



One
NATION
Under God

40 DEVOTIONS
FOR PATRIOTIC WOMEN

AMANDA C. BAUCH

One
NATION
Under God

40 DEVOTIONS
FOR PATRIOTIC WOMEN

AMANDA C. BAUCH



A POST HILL PRESS BOOK

One Nation Under God:
40 Devotions for Patriotic Women
© 2025 by Amanda C. Bauch
All Rights Reserved

ISBN: 979-8-89565-111-7
ISBN (eBook): 979-8-89565-112-4

Cover design by Conroy Accord
Interior design by Greg Johnson, Textbook Perfect

This book, as well as any other Post Hill Press publications, may be purchased in bulk quantities at a special discounted rate. Contact orders@posthillpress.com for more information.

No part of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted by any means without the written permission of the author and publisher.

Scripture taken from the New King James Version.® Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Source credits for song lyrics are on the next page, which constitute an extension of the copyright page.



Post Hill Press
New York • Nashville
posthillpress.com

Published in the United States of America

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

To my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ



Source Credits for Hymn Lyrics

- “Before You, Lord, We Bow,” stanza 2. Lyrics by Francis Scott Key. Public Domain Use.
- “Dearest Jesus, We Are Here,” stanza 5. Lyrics by Benjamin Schmolck. Translated by Catherine Winkworth. Public Domain Use.
- “God Bless Our Native Land.” Lyrics by Charles T. Brooks (stanza 1) and John S. Dwight (stanza 2). Public Domain Use.
- “If God Himself Be for Me,” stanza 8. Lyrics by Paul Gerhardt. Translated by Richard Massie. Public Domain Use.
- “Hail to the Lord’s Anointed,” stanza 4. Lyrics by James Montgomery. Public Domain Use.
- “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,” stanza 7. Latin, c. 12th century. *Psalterium Cationum Catholicarum*. Translated by John Mason Neale. Public Domain Use.
- “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You,” stanza 6. Lyrics by Paul Gerhardt. Translated by Catherine Winkworth. Public Domain Use.
- “Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word,” stanza 3. Lyrics by Martin Luther. Translated by Catherine Winkworth. Public Domain Use.
- “The People That in Darkness Sat,” stanza 5. Lyrics by John Morison. Public Domain Use.
- “When in the Hour of Deepest Need,” stanza 3. Lyrics by Paul Eber. Translated by Catherine Winkworth. Public Domain Use.

Contents

<i>Author's Note</i>	vii
<i>Introduction</i>	ix
In the Beginning	1
Prayer That Avails Much	6
Be Careful What You Ask For	11
May God Heal Our Land	17
Abiding in Christ.	23
Humility in Leadership	28
God's Design for Marriage and Family	34
The Heart of the Matter	40
The Call to Purity	46
Being Subject to Rulers and Authorities	51
Doing What Is Good, Right, and True.	56
Stewardship of the Land	62
For the Lord's Sake	69
And God Relented	74
Guarding Our Hearts and Minds	79
Finding Hope Amid Disasters	84
Leading with Zeal for the Lord.	90
To God and to Caesar	95

Teach the Children Diligently	101
Strong Shepherds, Strong Flocks	106
Work as to the Lord	113
The Heart of a King	119
For Such a Time as This.	124
The Rejection of Knowledge	130
Government as God’s Ministers to Us	136
Trusting God Amid War	142
Protecting the Least of These	147
The Lord Appoints.	152
To Live in Quiet and Peace	159
Pulling Down and Building Up.	164
The Power of Intercessory Prayer	168
A Temple of the Holy Spirit	174
True Riches	180
Love Not the World	185
Fighting Our True Enemy	190
Being Generous with Our Possessions	195
Put Away Evil and Do Good	201
Loving Our Enemies in a Divided World	207
Watchmen for the Lord	212
Unity in God’s Eternal Kingdom.	217
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	222
<i>About the Author</i>	224

Author's Note

When I originally conceived the idea for this book, I was thinking in much broader terms. I wanted to write something that would glorify God and edify the body of Christ, in the context of encouraging and equipping readers to pray for the United States.

However, once I started writing, something became clear to me. I wasn't writing for any and all believers in this country—I was speaking specifically to Christian *women*. The moms who worry about the way social media and a sexualized culture are affecting their children. The young women who are concerned about their personal safety and their futures. The grandmothers who don't recognize the country in which they raised their own children and want better for their grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

I've had many conversations with women, particularly in the past few years, who have expressed fears and despair over the state of our nation. Even so, these conversations have always been infused with *hope*. Hope that our country can turn things around and that we can be a part of turning the tide, starting

with our own families. And the hope we have in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who reigns over heaven and earth.

May this book inspire Christian women to apply God's wisdom to the challenges we face and the opportunities we have in the United States. My prayer is that it will indeed edify the body of Christ and glorify God, "who is and who was and who is to come" (Revelation 1:4).

Introduction

Tears streamed down my face as I slowly read through the day's headlines on my phone. It seemed that every day, the more I scrolled, the worse I felt.

Once in a while, a news site I frequented would post a positive or inspirational story, but those were few and far between. Nevertheless, each day I sifted through stories of war, murder, suicide, violence, and political mudslinging, like a prospector shaking a tray to find an elusive golden nugget of good news.

To me, some of the most distressing news concerned events in the United States. As someone who was raised in a military family, love for this great nation has been instilled within me. We had Flag Day concerts in elementary school, where we proudly waved tiny American flags throughout the program. We had Fourth of July and Memorial Day parades, where Scouts rode bikes, drill teams twirled rifles, and marching bands performed. (I have intimate experience because I was part of the latter two groups.) At these and many other events in my small town in Southwestern New York, veterans were always a centerpiece, as we honored their service and sacrifice.

Back then, I had no way of knowing that the country I loved—and still fiercely love and would give my life for—would one day appear to be coming apart at the seams. Hence my tears at reading the daily headlines.

I cried out, “God, what is happening in this country? Everything is going off the rails, and the news seems worse every day. What can we do—what can *I* do—in the face of all this hatred and violence?”

One of my greatest flaws as a Christian, and as a person, is that I am a *horrible* listener. When I pray, I often don’t wait for a response. I typically say or write, “Amen!” and scurry along to whatever’s next on my agenda.

But that day, I sat in silence after sending up my desperate plea. I took deep, calming breaths until my nerves and mind were soothed, and wiped away my subsiding tears. As I sat there in the silent stillness, the clear, simple answer drifted into my mind: *pray*.

My eyes widened, and I couldn’t help but laugh.

For almost twenty years now, I’ve had a running joke with God. I cry out to Him, asking what to do. And the answer is the same: *pray*. You’d think that by now, I’d know this. But if life has taught me anything, it’s that I’m about as stiff-necked and stubborn as they come.

In spite of two decades of my questions being answered with *pray*, it still surprised me on this day. I’m not sure why, though. Did the problems America and the world were facing seem too big, the animosity too deep-seated? Or was I forgetting the thing that I always seem to forget: *Prayer is the single*

most powerful weapon we have in our arsenal against the dark and evil forces in our world.

Even though we Christians disagree on many things, I think we can all agree that prayer is powerful.

After I was reminded to pray, another thought occurred to me: What if every Christian in the United States committed to praying for our nation each day for an entire year? What miracles could be wrought if we fell to our knees and bowed our heads for 365 days, faithfully lifting up our government, institutions, leaders, and citizens to the Lord's throne of grace and mercy?

The Bible contains numerous instances of intercessory prayer (for a small sampling, see Genesis 18:22–33; Exodus 32:9–14; Daniel 9:3–19; and Luke 23:34). Although God is omniscient and omnipotent, He loves hearing from His children and granting those petitions that align with His will.

Honestly, even if we all pray every day for a year, America might not change. In fact, things might get even worse. I say that not to discourage or serve as a deterrent, but as a statement of fact and a hard truth of the reality of living in a sinful world. As we know from the fall of ancient Israel, sometimes a nation and a people pass a point of no return. And the Lord, in His justice, must enact punishment. Yet the faithful remnant of the Israelites was eventually restored to its land, albeit in absence of the former glory and with much heartache.

However, even if nothing changes in our country, *we* will be changed. Come what may, we'll be better equipped to navigate our chaotic world, until the Lord calls us home or Jesus Christ returns. We will be able to persevere, for the Spirit of the Lord

who dwells within us will continually remind us that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ has already overcome the world (John 16:33).

Won't you join me in praying for our country every day? We have nothing to lose, and everything to gain, for "the effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much" (James 5:16).

How to Use This Devotional

I love devotional books, journaling (including writing down prayers), and Scripture. In this book, I've combined these loves, providing a Bible reading, a brief meditation, a prayer prompt, questions for further reflection, and a place for you to note your thoughts, your prayers, your doodles—however you want to fill that space.

I'd also like to note that the Bible passages and verses I've used as the focal point for each devotion are by no means an exhaustive representation of what God's Word says about the topics discussed. I had many other verses I could have used—and believe me, I struggled to whittle my original list down to forty! But these are the ones I settled on for this book.

This book contains forty devotionals. The number forty has significance, and it's woven throughout the Bible. In general, it represents a period of trial and testing. It rained forty days and nights during the Great Flood. The Israelites wandered through the wilderness for forty years. Jesus entered the wilderness and fasted for forty days and nights before Satan came and tempted Him. After Jesus's resurrection, He appeared visibly on earth for

forty days until His ascension. And these are only a few examples of the times the number forty is used in the Bible.

You may consider reading one entry a week, or you might prefer to read one per day. Perhaps you'll incorporate the devotional into a seasonal practice, such as reading one entry per day during Lent. Or you might read the book with a group, using your answers to the reflection questions as the basis for your discussion. I know from experience what a blessing it is when women gather around Scripture together!

In short, I encourage you to use this book in whatever way works best for you.

One thing I've always struggled with in my prayer life is *consistency*. Whenever I want to implement a new habit, whether it's for my physical health, to meet a goal, or for a spiritual discipline, I might be able to sustain the effort for a few weeks, even for several months. But doing something every day, *for an entire year*? Not so much. Yet as the old saying goes, let's not allow the perfect to become the enemy of the good. The last thing Satan wants anyone doing is praying—especially praying consistently and with intentionality. Even if all we're able to offer on any given day is a prayer whispered on a deep exhale of sadness, that is still a fragrant offering to the Lord (see Romans 8:26 and Psalm 141:2).

In my years of spending time in God's Word, one truth has been continually reinforced to me: His Word is indeed living and active (Hebrews 4:12)! Therefore, even when we encounter the same Bible passage multiple times, it is never the same twice. One reason is that we receive fresh insights from the Holy

Spirit. Another reason is that we are dynamic human beings, ever becoming the people God created us to be. I've had days when I read a Bible verse in the morning, then lived what felt like a bazillion lifetimes in one day, and read the same verse in the evening with a completely different perspective or understanding. Not saying this happens each and every time, but for me at least, it happens more often than not.

The critical thing is to set an intention to pray for America every day, and do everything within your power to make good on that promise. Our nation needs prayer *now*.

I'm so grateful to have you joining me on this journey, and to have you as a sister in Christ. Together we are stronger, by the power of the Holy Spirit that unites us in the body of Christ. To Him be all glory and honor, forever and ever. Amen.

God bless our native land;
Firm may she ever stand
Through storm and night,
When the wild tempests rave,
Ruler of wind and wave,
Do Thou our country save
By Thy great might.
So shall our prayers arise
To God above the skies;
On Him we wait.
Thou who art ever nigh,
Guarding with watchful eye,
To thee aloud we cry:
God save the state!

“God Bless Our Native Land”

In the Beginning

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on
the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering
over the face of the waters.*

*Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. And God
saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the
darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness He called
Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.*

—GENESIS 1:1-5

Does your life ever feel chaotic? Does the entire world seem chaotic to you?

If you spend even one minute on the internet, you’ll likely start thinking like Chicken Little, convinced that the sky is falling.

School shootings. Child trafficking. Suicide bombings. Wars and more wars.

Yet the world was never meant to be this way.

“In the beginning God” is an awesome statement, revealing that before anything *was*—even time and space—God *is*. He is the great “I AM,” the unique and singular name He revealed to Moses in Exodus 3:14, sometimes translated from the Hebrew as “Yahweh.” His very name conveys His dominion over all, as

He is the only one who can create *ex nihilo*, meaning bringing something into existence from nothing. By His will and word, the world was brought into being.

We also read that “the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.” The opening verses of the Bible assert the truth of the Trinity, even though the word itself is never explicitly used in Scripture. Like the Father, the Spirit is uncreated, yet He acted in creation. The same is true of the Son, who is uncreated and acted in creation.

In the beginning, “the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep.” From the first day of creation through the subsequent five days, the Lord methodically brought all things into being. We worship a God of order, not of chaos (see 1 Corinthians 14:33).

At the end of every single day, God proclaimed that what He’d created was good. He alone defines what is “good” and “evil,” though humanity often tries to obscure His absolute truth with relative truths, as we often see in today’s culture. It’s the age-old sin of questioning God’s love and goodness and the truth of His Word, of asking, as the serpent did in the Garden of Eden, “Has God indeed said...?” (Genesis 3:1).

In God’s absence, darkness and chaos abound, and life does feel like a void without form. We can see this in both our individual lives and in our nation. When we look around our country, God’s absence in every sphere of society manifests in the ills that plague us. Those of us who have been unbelievers—or even those of us who have drifted away from the Lord for a

season—know what it’s like to live as an enemy of God, severed from His love, grace, and mercy.

For those who are in the body of Christ, God’s sovereignty in creation is a powerful reminder that even in moments of chaos and uncertainty in our lives—and in our country—He can bring forth order. He also can bring forth light from the darkness, which He did on the very first day of creation, when He said, “Let there be light.”

These opening verses in the Bible point us to Jesus, “the light of the world” (John 8:12). This is reinforced by John 1:1–5, which beautifully echoes Genesis 1:1–4: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.”

The Word was with the Father from eternity, attesting to their unity even after He became flesh, when He proclaimed, “I and My Father are one” and “before Abraham was, I AM” (John 10:30, 8:58). As John 1:3 states, nothing was made apart from the Word, and He is the one who is “upholding all things by the word of His power” (Hebrews 1:3).

Even before anything was created, God, in His omniscience, knew that humanity would fall into sin. Because He loves us and doesn’t want anyone to perish (2 Peter 3:9; Ezekiel 18:23), the salvation plan was established before Adam was formed from the dust of the ground and the breath of life was breathed into

his nostrils (Genesis 2:7). As Revelation 13:8 says, Jesus Christ is “the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”

Acknowledging the Triune God’s dominion and sovereignty over all creation should inspire us to worship, as we not only admire the beauty and wonder that surrounds us but also honor the One who created it with such intentionality and love—and the One who redeemed it by shedding His blood on the cross.

We eagerly anticipate Christ’s return, when the things of this world will pass away, and He’ll make all things new (Revelation 21:5).

Prayer

Lord of all creation, when we look around us, Your might and majesty are evident in creation. From the stars in the heavens to the depths of the seas, You uphold all things—including our nation. As we spend the coming weeks lifting up our nation in prayer, may we humble ourselves and continually remember that the earth is Yours, the world and all those who dwell in it (Psalm 24:1). In Jesus’s name we pray. Amen.

