

What I Learned about America's Founding from *Monumental* and portions of *The American Covenant*

By Alisabeth

Who Built America? The question of who built America is an important one, and one that brings up conflict.

Some people say this nation was built by conquistador-like settlers, selfish people only out to steal land, to take and destroy. It was all for the money.

Others argue this land was founded by a group of dumb religious fanatics (called Pilgrims) who came to this nation without a plan and almost died before winter.

Others insist slaves really built this nation. They were the ones who technically plowed and constructed and grew this country, right? The building of America is a shameful thing.

Given the above, how can people say "*In God We Trust*;" how can anyone say religion that built America, when the Pilgrims wanted to escape *religious* practices in England? How can we trust our nation, when its history is so dark?

Who is even right? Is it even good to be a patriot when this nation is so corrupt?

"A wise woman builds up her house. But with her own hands, the foolish one tears it down." Proverbs 14:1

The Answer. What I learned from the movie *Monumental* and portions of *The American Covenant* is the answer is America was built on faith and by faith. This nation was built on the belief in God.

This answer is pictured in the form of a statue that Marshall Foster memorably explains. The statue's figures (and their meaning) answer the question of what America really should be.

At the top of the statue stands a woman, she points to heaven as the representation of salvation. Her name is **Faith**. She has a star of wisdom on her forehead. This represents that Lady Wisdom (from the Proverbs) is Faith's guide, using the thread of God's wisdom into our lives.

She also has an open Bible in her hands, faith is based on reading the Bible. Faith knows the way to where she is pointing; she *knows* the answer is through Jesus: *the Way, the Truth, and the Life*. "*A wise woman builds her house.*"

At the base of the statue are four figures. Each are part of what built America and made us great.

Morality, she looks on the inside, her eyes folded backward examining the soul and looking to the transformation of the heart.

Both Faith and Morality show greatness begins with internal liberty and freedom. Morality holds the laws, the Ten Commandments, and the scroll of revelation.

At Morality's side and base is the figure *Evangelist* (the writer of the Gospels)-- this shows that what changes our morals and our character is Jesus' gospel. *Evangelist* knows our need for the gospel.

The second foundational figure is **Law**. He brings civil equality and order to society (something our nation seems to have struggled with-- to give equal treatment under the law-- for a while). The law also holds the commandments which were the first rules to order government.

At the foot of Law's throne is *Justice* and *Mercy*. *Justice* holds the scales of judgment --not showing favoritism-- and *Mercy* brings grace to law and justice.

Education is the third foundational figure to build our nation upon. Education is a proud, young mother, who has earned the wreath of victory. She has taught her children in the way they should go; she has fulfilled her responsibility as a parent.

The previous generation is pictured by an elderly man (maybe a grandfather) named *Wisdom*, who also has a Bible, the commandments, and a globe. *Wisdom* is a teacher who tells of the world and understands the world, through a biblical view.

Finally, **Liberty** is a strong, mighty man, holding the broken chains that had bound him. Resting on his shoulder is a dead lion representing the defeat of tyranny, and by liberty's side is the elegant woman, *Peace*.

All four of these universal principles-- Morality and Law, Education and Liberty -- were used by the Pilgrims and our Founding Fathers-- to build our nation. It was **Faith** that built our homes, families, and communities. The belief that even though we can't see through dark times or things seem to be only going downhill, our lives and plans are in the hands of God. (It is this image that inspired a drawing that I'd like to attach.)

Ultimately, it was not pilgrims nor our forefathers who made this country. It was not the whites, the blacks, the natives or any race or sex that built this country. It was God, who made this land and brought us to it--in different times and from different places-- to prosper and give hope to all. It was God who made all of the good in this nation and even if there are things that tear us apart He will continue to grow this nation, as we grow our trust in Him. This land, through Him, can once again be a symbol and representation of hope.

*Through Him all things were made;
without Him, nothing was made that has been made. (John 3:1)*

*"Thus out of small beginnings,
greater things have been produced by His hand
that made all things of nothing;
and, as one small candle may light a thousand,
so the light here kindled hath shone unto many..."*
William Bradford, Plymouth Plantation

The wise woman builds her house,

but with her own hands she
foolish tears hers down.

(Proverbs 14:1)



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