

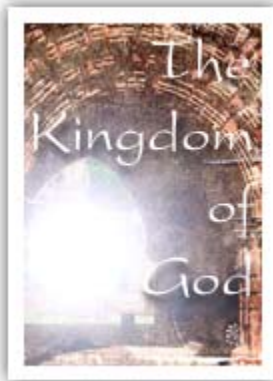
#468 Pikes Peak and America the Beautiful – Who loved their country more than self

“America the Beautiful” [third stanza]

Oh beautiful, for heroes proved
In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved
And mercy more than life!
America! America! May God thy gold refine,
‘Til all success be nobleness, and ev’ry gain divine!

For the sake of poetry, lyricist Katharine Lee Bates created, **Who more than self their country loved**, which normally would be said, **Who loved their country more than self**.

The Lord has no problem with an individual loving the Kingdom of *God* more than himself. In fact, that is



exactly what is expected of the Christian walk, for a Christian is to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.

Matthew 6:33 (KJV) But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

However, there is no scriptural basis for the patriotism of loving one’s *earthly* country more than oneself. Of course, the confusion in the Church in America comes from the loving of “One Nation *Under God*” more than oneself, as if it was the loving of the *Kingdom of God* more than oneself. The confusion disappears when the truth is discovered that it is scripturally impossible for America to have been birthed as “One Nation Under God,” since the doctrines of the Declaration of Independence do not square up with the gospel. Instead, the United States of America is simply another kingdom that is offered to men by Satan, fed by beliefs such as the line in “America the Beautiful,” **Who more than self their country loved** (Who loved their country more than self).

Key Understanding: Katharine Lee Bates’s belief and spirit of ‘Who more than self their country loved’ further confirm that Pikes Peak and “America the Beautiful” serve together in history as a present-day fulfillment of the theme of Matthew 4:8-9.

Matthew 4:8-9 (KJV) Again, the devil [the Tempter] taketh him up into AN EXCEEDING HIGH MOUNTAIN [Pikes Peak, the most famous mountain in America, in a present-day fulfillment], AND SHEWETH HIM ALL THE KINGDOMS OF THE WORLD [the United States of America – “America the Beautiful” – in a present-day fulfillment], AND THE GLORY OF THEM;

9 And saith unto him, ALL THESE THINGS WILL I GIVE THEE, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.





Who loved their country more than self



America the Beautiful

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