

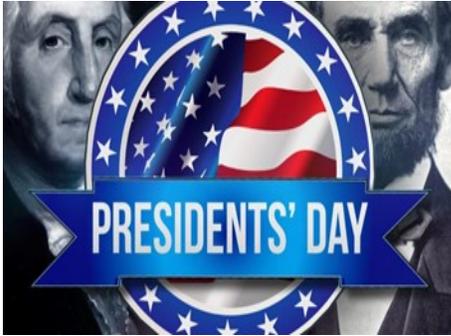


FRANKLIN ROAD

baptist church

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PRESIDENT'S DAY



TODAY IS PRESIDENT'S DAY AND SOME OF YOU ARE GETTING THE DAY OFF. SINCE CONGRESS PASSED THE UNIFORM MONDAY HOLIDAYS ACT IN 1971 THIS DAY IS CELEBRATED THE THIRD MONDAY OF FEBRUARY, THOUGH IT NEVER FALLS ON THE ACTUAL DATE OF EITHER OF THE PRESIDENTS IT HONORS. (GO FIGURE . . .IT'S THE GOVERNMENT!) GEORGE WASHINGTON WAS BORN FEBRUARY 22, 1732 IN POPE'S CREEK, VIRGINIA AND ABRAHAM LINCOLN WAS BORN IN HODGENVILLE, KENTUCKY ON FEBRUARY 12, 1809.

SO, I GOT TO THINKING ABOUT RULER'S BIRTHDAYS RECORDED IN THE BIBLE. THERE ARE TWO OF THEM.

IN GENESIS 40:20-22 WE READ OF A PARTY IN HONOR OF KING PHARAOH'S BIRTHDAY. I'M SURE IT WAS A HUGE EVENT IN EGYPT. THE DISTINCTIVE THING ABOUT THIS PARTY WAS THAT AT THAT TIME PHARAOH BROUGHT FROM PRISON TWO OF THE MEN WHO HAD FORMERLY SERVED IN HIS COURT. THE CUPBEARER AND THE BAKER. BOTH HAD FALLEN INTO DISFAVOR WITH THE KING AND MET JOSEPH IN PRISON WHERE HE HAD INTERPRETED THEIR DREAMS. AT PHARAOH'S PARTY THE CUPBEARER WAS RESTORED TO HIS PREVIOUS POSITION WHILE THE BAKER WAS HANGED.

IN NEW TESTAMENT TIMES WE READ OF HEROD'S BIRTHDAY PARTY IN MARK 6:21-27. HERE WE LEARN THAT HE GAVE A BANQUET FOR ALL OF HIS LORDS, MILITARY COMMANDERS AND THE LEADING MEN OF ISRAEL. HIS STEP-DAUGHTER DANCED BEFORE THESE GUESTS AND PLEASED HEROD AND HIS DINNER GUESTS SO HE IMPULSIVELY (AND PROBABLY DRUNKENLY) OFFERS HER WHATEVER SHE WANTS. AFTER DELIBERATING WITH HER EVIL MOTHER, HERODIAS, SHE ASKS FOR AND RECEIVES THE HEAD OF JOHN THE BAPTIST.

BOTH OF THESE BIRTHDAY EVENTS END WITH SOMEONE DEAD. HOW TRULY SAD.

BUT THINK WITH ME ABOUT ONE MORE RULER'S BIRTHDAY. WHEN HE WAS BORN MAGI CAME FROM THE EAST SEEKING THE ONE WHO WAS BORN KING OF THE JEWS. (MATTHEW 2:1-2). THESE KING-MAKERS CAME TO CELEBRATE THE HUMBLE BIRTH OF JESUS. WHEN FINDING HIM IN BETHLEHEM THEY FELL TO THE GROUND AND WORSHIPPED GIVING HIM GIFTS OF GOLD, FRANKINCENSE AND MYRRH. (MATTHEW 2:11).

THIS KING CAME TO GIVE LIFE TO ALL WHO WERE DYING IN SIN! HOW TRULY WONDERFUL.

WE SHOULD DULY HONOR PRESIDENTS WASHINGTON AND LINCOLN THIS PRESIDENT'S DAY. BUT OUR MOST AND BEST PRAISE AND WORSHIP SHOULD BE RESERVED FOR THE GREATEST RULER TO EVER ENTER OUR EARTH, KING JESUS!

LOOKING UP!

PASTOR CHUCK CIRCLE