

Essential Elements of Religious Nationalism in America

America is the Promised Land (“City on a hill” + “Light of the world” + “Sacred soil”)

“God Bless America” (more blessed/favored than any other nation; political benediction; emphasizes exceptionalism + a sacred national hymn like “America the Beautiful,” “Battle Hymn”)

“One Nation Under God” (allegiance to the authority/rule of a particular, sectarian deity; added to and emphasized over the original inclusive, secular version: “one nation indivisible”)

“In God We Trust” (one narrow belief in one specific god—replaces E Pluribus Unum)

Flag/Cross/Bible (a melding of powerful images; a claim of religious privilege)

Patriotic Faith/Faithful Patriotism (inseparable, undivided allegiance; “true Americans”)

Feeling of being persecuted, victimized—battleground mentality (holy war/spiritual warfare)

Deep suspicion or hostility toward the Separation of Church and State

“Religious Liberty” (essentially means Religious Privilege for “true believers”)

Leaders and enforcers are primarily powerful, white, male, conservative Christians

“Family Values” (“biblically-based” home as standard for all Americans; strict gender roles)

Political organizing of the base (“Values Voters” who vote for “biblical principles”/“godly leaders”)

Antipathy toward Public Education (“School Choice” -Vouchers-; homeschooling; “Parents’ Rights”)

Demands preference in the Public Square (holiday displays; book bans; crosses; monuments)

“Judges, Judges, Judges” (must control the courts to establish “Christian” rule/theocracy)