

EDITORIAL

On October 4, 1982, the United States Senate and House of Representatives passed the following joint resolution:

“Whereas the Bible, the Word of God, has made a unique contribution in shaping the United States as a distinctive and blessed nation and people;

“Whereas deeply held religious convictions springing from the Holy Scriptures led to the early settlement of our Nation;

“Whereas Biblical teachings inspired concepts of civil government that are contained in our Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States;

“Whereas many our great national leaders—among them Presidents Washington, Jackson, Lincoln, and Wilson—paid tribute to the surpassing influence of the Bible in our country’s development, as in the words of President Jackson that the Bible is ‘the rock on which our Republic rests’;

“Whereas the history of our Nation clearly illustrates the value of voluntarily applying the teachings of the Scriptures in the lives of individuals, families, and societies;

“Whereas this Nation now faces great challenges that will test this Nation as it has never been tested before; and

“Whereas that renewing our knowledge of and faith in God through Holy Scripture can strengthen us as a nation and a people: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled: That the President is authorized and requested to designate 1983 as a national ‘Year of the Bible’ in recognition of both the formative influence the Bible has been for our Nation, and our national need to study and apply the teachings of the Holy Scriptures.”

Andrew Jackson’s tribute to Scripture is included in the above resolution. But what did the other presidents mentioned have to say about the Bible?

George Washington: “It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible.”

Abraham Lincoln: “I am profitably engaged in reading the Bible. Take all of his Book upon reason that you can, and the balance by faith, and you will live and die a better man.”

Woodrow Wilson: “I have a very simple thing to ask of you. I ask every man and woman in this audience that from this day on they will realize that part of the destiny of America lies in their daily perusal of this great Book.”

1983, the “Year of the Bible”—but by no means the first such year. Almost eighteen years ago, when our Society’s *Journal* was still only a *Bulletin*, the United States Congress passed a joint resolution making 1966 the “Year of the Bible.” At that time all fifty state governors issued similar proclamations. And in 1966 the American Bible Society, commemorating its 150th anniversary, presented to President Lyndon Johnson the 750,000,000th volume of the Bible produced by the Society during its long history.

The Evangelical Theological Society will celebrate its 35th anniversary this

December, and our *Journal* completed its 25th anniversary last December. These are heady days for ETS and *JETS*, reminding us of our goodly heritage. But they are days that should serve as well to remind us of our responsibility to be worthy stewards of the truths of Scripture and faithful proclaimers of the teachings of Scripture. May 1983 be indeed a "Year of the Bible" for each of us—not merely as a pious abstraction, but in living reality.

Ronald Youngblood