

The Thomas Jefferson Center for Constitutional Studies

SEMINAR 1

GOD'S HAND IN THE BUILDING OF AMERICA

Healing of America Series

Glenn J. Kimber PhD
& Julianne S. Kimber MA



Thomas Jefferson Center
FOR CONSTITUTIONAL STUDIES



Thomas Jefferson Center
FOR CONSTITUTIONAL STUDIES

The Healing of America
STUDY GUIDE FOR STUDY COURSE #1

“God’s Hand in the Building of America”

Written and Compiled by
Glenn J. Kimber, PhD
and Julianne S. Kimber, MA

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JK122215



Published by
Textbook Publishers

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Study Course #1

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Foreword

This is the first student outline for the seminar series entitled “The Healing of America,” presented by the Thomas Jefferson Center for Constitutional Studies.

This seminar series is composed of four separate seminars. It is full of positive, upbeat and hopeful information. At the same time this material exposes the documentation as to what is really happening to America -- not so we will fret over the problems, but so we can know how to help fix them.

A Promise from God that will Someday be Fulfilled in America

Dr. W. Cleon Skousen explained: “I am not pessimistic about the future. I think the soul of America is going to be cleansed by events which will humble the whole nation and put us back on our knees where we can talk with God and recommit ourselves to lives of virtue and morality. I am a great believer in the promise of God which appears in 2 Chronicles 7:14 which says:

“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”

Of course, I know the skeptics, the immoral, the political sophisticates and the cynics might laugh at this scripture, but I believe it. And I further believe that God will not be mocked and that if this nation does not seek God and turn from their wicked ways — their crimes, drugs, abortions and political corruption — there will be a crisis and a cleansing that will turn the people from their wicked ways and put them on their knees. I have lived long enough to see this happen several times before.

Meanwhile, What Should We Do?

But we need not be pessimists, just realists. Every family needs to do whatever it can to put its house in order. A home can become a refuge against the coming storm. The love developed between parents and among children for their parents is God’s supreme formula for his kind of social security. Wherever I find families struggling to build these bonds of trust and love I know they are paying the dividends for a kind of insurance that will hold them together through the pressures and trials that may reach their peak one of these days.

Now I know you may have heard me say this before, but sometimes people say, “Dr. Skousen, you have studied the problems of our country most of your adult life, and yet you remain

optimistic. How can you be optimistic when you know from your own experience how serious things are?” My answer is rather simple. I tell them, ‘I have read the book, and in the end we win!’

We agree with Dr. Skousen. We will win if we do our part. Let me tell you about the “Healing of America Seminars.”

The First Seminar

Our first seminar is entitled “God’s Hand in the Building of America,” subtitled “Raised Up For This Very Purpose.” This seminar rebuilds and rekindles within each person an appreciation of the fact that the Founding Fathers were truly inspired of God and that God’s hand was indeed in the settling and building of this great land. Not only will seminar participants be taught about the greatness of the American Founding Fathers, but they will also understand how the Lord graduated the Founders from His very unique “University of Hard Knocks!”

All Americans need to appreciate that the God of heaven did not establish the first free people in modern times just to see them collapse into oblivion. I believe America can and will be saved.

It must be saved, however, by individuals, who will take the time and energy to learn about the Founding Fathers’ principles of freedom, and then work diligently to see that they are restored and implemented.

The Second Seminar

In the second seminar is entitled “The Founders’ Charter of Freedom.” In this seminar we will study the entire Constitution from the viewpoint of the Founding Fathers. Participants will see that every aspect of the Constitution was based upon the Founders’ understanding of righteous and timeless principles. It will become evident that the Constitution – as written and as intended by its Founders – is as appropriate and relevant today as it was when first implemented. It produces a truly free people who are able to achieve that which all mankind is seeking: FREEDOM, PROSPERITY, and PEACE.

The Third Seminar

The third Seminar is entitled the “Attacks on the Charter of Freedom.” In this seminar we will study the people, the organizations, and the groups who have been using their time, resources, and talents to change the direction of America in order to serve their own special self-interests. This has allowed emotionalism and private interests to become the standard of measurement in the enacting of most recent laws.

The information in this seminar is not designed to spread despair or fear about the future of America, but will be an eye-opener to let us see just how far our country has been allowed to go towards the destructive paths of Socialism.

Modern society will never be able to heal America without knowing what is causing it to be sick in the first place. It is interesting to note that the Constitution is seldom quoted or used anymore as a standard by which to measure proposed legislation. This has come about because, as Americans, too many have ceased to study the Founding Fathers’ formulas for success.

The Fourth Seminar

When participants have a knowledge and confidence that God's hand has been in the founding of America and the establishment of the Constitution, coupled with a knowledge of the Constitution itself, each will have a desire to know how the Constitution can be restored to its proper place in our government.

Therefore, the fourth Seminar is entitled "Restoring the Charter of Freedom." This is the most important seminar that we could become involved in.

Participants will learn how to heal:

- The Supreme Court
- The Congress
- The Executive Branch
- Our Educational System
- The Nation's Finances
- And all the other major challenges facing America today.

Included will be the answers as to how we can heal America spiritually and morally. It is thrilling to learn that the solution to these major problems can be achieved by restoring -- not only the righteousness of our nation's people -- but also the U.S. Constitution in the tradition of our inspired Founders.

To do this we need to appreciate the historical setting of God's hand in the building of America, we need to review some of the little-known or forgotten events that led to the discovery and development of the Western Hemisphere. The Founding Fathers would probably consider this one of the most important parts of our study, because it covers the tempestuous historical period that gave birth to our great American heritage.

During that great formative period of the United States more than two centuries ago, the American Founding Fathers became acutely aware that all mankind is seeking the same three things:

1. Freedom
2. Prosperity
3. Peace



They set out to find a system of government that would provide these things for the people of America. Unfortunately, in their own day no such government existed. They therefore determined to sit down and invent one.

This is their story.

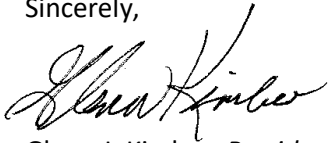
It was fortunate for the Founders that they were able to build upon the sacrifices and hardships of those who had preceded them. It became very evident to them that without God's help, freedom never would have become a reality.

This accompanying study guide is designed to provide you with an easily understood overview of the great principles of America's freedom and the stirring history of their discovery and adoption.

Throughout this study guide you will find occasional blanks. The purpose of these blanks is to encourage concentration on each of the important points being discussed in the lesson. Each missing word will be furnished to you by the instructor during the discussion of each lesson. In case you miss one of the words, you will find it listed at the end of this presentation.

Thank you for joining us in this great cause.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenn J. Kimber". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G".

Glenn J. Kimber, *President*

Thomas Jefferson Center for Constitutional Studies

www.thomasjeffersoncenter.com

EVENTS AND PEOPLE WHO PREPARED THE WAY FOR FREEDOM

I. How the Crusades Led to the Discovery of America:

- A. The Crusades began around A.D. 1100 and were undertaken to liberate the Holy Land from the Muslims. The Crusaders pursued this goal for approximately 300 years but eventually _____.
- B. Nevertheless, contact with the Mediterranean peoples, especially the Arabs, introduced Europeans to the luxuries of the Far East.
1. Spices
 2. Rugs and tapestries
 3. Jewelry and perfumes
 4. Beautiful fabrics made of silk
- C. At first the Europeans purchased these luxuries through the _____ merchants who controlled the trade routes by both land and sea. However, the kings of Europe thought it would be cheaper to make contact with China and Indonesia directly.
- D. Marco Polo accompanied his father and uncle to China in A.D. 1271. He was only 17 when he left and did not return for _____ years. His description of the fabulous riches of China made many Europeans anxious to establish trade routes to the Far East either by land or by sea.
- E. The Portuguese, English and Spanish tried to reach the Far East by going _____ across the Atlantic.
- F. In the past, many American history books said that Columbus was the first person to prove the world was _____.
- G. This led Professor Samuel Eliot Morison of Harvard to write: "Of all the vulgar errors connected with Columbus, the most persistent and the most absurd is that he had to convince people 'the world was round.' Every educated man in his day believed the world to be a _____, [and] every European university so taught geography." (Samuel Eliot Morison, *Admiral of the Ocean Sea*, Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1942, p. 33.)



H. Then how did such a story get started? For several generations our history books told how Columbus could not get support for his project until he convinced the royal court that the earth was round. Dr. Morison, calling this story “ pure _____,” wrote: “Washington Irving, sensing his opportunity for a picturesque and moving scene, took a fictitious account of this nonexistent [incident] published 130 years after the event, elaborated on it, and let his imagination go completely.” (Ibid., p. 89.) It is such a good story that it has been difficult to get it out of the history books.

I. The Greek geographer Eratosthenes had estimated around 200 B.C. that the circumference of the earth was _____

miles. (Bjorn Landstrom, *Columbus*, New York: The Macmillan Co., 1966, p.9.) If that was the case, they felt, China could be reached only by “island hopping.”

The Portuguese were encouraged when they rediscovered the Azores in 1439, and by 1452 they had reached the mid-Atlantic islands of Flores and Corvo, located 1,000 miles from Newfoundland. However, at this latitude the Portuguese were constantly fighting winds that were blowing _____, so they finally gave up and focused their efforts on reaching the Far East by going around Africa. (Morison, *Admiral of the Ocean Sea*, p. 59.)



J. In 1484, a group of wealthy merchants in England employed an Italian sea captain, Giovanni Cabota, known in the English language as John Cabot, to sail out into the Atlantic in search of islands which could be stepping-stones to China. He soon returned with the report that he hadn't found any islands. Had he continued, he would have discovered America eight years before Columbus.

II. The On-going Search for Freedom

Meanwhile, while all this exploration was taking place, there were a number of monumental events where freedom was trying to take root. This was particularly true in England, France, and Spain. Here are their stories.

A. The English were just about the only Europeans who fought to preserve the basic institutes of the _____ culture under People's Law. Hengist and Horsa, two Anglo-Saxon chiefs, introduced these principles in Britain around A.D. 450. Unfortunately, after 600 years the principles of People's Law were abandoned to the point that the citizens of England nearly lost their freedom entirely.