

READING - July 3, 2011

*Context...*

*On this Fourth of July weekend, let us travel back to consider the Founding Principles of our Nation...let us revisit the intersection of Faith and Freedom that was the foundation of our democracy...let us celebrate the spirit of Unitarianism and Universalism that played a part in the hearts and minds of our nation's founders.*

Quotes From: **The American Creed: A Spiritual and Patriotic Primer** By **Forrest Church**

1.

To European eyes, America was a second Eden. The first white settlers brought to America their own ancestral legends of creation and fall as contained in the Bible, - together with a script for redemption.

The Pilgrims' and Puritans' migration to America was a self-conscious Biblical "errand into the wilderness" motivated by a hunger for religious freedom.

2.

Looking back on America's first New Englanders some two centuries after they landed in Plymouth Bay and Salem Harbor, Alexis de Tocqueville reminded us, "It must never be forgotten that religion gave birth to Anglo-American society. In the United States, religion is therefore mingled with all the habits of the nation and all the feelings of patriotism, whence it derives a peculiar force."

3.

President William Howard Taft speaking to this same history said;

"We speak with great satisfaction of the fact that our ancestors came to this country to establish freedom of their religion and not the freedom of anybody else's religion."