven points. This reminded me of some passages from Revelation, Chapter 1.



**The mystery of the seven stars...
The seven stars are the angels of
the seven assemblies. He who
holds the seven stars in His
right hand.**

I looked further. The book she holds in her arm brings to mind images of Moses holding out the

stone tablets on which God inscribed His law.



In Philippians, Christians are described with these words,

**You shine like stars of the
universe as you hold out the
Word of Life... (Phil 2:15-16, NIV).**

The Christian symbolism in our statue interested me very much, especially since we rarely, if ever, hear about it. Other nations see us as a Christian nation, and they see the Statue of Liberty as our calling card.

We are indeed a world superpower, and though we are not perfect, we do seek – and fight for – liberty and human rights throughout the world.

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*What are these virtues if not
righteousness, justice and mercy?
And these virtues are expressed
by Christ in the Sermon on the
Mount.*

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**Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the Kingdom of
Heaven.**

Blessed are those who mourn,
for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit
the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst
after righteousness, for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful,
for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called children of God.
(Matthew 5: 3-9)

*She is all the more beautiful to me for
her symbolism that I have recently come
to see in her.*

Stand firm therefore in the liberty by which
Christ has made us free, and don't be entangled
again with a yoke of bondage.' (Galatians 5:1)



Did you know...

**There is a broken shackle and chain
around her ankle? God's Word
speaks to the shackle, as well.**

**My eyes are ever on the LORD, for
only He will release my feet from the
snare.**

(The Holy Bible, New International Version.
Pradis CD-ROM:Ps 25:15)

**...we were held prisoners by the law,
locked up until faith should be revealed...**

(The Holy Bible, New International Version.
Pradis CD-ROM:Gal 3:23)

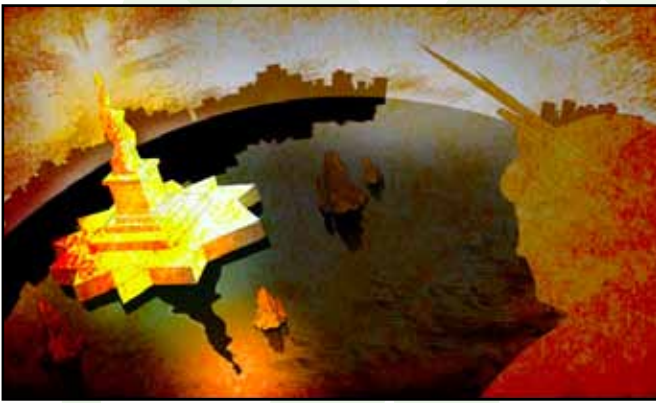
WHAT SHE MEANS TO ME

Now the Lord is the Spirit and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

(2 Corinthians 3:17)

If therefore the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. (John 8:36)

The Statue of Liberty stands on a firm foundation on Liberty Island. This also is symbolic.



He will lift me up on a rock.

(Psalms 27:5)

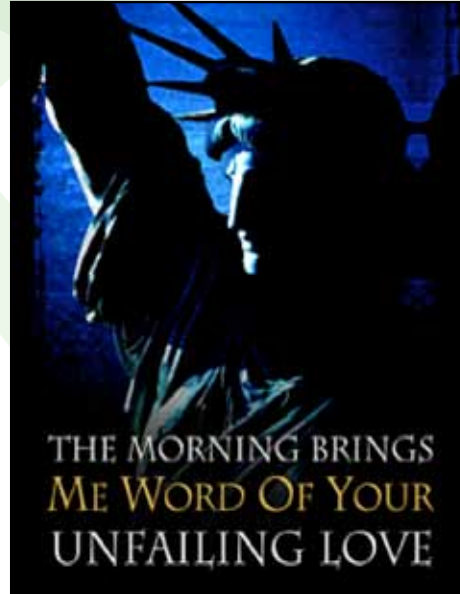
[The Lord] is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer... (Psalms 18:2)

He set my feet on a rock, and gave me firm place to stand. (Psalms 40:2)



He will be the sure foundation for your times...

(The Holy Bible, NIV. Pradis CD-ROM:Isa 33:6.)



I also tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my [Church], and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. (Matthew 16:18)

I, Jesus, ... am the root and the offspring of David; the Bright and Morning Star. (Rev 22:16)

Did you know...

The courtyard of the Statue of Liberty is in the shape of a star.

She also faces East, towards France, yes, but also towards Jerusalem and towards the rising sun.

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It dawned onto me...

The Statue of Liberty represents the Bride of Christ; the Church!

For this cause a man will leave his father and mother, and will be joined to his wife. The two will become one flesh.

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" He who hears, let him say, "Come!" He who is thirsty, let him come. He who desires, let him take the water of life freely. (Rev 22:17)



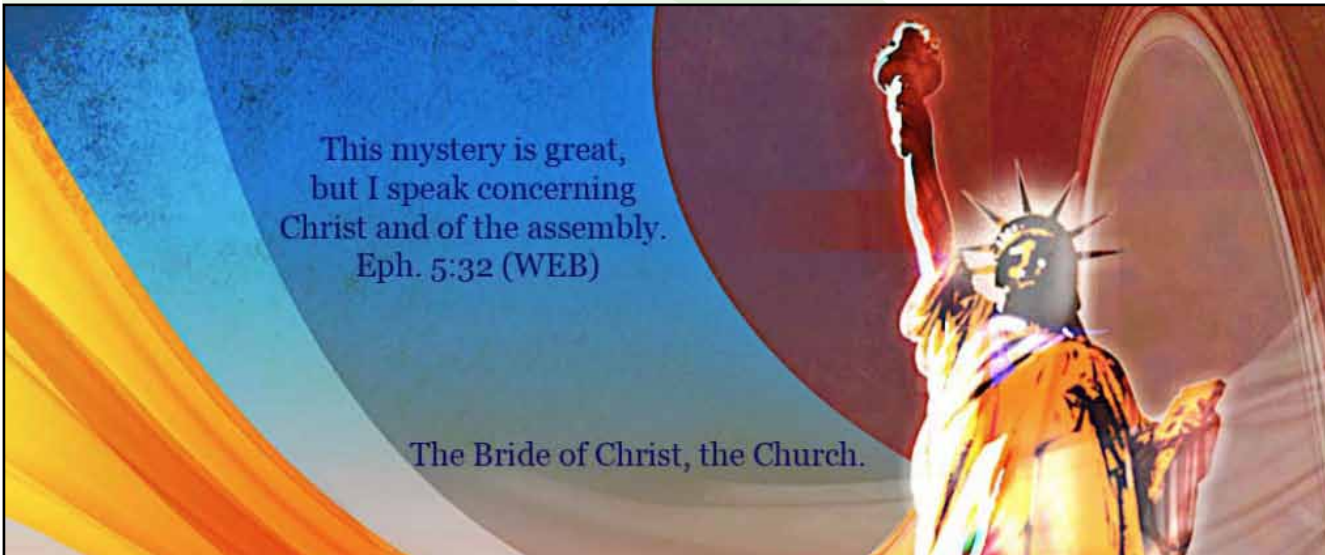
This Mystery Is Great, but I speak concerning Christ and of the [Church]. (Eph 5:31-32)

I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him.

...Come here. I will show you the wife, the Lamb's bride. (Rev 21:9)

... For the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his wife has made herself ready." It was given to her that she would array herself in bright, pure, fine linen: for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. (Rev 19:7)

The Statue of Liberty is adorned in fine linen as described by the verse.



Have You Noticed...

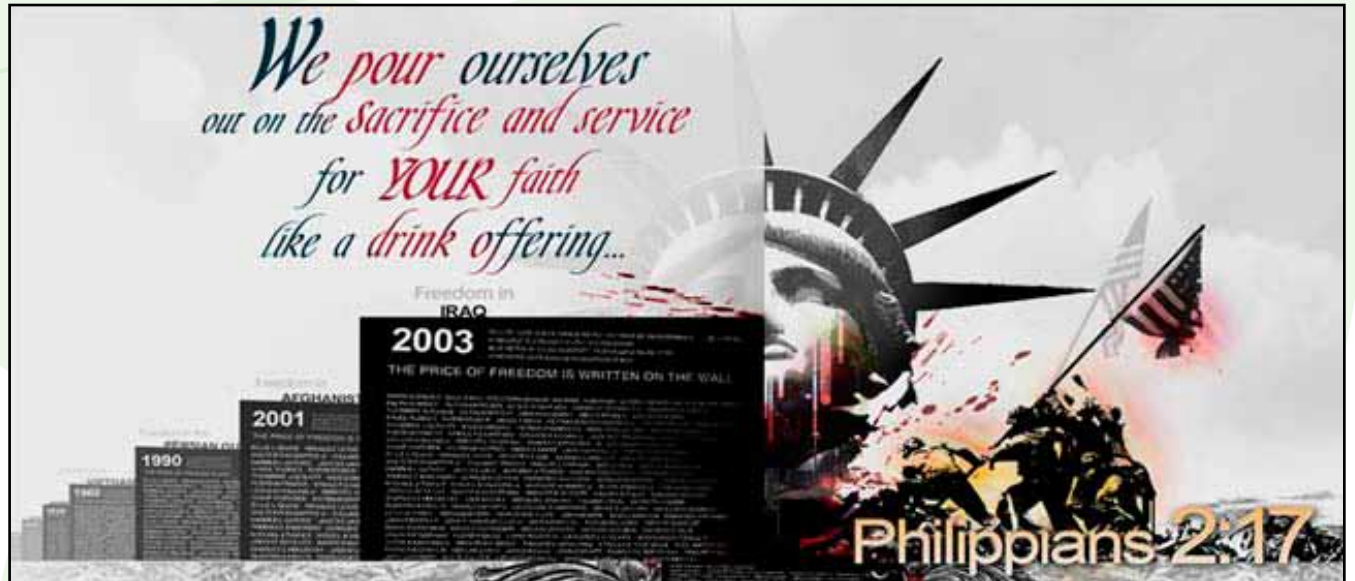
The Statue of Liberty is stepping forward as if she is “pressing on” towards a goal?

Brothers, I don't regard myself as yet having taken hold, but one thing I do.

Forgetting the things which are behind, and stretching forward to the things which are before, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3: 13-14)

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I find it interesting ...

The Statue of Liberty embodies a Christian view of our nation's foreign policy and our Church's missionary work, which carry out His will.

I am a companion of all them that fear thee, and of them that keep thy precepts. (Ps.119:63)

The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim release to the captives, recovering of sight to the blind, to deliver those who are crushed, and to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord. (Luke 4:18)

Jesus answered,

“How can the guests of the bridegroom mourn while he is with them?

The time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; then they will fast.”

(Mt. 9:15)

Is this not the fast that I have chosen:

To loose the bonds of wickedness,
 To undo the heavy burdens,
 To let the oppressed go free,
 And that you break every yoke?
 Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, And that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out; When you see the naked, that you cover him, And not hide yourself from your own flesh?

Then your light shall break forth like the morning,

Your healing shall spring forth speedily, And your righteousness shall go before you; The glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from the top to the bottom. (Mt 27:51)
 ... But to this day, when Moses is read, a veillies on their heart. But whenever one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. (2 Cor 3:15-16)

I find it interesting ...

The Statue of Liberty is a bride without a veil.

Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; You shall cry, and He will say, 'Here I am.' (Isaiah 58:6-9, NKJV)

For this is the will of God, that by well-doing you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: as free, and not using your freedom for a cloak of wickedness, but as bondservants of God. (1 Peter 2:15-16)

For many walk, ... as the enemies of the cross of Christ, whose end is destruction, whose god is the belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who think about earthly things.

For our citizenship is in heaven, from where we also wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; (Philippians 3:16-20)

...everyone who blesses you [Israel] is blessed.

Everyone who curses you is cursed. (Numbers 24:9)

This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus. Ep. 3:6 (NIV)

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...For if the Gentiles have shared in the Jews' spiritual blessings, they owe it to the Jews to share with them their material blessings.

Ro. 15:27 (NIV)

Finally, brothers, whatever things are true, whatever things are honorable, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report; if there is any virtue, and if there is any praise, think about these things.

(Philippians 4:8)

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Don't be surprised, my brothers, if the world hates you. (1 John 3:13)

But her face, with its solid gaze and stern expression, seems to belie even more fundamental human ideals, ideals that Americans have long striven to embody individually and as a nation.

A crown is promised!

Blessed is the man who endures temptation, for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life, which the Lord promised to those who love him. (James 1:12)

Be faithful to death, and I will give you the Crown of Life. (Rev 2:10)

WHAT SHE MEANS TO ME

Around the throne were twenty-four thrones. On the thrones were twentyfour elders sitting, dressed in white garments, with crowns of gold on their heads.” (Rev 4:4)
“...and throw their crowns before the throne, saying, “Worthy are you, our Lord and God, the Holy One, to receive the glory, the honor, and the power, for you created all things, and because of your desire they existed, and were created! (Rev 4: 10-11)

Yes, to me, the Statue of Liberty represents the Bride of Christ, the Church; and there is a Bible verse in every characteristic.

Therefore let us not be like this, when the prophet Isaiah said, “For you have forgotten the God of your salvation, and have not remembered the rock of your strength” (Isaiah 17:10)



But rather let us continue like this:

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

Those who lived in the land of the shadow of death, on them the light has shined. (Isaiah 9:2)

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Our Mission is to provide tools for Christians to initiate conversation about Jesus. The images on this document are available to send as postcards at www.WriteARep.net

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