

**#885 Benjamin Franklin and America as Babel – Benjamin Franklin on June 28, 1787, at the Constitutional Convention: “And what is worse, mankind may hereafter from this unfortunate instance, despair of establishing Governments by *Human Wisdom*, and leave it to chance, war, and conquest”**

**The Articles of Confederation.** On November 15, 1777, in the midst of the Revolutionary War, the Second Continental Congress finally agreed to a draft of what were called the Articles of Confederation to govern the United States of America. They did not go into effect until March 1, 1781, when Maryland signed them on that date. However, there was dissatisfaction with the Articles, and it was proposed in 1786 that a Constitutional Convention be called (which would lead to the drafting of the U.S. Constitution).

**The U.S. Constitutional Convention.** The convention was supposed to open in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on May 14, 1787, but few of the 55 delegates had arrived by that date. Finally, on May 25, the convention formally opened in Independence Hall. Of the 55 delegates, 39 would sign the U.S. Constitution on September 17, 1787. The signing of the U.S. Constitution is depicted *below*.



**The problems.** The task of creating a new government was not easy. Disputes among the delegates nearly ended the convention on several occasions. For example, delegates from the large states disagreed with those from the small states about representation in the national legislature. The larger states favored the *Virginia Plan*, under which population would determine the number of representatives a state could send to the legislature. The small states supported the *New Jersey Plan*, which proposed that all the states would have an equal number of representatives. The Connecticut delegates suggested a compromise that settled the problem. Their plan provided for equal representation in the Senate, along with representation in proportion to population in the House of Representatives. Compromises had to be made elsewhere as well.

**Franklin’s speech of June 28, 1787.** As we introduced in the previous Unsealing, Benjamin Franklin gave a speech on June 28, 1787, at the Constitutional Convention. Little progress had been made up to that time. A part of that speech was shown in the previous Unsealing’s [#884–Doc 1](#). It is important, however, to grasp the entire speech, which focuses on *political wisdom*, or a lack thereof.

Here is **#885–Doc 1**, which contains **the entirety of Benjamin Franklin’s address to the Constitutional Convention on June 28, 1787**. Note toward the latter part of the speech that Franklin’s words include, **“And what is worse, mankind may hereafter from this unfortunate instance, despair of establishing Governments by Human Wisdom, and leave it to chance, war, and conquest.”** We will elaborate on that in the next Unsealing.

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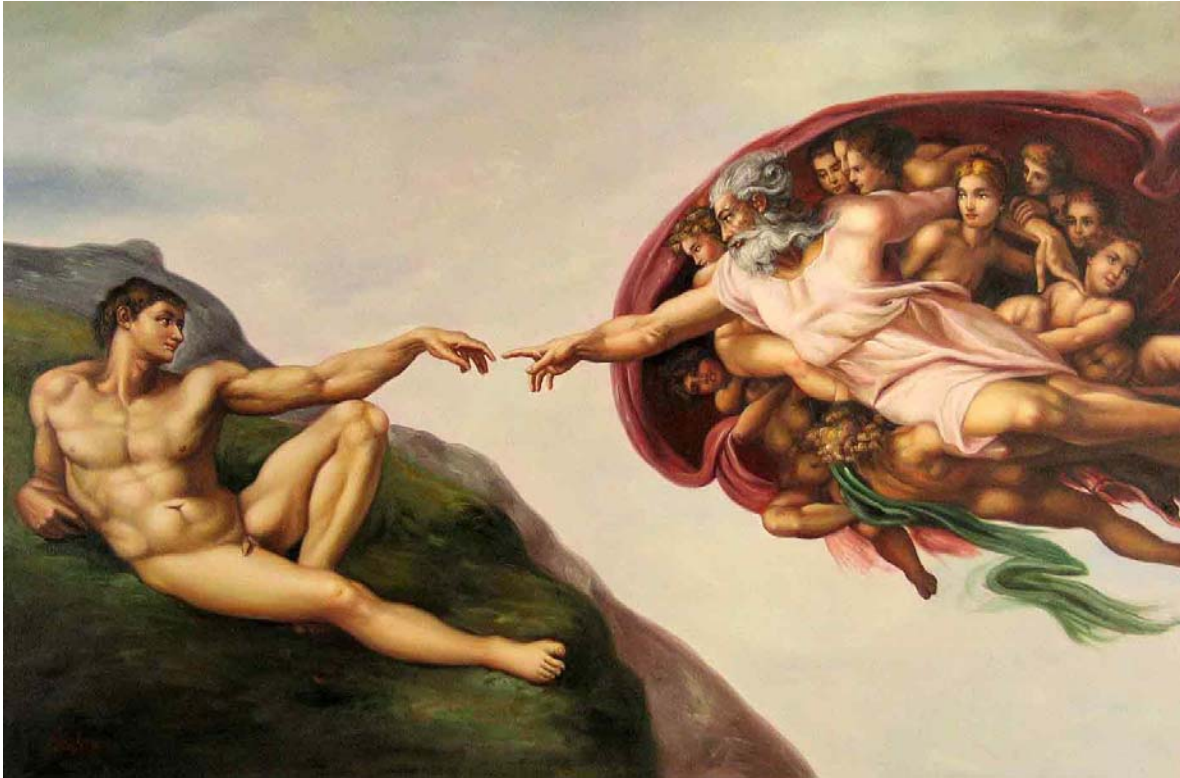
***1 Corinthians 1:17 (NIV) For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—NOT WITH WORDS OF HUMAN WISDOM, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.***



Did God touch the minds of the founding fathers at the U.S. Constitutional Convention in 1787, giving them the “mind of Christ” (right), or did Enlightenment Era/Age of Reason thinking encompass the founding fathers (left)?  
[Reference Unsealing [#449](#).]

**Key Understanding: *Establishing America on Benjamin Franklin’s human wisdom.*** On June 28, 1787, in a famous speech at the U.S. Constitutional Convention at Independence Hall in Philadelphia, Benjamin Franklin stated, “And what is worse, mankind may hereafter from this unfortunate instance, despair of establishing Governments by Human Wisdom, and leave it to chance, war, and conquest.” The question is – though in the speech he was asking for prayers imploring assistance from Heaven – when Benjamin Franklin used the words “human wisdom” in the quest to establish the Constitution of the United States of America, was he accurately comprehending and thus referring to the “*wisdom of God*” (1 Corinthians 1:24) that comes from a Holy Spirit-led “*mind of Christ*” (1 Corinthians 2:16), or was he essentially giving credence and honor to what God would call the human “*wisdom of this world*” of the “*princes of this world*” (1 Corinthians 2:6)? Was Benjamin Franklin of “*the spirit of the world*,” or was he of “*the spirit which is of God*” (1 Corinthians 2:12)? Would the U.S. Constitution be written by the minds of the new American princes of

this world, which had Age of Reason/Age of Enlightenment human wisdom, or would it be written by the Holy Spirit through men, encompassing “*the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: . . .*” (1 Corinthians 2:7-8)?



**The Creation of Adam** is a fresco on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, painted by Michelangelo *circa 1511*. It illustrates the Biblical story of Genesis in which God breathes life into Adam, the first man. Chronologically the fourth in the series of panels depicting episodes from Genesis on the Sistine ceiling, it was among the last to be completed. It is one of the most famous images in the world.

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