

TYRANNY...



“Unfit to be the Ruler of a Free People”



Jesus and Government

Those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant.

Mark 10:42-43

The Origin of Tyranny is Sin

Satan played upon the heart of Eve and Adam

- Genesis 3:1 – *Has God indeed said you shall not eat of every tree of the garden?* – Eve responds in bitterness - Sin originates and enhances evil.
- Genesis 3:4 – *You will not surely die.* We are prone to deny consequences (responsibility).
- Genesis 3:5 – *you will be like God, knowing good and evil.* – Define right/wrong and control outcomes.

Consequence of Tyranny: Control

- Blame game – Ge. 3:13 – *Adam/Eve; serpent*
- Pain and suffering – Ge. 3:16-18 – *multiply your sorrow... pain... toil (not wanting to work)*
- Tyranny – Ge. 3:16 – *...he shall rule over you...*

God gave men and women responsibility to steward the earth and its resources, but not to manipulate and control each other!

The Definition of Tyranny

Biblical – *The unjust control of another through the means of manipulation or force*

Tyranny from Webster's 1828 - *Arbitrary or despotic exercise of power; the exercise of power over subjects and others with a rigor not authorized by law or justice, or not requisite for the purposes of government. Hence tyranny is often synonymous with cruelty and oppression.*

Coronation of King George III (1739-1793)

- September 22, 1761
- 6-hour ceremony cost 8 million+
- Crowded streets, crowns, regalia
- 42 singers, 105 musicians
- Coronation Day, feasts, fireworks



Royalty had become more important than substance, yet John Hancock wrote he wanted to stay for it would be
“the grandest thing I shall ever meet with.”

John Hancock (1737-1793)

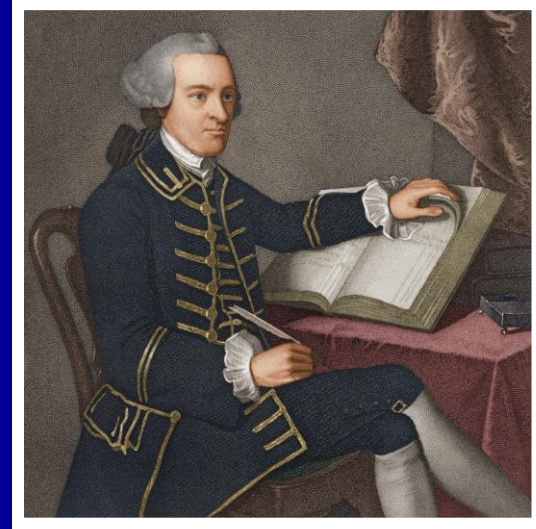


- 1754 graduated from Harvard
- 1760 visits London, is there when George II dies, and George III has his coronation ceremony...
- 1764 (27); is wealthiest in Boston after the death of his Uncle Thomas
- He moved into the mansion on top of Beacon Hill – House of Hancock

Harlow Unger in John Hancock: Merchant King and American Patriot...

Hancock loved his wealth. He reveled in it. He adored all the foppish trappings it could buy: the fashionable wigs, frilled shirts, silk and velvet jackets and breeches – and the shoes with silver or gold buckles that sparkled as he strode along Boston's Hancock Wharf... He owned Beacon Hill. His land covered its crest, and his was the only house there.

King George III and John Hancock

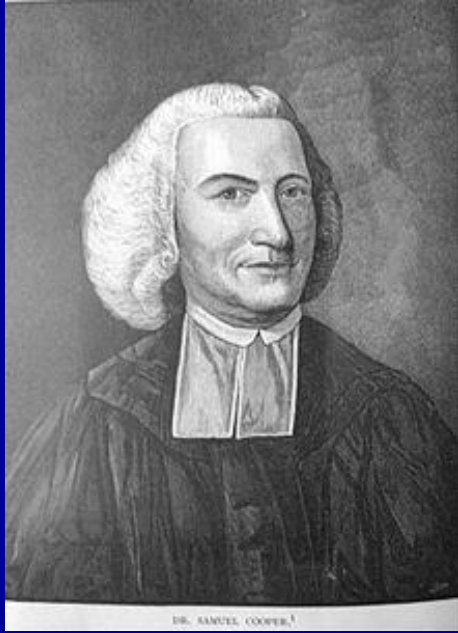


John Hancock

What changed John Hancock?

- Sugar Act of 1764... stood for liberty at great cost
- Lost ships *Lydia* and *Liberty* – Writs of Assistance
- The trial of 1770 – Boston Massacre – one of principle
- Selectman of the town of Boston and a Legislator
- Signed the Declaration as a “death warrant” in 1776
serving as the President of the Continental Congress
- The change was the resurgence of Hancock’s faith,
under the leadership of his pastor, *Samuel Cooper!*

Samuel Cooper of Brattles Church

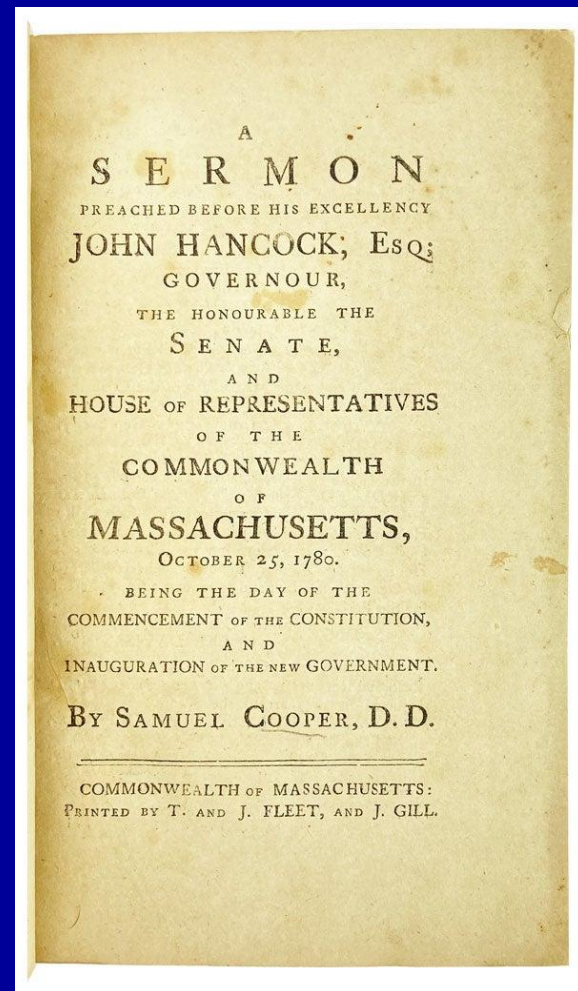


(1725-1783)

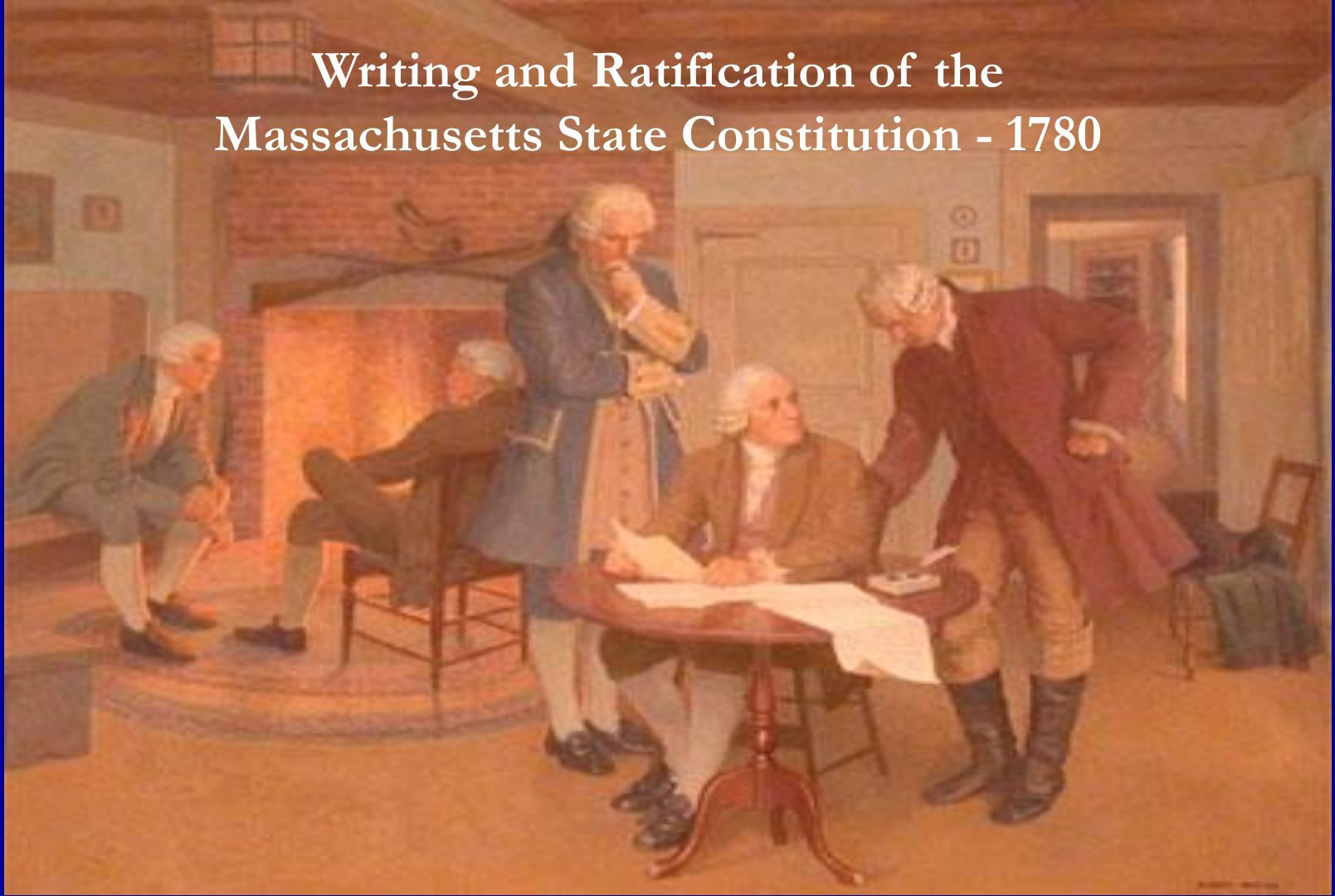
Pastored Brattles
Street Church
Boston 1747-1783

- Pastored *John Hancock, Sam Adams, John Adams, James Bowdoin* and *Dr. Joseph Warren*
- Highly influenced *Benjamin Franklin* and *Phyllis Wheatley*
- Helped establish the French alliance
- Preached the sermon that was published with the proposed **Massachusetts Constitution of 1780...**

A
SERMON
Preached before his Excellency
JOHN HANCOCK, Esq; Governor
The Senate and House of
Representatives of the
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
October 25, 1780
Being the date of the Commencement
of the Constitution and Inauguration
of the Government
By Samuel Cooper, D.D.



Writing and Ratification of the Massachusetts State Constitution - 1780

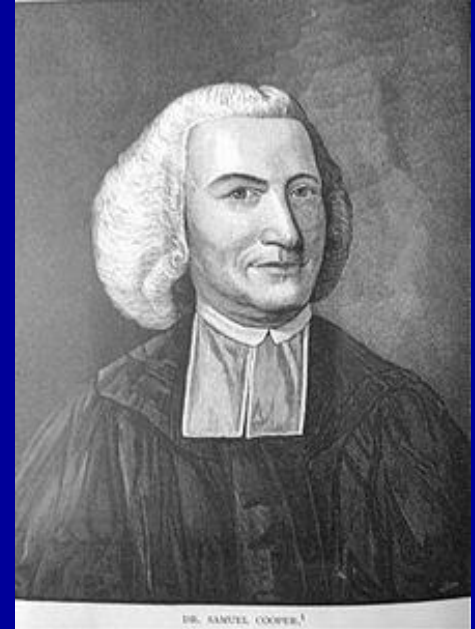


Cooper's 1780 Sermon

- The characteristics of tyranny throughout history and recorded in the Old Testament
- The contrasting government of Israel before she chose a King – a “republic” of the people
- How the Massachusetts constitution has been established on the independence of America and the nature of ancient Israel's republic

Samuel Cooper shepherds John Hancock

- Cooper corresponded with Thomas Pownell – former Governor of MA in 1757, who recalled Gov. Shirley...
- *“most constitutional... Governor who ever represented the crown...”* JAdam
- Cooper was able to preach the gospel without political divisiveness...
- Hancock and Cooper corresponded during the 1770's on defense of liberty



(1725-1783)

Pastored Brattles
Street Church
Boston 1747-1783

In circumstances as Dark as these... All confidence must be withheld from the Means we use; and reposed only on that GOD who rules in the Armies of Heaven, and without whose Blessing the best human Counsels are but Foolishness – and all created Power Vanity. It is the Happiness of His Church that, when the Powers of Earth and Hell combine against it... that the Throne of Grace is of the easiest access and its Appeal thither is graciously invited by the Father of Mercies, who has assured it, that when his Children ask Bread he will not give them a Stone...

The Declaration is a defining Document of Resistance to Tyranny

- Cl 1-10 - Obstruction of justice – oppression of people
- Cl 11-15 - Military use of Civil law – political bullying
- Cl 16-22 - Abuse of power – unlawful control beyond one's authority (jurisdiction)
- Cl 23-27 - Using violence/chaos - to gain control...
- Cl 28-31 - Promotion of corruption – evil is now good

(1) The Bible exposes Tyranny as an obstruction of justice

- Proverbs 10:12b – *The tender mercies (compassion) of the wicked are cruel.*
- Isaiah 1:17 – *Learn to do good, seek justice, rebuke the oppressor; defend the fatherless, plead for the widow.*

Oppressing people rather than defending a victim

(1) Obstruction of Justice

- William Blackstone 1753 - *to bereave a man of life, or by violence to confiscate his estate, without accusation or trial, would be so gross and notorious an act of despotism, as must at once convey the alarm of tyranny throughout the whole kingdom...*
- Clause 8 - *“He has obstructed the Administration of Justice by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary Powers...”*

(2) The Bible exposes Tyranny as *forceful political bullying*

- 1st Timothy 2:1-2 – *I exhort... that prayers... for all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.*
- Matthew 22:39 - *...you shall love your neighbor as yourself.*

No Forceful / Military bullying of Civil Power

(2) Intrusion of Military in Civil Affairs

- James Madison 1795 - *Of all the enemies to public liberty, war is, perhaps, the most to be dreaded, for it comprises and develops the germ of every other... no nation could preserve its freedom in the midst of continual warfare.*
- Clause 12 - *He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil Power.*

(3) The Bible exposes Tyranny as an abuse of power

- Psalms 94:20 – *Shall the throne of iniquity, which devises evil by law, have fellowship with you?*
- Proverbs 29:2 – *When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice, but when a wicked man rules, the people groan.*

Unlawful control beyond one's Jurisdiction

(3) Abuse of Power

- John Locke 1690 – *tyranny is “the exercise of power beyond right.”*
- Clause 17 – *imposing Taxes... without Consent*
- Clause 18 – *for depriving us in many cases, of the benefit of Trial by Jury...*
- Clause 22 – *for suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever*

(4) The Bible exposes Tyranny as *using chaos to gain control*

- Genesis 4:7 – *If you do well, will you not be accepted? ...If you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but... rule over it.*
- Proverbs 25:28 – *Whoever has no rule over his own spirit is like a city broken... without walls.*

Encouraging violence/chaos to increase control

(4) Incitement of Violence

- Alexander Hamilton 1788 – *Are not popular assemblies frequently subject to the impulses of rage, resentment, jealousy, avarice... and violent propensities? ...governed by a few individuals?*
- Clause 24 – *He has plundered our seas, ravaged our coasts, burnt our towns... destroyed lives of people*
- Clause 27 - *He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us...*

(5) The Bible exposes Tyranny as the *promotion of corruption*

- Isaiah 5:20 – *Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light...*
- Isaiah 10:1-2 – *Woe to those who decree unrighteous decrees, who write misfortune, which they have prescribed to rob the needy of justice... that widows may be their prey...*

Corruption of character leads to tyrannical control

(5) Promoting Corruption

- Baron de Montesquieu 1730 – *No tyranny is more cruel than that which is practiced in the shadow of the law and with the trappings of justice...*
- Clause 28 – *In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury.*

“A Prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the Ruler of a Free People.”



Biblical Interposition

- The doctrine of the Lower Magistrate
A lawfully instituted civil official is to interpose between the people and a tyrannical higher power
- 2nd Chr. 10:16-11:4 – Rehoboam & Jeroboam
- 2nd Chr. 22-23; 2nd Kings 11 – Queen Athaliah
- 2nd Chr. 26:16-23 – Uzziah – Church & State

The Declaration: a Document of Interposition



We, therefore, the representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress assembled...



John Hancock – March 5, 1774

Some boast of being friends to government; I am a friend to righteous government, to a government founded upon the principles of reason and justice; but I glory in publicly avowing my eternal enmity to tyranny...

Break in sunder, with noble disdain, the bonds with which the Philistines have bound you... Suffer not yourselves to be betrayed, by the soft arts of luxury... Despise the glare of wealth.... people who pay greater respect to a wealthy villain than to an honest, upright man in poverty, almost deserve to be enslaved...

I have the most animating confidence that the present noble struggle for liberty will terminate gloriously for America. ...let us humbly commit our righteous cause to the great Lord of the universe, who loveth righteousness and hateth iniquity. And having secured the approbation of our hearts, by a faithful and unwearied discharge of our duty to our country, let us joyfully leave our concerns in the hands of him who raiseth up and putteth down the empires and kingdoms of the world as he pleases; and with cheerful submission to his sovereign will devoutly say.



“Although the fig-tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labor of the olive shall fail, and the field shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls; yet we will rejoice in the Lord, we will joy in the God of our salvation.”

(Habakkuk 3:17-18)

olved; and that as FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which INDEPENDENT STATES may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm Reliance on the Protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.

Signed by ORDER and in BEHALF of the CONGRESS,

JOHN HANCOCK, PRESIDENT.

ATTEST.
CHARLES THOMSON, SECRETARY.

PHILADELPHIA: PRINTED BY JOHN DUNLAP.

There, John Bull can read my name without spectacles, he may double his reward, and I put his at defiance.

States may of right do. — And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the Protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

Burton Gwinnett
Lyman Hall
Geo Walton.

Saml Hooper
Joseph Hewes
John Penn

Edward Rutledge Jr.

Thos Heyward Jr.
Thomas Lynch Jr.
Arthur Middleton

Samuel Chase
Wm Paro
Thos Stone
Chas Carroll of Carrollton

George Wythe
Richard Henry Lee
Th Jefferson
Wm Harrison
Th Nelson Jr
Francis Lightfoot Lee
Carver Braxton

John Hancock

Rob Morris
Benjamin Rush
Ben Franklin
John Norton

Geo Clymer
Sam Smith
Geo Taylor
James Wilson
Geo Ross
Casar Wainwright
G. Whitt
Tho Mifflin

Elbridge Gerry
Sam Adams
John Adams
Rufus Putnam
Elbridge Gerry
Step Hopkins
William Ellery
Roger Sherman
Sam Huntington
Mr Williams
Oliver Wolcott
Matthew Thornton

Josiah Bartlett
N. Whipple
Sam Adams
John Adams
Rufus Putnam

Elbridge Gerry
Step Hopkins
William Ellery
Roger Sherman
Sam Huntington
Mr Williams
Oliver Wolcott
Matthew Thornton



...appeal to the Supreme Judge of the world, and with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, mutually pledge to each other our Lives, Fortunes and our sacred Honor!