FREEDOM STORIES

George Washington

October 15 – November 13, 1789

Washington's New England Tour

Historical Spotlight

Shortly after being elected as the first President of the United States, George Washington embarked on a journey through New England. From October 15 to November 13, 1789, he traveled over 700 miles on horseback and by carriage - visiting towns, churches, and public squares to meet the citizens of the new Republic. His mission was simple but profound: to unite the young nation under the new Constitution and to show that its government was truly "of the people."

In every town, Washington was greeted with church bells, choirs, and prayers of thanksgiving. Ministers preached sermons blessing the new government, and children recited verses of Scripture. Washington often attended worship services along the way, recording in his diary his gratitude to "Almighty God, whose providence has hitherto favored the cause of liberty." His visit symbolized a covenant moment - the visible union of faith, virtue, and public trust upon which self-government depends.

This tour was more than a political gesture; it was a pilgrimage of liberty. Washington's presence among the people reminded them that authority flows not from distant monarchs, but from God through a free and moral people. His example of humble leadership set the tone for a nation governed not by force, but by conscience.

Why it Matters Today

Washington's journey reminds us that liberty thrives when leaders walk among their people, not above them. True freedom requires character, humility, and gratitude to God. As citizens of both Heaven and Earth, we too are called to live as examples - stewards of freedom who lead through service, not self-interest. In our uniquely representative government, we are assigned moral responsibility to hold our leaders accountable to the law of the land - the Constitution.

"Your love of liberty - your respect for laws - your habits of industry - and your practice of the moral and religious obligations, are the strongest claims to national and individual happiness…" - George Washington in his Address to the Citizens of Boston on October 27, 1789

The Arrival of George Washington at New York City
Arsène-Hippolyte Rivey, 1870

"Let us raise a standard to which the wise and the honest can repair."

– George Washington