

AMERICA

Just Two Examples of God's Amazing Providence in American History

The Pilgrim Story

The Pilgrims landed hundreds of miles away from their chosen destination which was the mouth of the Hudson River (now New York City). Instead they landed at Plymouth where they did not find too many hostile Indians. There is a reason for this. In 1616 a devastating plague had broken out in the area and lasted more than three years (perhaps smallpox or chicken pox or viral hepatitis). The plague wiped out up to 95% of the local Wampanoags. The Indian population went from fifteen thousand to less than a thousand. The Pilgrims settled on the abandoned site of a once bustling Indian village. There were thousands of potential sites along the Atlantic coast where they could have landed and settled, but somehow they stumbled upon the ideal location.

Not only that, but God providentially provided for them the perfect helper, an Indian by the name of Squanto. He spoke English so he could communicate with the Pilgrims and also serve as their mediator with other Indians. He was the sole survivor of the band of Indians who had once called Plymouth their home. He had escaped the ravages of the local epidemic because he had been kidnaped as a twelve-year old by a marauding English sea captain and spent years in England. In the process he was also introduced to Christianity. He arrived back in his home village

just six months before the Pilgrims came and learned of the catastrophic disease that had killed his entire tribe. He taught the Pilgrims how to survive and eat off the land. In summary, the Pilgrims “found a most unusual Indian who spoke good English, knew the basics of Christianity, and saw the newcomers as replacements for his departed family, but also managed to find perhaps the only Indian on the continent who had mastered the European agricultural technique that rescued the new colony from hunger and privation” (*The American Miracle* by Michael Medved, p. 45).

Unusual Presidential Passing

The twin heroes of independence, John Adams (2nd President) and Thomas Jefferson (3rd President), both died on the same day, and the day they died on was July 4. But it was not just any July 4, it was in 1826 exactly 50 years after the signing of the Declaration of Independence as Americans were celebrating this special “jubilee” of freedom. James Monroe (5th President) also died on July 4 five years later. Thus, of the first four presidents to die, three of the four all died on July 4th. The chances of this happening would be approximately 50 million to one.

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org

Righteousness exalteth a nation:
but sin is a reproach to any people

(Proverbs 14:34).

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord;
and the people whom He hath chosen
for His own inheritance

(Psalm 33:1).