



## **INTRO TO REVOLUTIONARY WAR ERA SERMONS**

Welcome to Generation Joshua's Revolutionary War Era Sermons course! After completing this course, students should have a basic understanding of the church's impact on American revolutionary thought from the 1740s through the 1790s. It is useful for students to have a basic knowledge of American history during the colonial and revolutionary periods before taking this class.

The lessons in this course are all original source based, which is an incredible opportunity for students to read the exact words spoken by great men of a past time, but there are a few peculiarities that must be understood for one to benefit from source texts. The reader should understand that, while most of these are sermons were preached in a church and based around a bible verse, they were also preached in a time of fiery political turmoil by men whose politics varied and who do not draw a clear distinction between theological truth and political sentiment. Most of these sermons were, as Jonathan Mayhew admitted, "composed in a high strain of liberty" rather than a high strain of theology, and as such we encourage students to weigh each thought and compare them with scriptural truths.

In this course there are also presented harshly contradictory political views; while the majority of preachers are American revolutionaries, we do read British Loyalists or "Tories" as well. Hearing and understanding opposing viewpoints is essential to learning and encourages critical thinking. We hear from great men, such as John Wesley, the father of Methodism, who can well be attributed the aid in salvation of millions of souls. This man who is respected across denominational and political lines preaches against the revolution. This is yet another time to remember that these are the words of men, not of God. No matter how solid their politics or theology may be, on either side of the controversy, they are but men. We read these sermons to better understand the context of the founding of our nation, to engage theological and political ideas, and to grow our ability to engage ideas in the world around us.

## **SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS**

Any computer with a web browser and connection to the internet is adequate to access the online courses.

## **COURSE COMPONENTS**

The Revolutionary War Era Sermons course is divided into 14 lessons, each highlighting a particular minister and sermon which influenced the political movements of the day. Each lesson contains a brief biography of the preacher followed by the original text of their sermon. Many of the lessons will include optional outside sources for further research on the preacher or context of the sermon.

## **QUIZZES**

Each lesson has a corresponding quiz on the Generation Joshua website. The quizzes will be 10 to 20 questions, multiple-choice, and are meant to test retention of key themes, references, and context of the sermon. Our online system will grade the quizzes immediately upon submission to give the students instant feedback. No instructor involvement is required.

## **ESSAYS**

We have provided all reading materials and suggested essays at Weeks 4, 7, 10, and 14 in your course materials. Because this is a self-paced course, we do not offer grading services for essays and exams, but we have provided a suggested rubric. Please note that you have full discretion to add to or leave out any sections of the suggested curriculum in order to tailor the course to your student's needs.

### **Essays 1 (week 4)**

Choose a sermon or preacher of interest to do external research on, then write 500-650 words on the effect which that sermon or preacher had on the political climate or events in the colonies or Great Britain.

### **Essay 2 (week 7)**

Pick a theological theme in the sermons which you found interesting or significant to the Great Awakening and write 600-750 words on the theologies of the Great Awakening era.

### **Essays 3 (week 10)**

Choose a sermon or preacher of interest to do external research on, then write 500-650 words on the effect which that sermon or preacher had on the political climate or events in the colonies or Great Britain.

### **Essay 4 (week 14)**

From what you have learned in the course, write 800-1000 words on how the clergy affected the American revolution (from both sides.) Include your opinions and analysis of the preachers, their effect, and the culture of political sermons. Use sources from the class material, some outside research is also encouraged.

## **GRADING**

Recommended grading scale for the course:

90–100 points: A (Superior grasp of the material)

80–89 points: B (Good understanding of the material)

70–79 points: C (Average/Passing)

60–69 points: D (Unsatisfactory/Consider retaking the course)

59 or below: F (Retake the course)

Recommended grading schematic for the course:

Quizzes: 4% each (56% total)

Essay 1: 8%

Essay 2: 12%

Essay 3: 8%

Essay 4: 16%

## **TIME COMMITMENT**

Please note: these are estimates only and time may vary by the amount of material in a particular lesson as well as by the reading and comprehension level of the student.

Read assigned lesson: 1-2 hours.

Study for chapter quiz: 0-1 hours.

Chapter quiz: 15-30 minutes.

Essays: 1-3 hours.

Weekly Total: about 4 hours.

## **SUGGESTED CREDITING**

As the homeschool teacher, credit assigned for this course is ultimately at the discretion of the parents. This class should take around 60 hours to complete which, depending on state law, counts as half of a high school credit. We would recommend counting credit for this course towards history, civics, or theology.

## **COMPLETION CERTIFICATES**

Certificates are available for each course. If you wish to receive one, please email [generationjoshua@hslida.org](mailto:generationjoshua@hslida.org) to request a certificate after completing this course. Course completion certificates only require quiz completion and can be received without writing the essays. Students must have an overall quiz grade of 70% or higher to receive a certificate.

### **Week 1**

Jonathan Edwards – Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God

Quiz 1

### **Week 2**

Samuel Cooper – A Sermon on the Day of the Commencement of the Constitution

Quiz 2

### **Week 3**

George Whitefield – Britain’s Mercies and Britain’s Duties

Quiz 3

Draft for Essay 1

### **Week 4**

John Allen – The Beauties of Liberty

Quiz 4

Finalize, edit, and submit Essay 1

### **Week 5**

Jonathan Boucher – A Farewell Sermon

Quiz 5

### **Week 6**

Samuel Langdon – Government Corrupted and Recovered by Righteousness

Quiz 6

Draft for Essay 2

### **Week 7**

Jacob Duché – The Duty of Standing Fast in our Liberty

Quiz 7

Finalize, edit, and submit Essay 2

### **Week 8**

Samuel Sherwood – Scriptural Instruction to Civil Rulers

Quiz 8

### **Week 9**

John Wesley – A Calm Address to Our American Colonies

Quiz 9

Draft Essay 3

### **Week 10**

Anonymous – A Constitutional Answer to Wesley’s Calm Address

Quiz 10

Finalize, edit, and submit Essay 3

### **Week 11**

John Lathrop – Innocent Blood

Quiz 11

### **Week 12**

Abraham Keteltas – God Pleading his People’s Cause

Quiz 12

Ideas/outline for Essay 4

### **Week 13**

John Fletcher – The Bible and the Sword

Quiz 13

Draft Essay 4

### **Week 14**

Jonathan Mayhew – The Snare Broken

Quiz 14

Finalize, edit, and submit Essay 4