

## #1180 The Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven – Francis Scott Key and the Heaven-Rescued Land

**Francis Scott Key and “The Star-Spangled Banner.”** Francis Scott Key was an attorney from Georgetown, Washington D.C. On September 13-14, 1814, during the War of 1812, Key was aboard a British vessel in Chesapeake Bay on the outskirts of Baltimore for the purpose of negotiating the release of an American who had been taken prisoner by the British. The British would not allow Key to return to shore because he and another who accompanied him had become familiar with the strength and position of the British units and of the British intention to attack Baltimore. As a result, Key was on a British ship during the bombardment of Fort McHenry by the British during the Battle of Baltimore. Key was inspired to write a poem about “The Defense of Fort McHenry,” and it became better known as “The Star-Spangled Banner.” However, it would not be adopted officially as the national anthem of the United States until March 3, 1931.



**“The Star-Spangled Banner”** (1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> {last} stanzas)

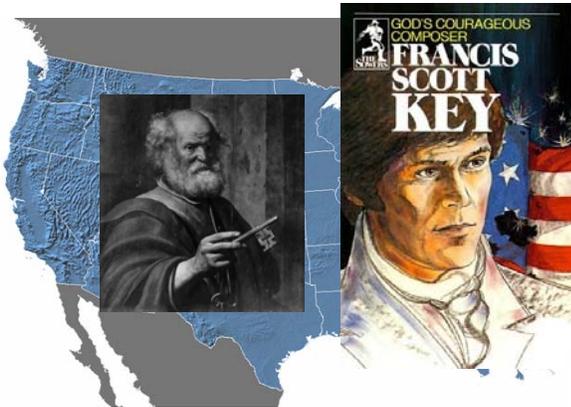
*O say, can you see, by the dawn's early light [speaking of the dawn of September 14, 1814],  
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's [September 13, 1814] last gleaming,  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight  
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?  
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air  
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there;  
O say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?*

*Oh! thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand  
Between their loved homes and the war's desolation,  
Blest with vict'ry and peace, may the Heav'n-rescued land  
Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation!  
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,  
And this be our motto: “In God is our Trust”  
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.*

**Key Understanding:** *The Heaven-rescued land.* The words “the Heaven-rescued land” in the 4<sup>th</sup> (and last) stanza of the “The Star-Spangled Banner” contain the idea that the Lord

rescued America from Great Britain during the War of 1812, placing Great Britain in the role of representing the Gates of Hell, while America was in the role of the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. Francis Scott Key represents the *counterfeit* Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven.

The United States of America  
*representing*  
The keys to the Kingdom of Heaven



Great Britain  
*representing*  
the gates of Hell



**Matthew 16:16-19 (KJV) And Simon Peter answered and said, THOU ART THE CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD.**

*17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.*

*18 And I say also unto thee, **THAT THOU ART PETER, AND UPON THIS ROCK I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH; and THE GATES OF HELL** [represented by Great Britain] **SHALL NOT PREVAIL AGAINST IT.***

*19 And **I will give unto thee THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN** [(in the counterfeit) represented by America and Francis Scott Key, once again opposed by the Gates of Hell, represented by Great Britain]: *and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.**

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