



TAKE BACK AMERICA

By Mathew Staver

1. Who is Mat Staver and what is his message in this book?

Mat Staver is an attorney who grew up in Florida and works for free speech and religious liberty guaranteed by Constitutional law. In 1989, he founded Liberty Council, in Orlando, FL to preserve our religious freedom. Liberty Council provides education and legal defense throughout America and he has personally been instrumental in a number of landmark cases before state, and national courts and even before the Supreme Court of the US. He represents individuals whose religious liberties are infringed and defends against those trying to restrict religious liberty.

He is passionate about changing the direction of our nation and in writing this book, he hopes to inspire the reader to reflect on the messages of Deuteronomy 28 and the Declaration of Independence. He feels this passage from the Bible affects every level of society from the family to the commander-in-chief. And the Declaration clearly sets forth the founders' understanding of the purpose and role of government. He hopes that these two great documents will motivate us to reclaim the values and principles upon which America was founded.

2. What does Mat Staver see as the problem and what is his solution?

He starts with the premise that America has become broken and that more programs, more money and politicians can not save us. What we need is God in America again. From Deuteronomy 28, he states the biblical basis for the proposition that God is the foundation for good government and national prosperity.

3. What does Deuteronomy 28 say?

Here God gives the children of Israel a choice. The nation can choose to obey God and reap His blessings or disobey God and incur the inevitable curses. If you accept God and follow His commands, then you will be blessed. On the contrary, if you reject God and his laws, you will reap the inevitable result of your choices. Reading verses 1-14, God tells us all the blessings He will give if we follow His commands. In verses 15-68, He shows us all the curses we are in store for if we disobey God. Look over the blessings and curses and see if you recognize some of the problems facing our country which could result in America's demise.

4. What about the Declaration of Independence and its' importance to us?

The Declaration of Independence is the best historical document that clearly outlines the purpose and place of government and religion. It states that governments are instituted to secure our God-given unalienable rights of equality to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The role of government is limited to protecting these rights and when the government is no longer restrained by Judeo-Christian morality, it must be changed.

5. What has happened in our country to cause this change in the purpose of our government?

In 1872, the US Supreme Court stated on three separate occasions that "This is a Christian Nation" and "We are a Christian people." George Washington, John Quincy Adams and John Adams all knew and talked about the supreme importance of a bonding of the principles of civil government with the principles of Christianity. There was no thought of "separation of church and state" when the first Continental Congress adopted the NW ordinance drafted by Thomas Jefferson and enacted by Congress in 1787 under the Articles of Confederation. Religion and morality were necessary to good government.

6. Where do we get the phrase, "Separation of church and state"?

Nowhere is the phrase referenced in the Constitution. It was in the former Soviet Union Constitution but has never been a part of the US Constitution. The phrase comes from a letter written by Thomas Jefferson in which he explains that he believes religion is a matter between man and God and that he owes account to none other in his faith and worship. He believed that legislators should make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof thus building a "wall of separation of church and state". The 1st Amendment prohibited the federal government from establishing a religion to which states must pay homage. It provided assurance that the Federal Government would not meddle in the affairs of religion within the sovereign states. The 1st Amendment was more about federalism than religion and did not apply to the states but only applicable in restraint against the Federal Government.

7. Who is the biggest destroyer of American values and religious freedom in our country according to Mat Staver?

The Supreme Court, who in 1962 ruled school sponsored prayer and Bible reading unconstitutional and in 1980 stripped the 10 Commandments from a classroom in a Kentucky public school. Public schools were originally considered the vehicle through which religion and morality would be taught. Children were taught to read solely for the purpose of reading the Bible. Harvard, founded in 1636, was the first college in America. The official Harvard motto was "For Christ and the Church" and of the 126 original colleges in our country, 123 were based on Christian principles. It was not until the 1960's that religious morality and teaching in the public schools was ever

challenged. Now we have school textbooks that rewrite history and erase our Judeo-Christian heritage. Originally the Supreme Court had no jurisdiction over religious matters among individual states but it has gradually usurped this authority and it has gone unchallenged by the government. Since that time, we have had numerous accounts of violence in the public schools. It appears that we are reaping the inevitable results of a country which has rejected God and has chosen to disobey Him.

What does Mat Staver say that we can do about our problems?

We must take back America! We must have a spiritual revival, we must become involved in our society and we must pray. We can have just and perfect law but if Americans don't have a life-changing experience, all of the laws will mean nothing. John Adams said that we must also have a renewed mind. We must enact laws that reflect our values. Either Christians will impose their morality or someone else will impose his. We must get involved in the political system and the educational system. We must take back America.