#453 Thomas Paine and God Trying Men's Souls – Common Sense: Fanning the flames of the American Revolution

If you do not know about *Common Sense*, you should. "I know not," wrote the second President of the United States, John Adams, in 1806, "whether any man in the world has had more influence on its inhabitants or affairs for the last thirty years than Thomas Paine."



Thetford, England, was the birthplace of the radical Thomas Paine. A statue of Paine stands on King Street, holding a quill and his book *Rights of Man*, upside down.

Thomas Paine was born in Thetford, England, on January 29, 1737. His family was poor. He received little schooling. He began working at the age of 13. At 19, he went to sea



John Adams

for a time. Later, he served as a customs collector in London, but was discharged. Paine was alone and poor in 1774. But he gained the friendship of Benjamin Franklin, then in London, who advised him to go to America.

Paine arrived in America with letters of recommendation from Franklin. Paine soon became contributing editor to the Pennsylvania Magazine, and began working for the cause of independence. In [January] 1776, he published his pamphlet *Common Sense*, to the natural mind a brilliant statement of the colonists' cause. The pamphlet demanded complete independence from Great Britain and the establishment of a strong federal union. It also contained a brilliant

attack on the idea of monarchy and inherited privilege. Paine asserted that the American Revolution would begin a new era in world history. "The birthday of a new world is at hand," he wrote. George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and other colonial leaders read it with approval, as did hundreds of thousands of ordinary Americans. *Common Sense* became the most widely circulated pamphlet in American history up to that time.

1 Corinthians 2:14 (KJV) <u>BUT THE NATURAL MAN</u> [and his Common Sense]

<u>RECEIVETH NOT THE THINGS OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD</u>: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Here is #453–Doc 1, which is about Thomas Paine's Common Sense, and which ends with "the writing that sparked an American Revolution." However, since the American Revolution had already been sparked by the April 19, 1775, battles at Lexington and Concord, it might be more appropriate to say that Common Sense helped to fan the flames of an American Revolution that had already been thoroughly sparked.

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Key Understanding: While Thomas Paine wrote *Rights of Man* and *Age of Reason* well after the American Revolutionary War, it can be seen that *Common Sense*, *Rights of Man*, and *Age of Reason* were each of the vein of spirit and doctrine of the period of time and philosophy known as the Age of Reason. The Age of Reason served as an intellectual foundation for the American 'Scarlet' Revolution, and is history's direct counterfeit of Isaiah 1:18, which, as we have seen, is also linked with Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* American 'Scarlet' Revolution and Russian 'Red October' Revolution (through Daniel 12:10).

Isaiah 1:18 (KJV) COME NOW, AND <u>LET US REASON TOGETHER</u>, saith the LORD: though your sins be as <u>SCARLET</u>, they shall be as <u>WHITE</u> as snow; though they be <u>RED</u> like crimson, they shall be as WOOL.

Daniel 12:10 (KJV) <u>MANY SHALL BE PURIFIED</u>, and <u>MADE WHITE</u>, and <u>TRIED</u>; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.

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