

INDEPENDENCE DAY - RAY FLORES, July 12, 2026

"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."

Humanity's greatest problem is not political, economic, or cultural. It is our ongoing declaration of independence from God. The gospel is God's invitation to lay down our rebellion and submit to Jesus Christ as Lord. Humanity rebels against God. God righteously judges sin. God mercifully provides a way of redemption. This pattern ultimately points us to Jesus Christ.

1. Rebellion Began in Heaven - Isaiah 14:12-15 NIV

Lucifer rejected God's authority. Pride led to rebellion. The first declaration of independence was against God Himself.

Key Truth: Rebellion promises freedom but always produces bondage.

2. Rebellion Entered Humanity - Genesis 3:1-15 NIV

The issue in Eden was not the fruit. The issue was authority. The serpent questioned God's Word: "Did God really say . . . ?" Adam and Eve chose to determine truth for themselves rather than trust God's truth.

3. Rebellion in the Old Testament: Noah – Humanity's corruption (Genesis 6-9); Babel – Pride and self-rule (Genesis 11); Sodom – Rejecting God's design (Genesis 19); Pharaoh – Hardening the heart (Exodus); Israel in the wilderness – Continual rebellion (Numbers); Judges – "Everyone did as they saw fit." (Judges 21:25).

4. Our Greatest Crisis is Spiritual - Romans 1:25 NIV

The deepest problem facing America is not political. It is spiritual. When God is rejected as the source of truth: Truth becomes relative. Morality becomes personal preference. Society loses its foundation. There is no political solution to a spiritual rebellion.

5. God's Response is Mercy - 2 Chronicles 7:14 NIV Although originally given to Israel, this passage reveals an enduring principle: God welcomes humble, repentant people.

6. Jesus Is God's Answer - Philippians 2:5-11 NIV

Romans 3:23 NIV for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Luke 19:10 NIV "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

John 8:36 NIV "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

Consider This: Who is the authority in my life? Am I trusting God's Word or my own understanding? Where have I declared independence from God? Have I surrendered my life to Jesus Christ?

Final Challenge

Make a Declaration of Dependence - **Joshua 24:15f** " . . . But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

True freedom is not found in independence from God. True freedom is found in joyful surrender to Jesus Christ.