

AMERICA FIRST AGENDA

10 PILLARS FOR RESTORING A NATION UNDER GOD

"Some of you will rebuild the deserted ruins of your cities. Then you will be known as a rebuilder of walls and a restorer of homes."

ISAIAH 58:12 (NLT)

"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

2 CHRONICLES 7:14

Why Christians Must Engage . . . Now, Before It's Too Late

For nearly 2000 years now, the gospel of Jesus Christ has been the greatest force for human flourishing the planet has ever seen. Yes, the good news has swept countless millions into an eternity in heaven. But the effects here in this broken world have been profound as well.

Without a Christian worldview and values, Western civilization—and the extraordinary progress, prosperity, freedom, and equality it has produced—does not emerge.¹ And the fullest expression of that civilization has been the United States of America. A nation founded by people rooted in biblical assumptions who crafted a constitutional republic, unlike anything the world had ever seen.

WE'VE LOST OUR WAY

No one has to tell you that America has lost its way. You see it everywhere you look. You see long-cherished freedoms—bought with blood and sacrifice by successive generations—eroding rapidly. The values that produced unprecedented order, opportunity, and prosperity are mocked and discarded. Rising lawlessness at our border and in our once-great cities. Diminishing confidence in the integrity of our electoral systems, governing institutions, and foreign policy. Increasingly radical agendas that seek to indoctrinate children.

THE WAY BACK

Yet it is not too late. IF . . . if a saving remnant comprised of people of faith will awaken. God's people can, by awakening, turn the tide. This will require the power of prayer and repentance to see the salvation of America, particularly following the

instruction of 2 Chronicles 7:14—"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land." It must come from God's people and will also require being engaged in the public square and at every level of government.

The Bible dedicates an immense amount of space to the topic of government. After all, the entire Old Testament centers around the establishment of the nation of Israel and how to create a government that serves the people and honors God through setting boundaries rather than making decisions for people. This idea is represented by the concept of *self-governance*. The three pillars of self-governance include the rule of law, consent of the governed (with dispersed decision making), and private property.² These pillars lead to a society where people are free to love and take responsibility for one another. This builds communities with strong bonds of mutual love and respect. It also sets boundaries. The alternative is tyranny—a system of the strong ruling the weak. Inevitably, this degrades into the strong exploiting the weak.

To facilitate a return to self-governance, the America First Policy Institute has established ten policy pillars, presented in detail in the *America First Agenda: Guide to the Issues* and designed to serve all Americans. This supplemental resource interprets the policy objectives of the America First Agenda through the lens of their biblical foundations and applications to provide Christians more information on the issues and solutions needed for the restoration of the Nation.

AMERICA FIRST AGENDA =

10 Pillars for Restoring a Nation Under God	1.	Make the Greatest Economy in the World Work for All Americans
	2.	Put Patients and Doctors Back in Charge of Healthcare
	3.	Restore America's Historic Commitment to Freedom, Equality, and Self-Governance
	4.	Give Parents More Control over Their Children's Education
	<i>5.</i>	Finish the Wall, End Human Trafficking, and Defeat the Drug Cartels
The America First Policy Institute is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, nonpartisan research institute.	<i>6.</i>	Deliver Peace through Strength and American Leadership
AFPI exists to advance policies that put the American people first. Our guiding principles are liberty, free enterprise, national greatness, American military superiority, foreign policy engagement in the American interest, and the primacy of American workers, families, and communities in all we do.	7.	Make America Energy Independent
americafirstpolicy.com America First Agenda: 10 Pillars for Restoring a Nation Under God	<i>8.</i>	Make it Easy to Vote and Hard to Cheat
Copyright © 2022 America First Policy Institute All rights reserved. No part of this booklet may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher.	9.	Provide Safe and Secure Communities so All Americans Can Live Their Lives in Peace
Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture is taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America.	10.	Fight Government Corruption by Draining the Swamp



Make the Greatest Economy in the World Work for All Americans

From beginning to end, the Scriptures recognize the right to private property and the principle that people should be free to enjoy the fruits of their hard work. From the Garden of Eden to the Promised Land, to the stewardship parables of Jesus, we see the Bible commanding, encouraging, and codifying these principles. At the same time, the Bible consistently warns against the destructive force of envy, coveting, theft, and the unjust application of power.

When a government robs its citizens of freedom of choice ... (when it unfairly confiscates the property of the hardworking to empower and enrich the corrupt and powerful ... when it crushes the poor and regular families through inflationary policies ... when it punishes initiative and hard work while rewarding vice ... when it gathers to itself the power to pick winners and losers in our economy ...) it destroys common prosperity and fosters tyranny.



Yes, the care of orphans, widows, and the poor is very important to God. It is indeed the assignment of God's people, the Church—giving voluntarily and joyfully, not as Paul says in 2 Corinthians 9:7, "under compulsion" (NASB). Improved prosperity for individuals and communities allows the Church to better fulfill this assignment. And it elevates the human dignity that comes from caring for others.

The America First Agenda seeks to champion policies that will rebuild our great American economy and restore hope and prosperity for all Americans.

KEY SCRIPTURES

"And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you the ability to produce wealth..." Deuteronomy 8:18

When you eat the fruit of the labor of your hands, you will be happy and it will go well for you. Psalm 128:2 (NASB)

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. Romans 13:8 (NIV)

- ★ End Historic Out-of-Control Inflation
- ★ Fight for the American Worker and Their Wages
- ★ Negotiate Trade Deals that Protect American Workers and Consumers, and Protect our National Security
- ★ Make the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act Permanent
- ★ Build Supply Chains that Rely Only on American Workers and our Allies
- ★ Build the World's Greatest Infrastructure System
- ★ Enhance Opportunity Zones to Strengthen America's Forgotten Communities

Put Patients and Doctors Back in Charge of Healthcare

As every believer knows, we are fearfully and wonderfully made in the image of our Creator. We were knit together in our mothers' wombs—created for good works in Him.

The responsibility to steward our bodies and health as individuals and as households is a foundational assumption in Scripture and vital to a free people. But bit by bit, our government in recent years has moved both responsibility and decision-making power out of the hands of families and their physicians and into the hands of faceless bureaucrats.



Currently, there are many in places of power who manipulate healthcare only to benefit well-connected firms and special interests, all the while expanding the power and size of government bureaucracies. This has not fulfilled the core mission of the healthcare system—to improve the health of Americans in order for ALL to best fulfill their God-given purpose.

The America First Agenda seeks to put patients and doctors back in charge to unleash human creativity to co-labor with God for health solutions and provide transparency that will allow Americans the agency to best steward their health.

KEY SCRIPTURES

Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

1 Corinthians 6:19

Learn to do good; seek justice, rebuke the oppressor; defend the fatherless, plead for the widow. Isaiah 1:17

Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers. 3 John 1:2

- ★ Protect the Most Vulnerable, Including Seniors and People with Preexisting Conditions
- ★ Enhance Access to Trusted Doctors and Appropriate Care
- ★ Increase Affordable Health Plans and Alternative Forms of Coverage
- ★ Promote Individual Control of Healthcare
- ★ Lower Prescription Drug Prices
- ★ Promote Transparent, Upfront Pricing

Restore America's Historic Commitment to Freedom, Equality, and Self-Governance

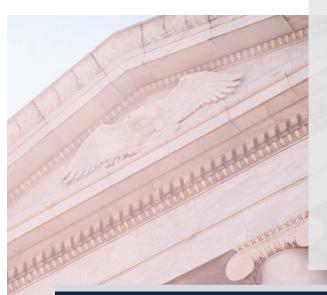
We were created to be free. Freedom under God's rule—with individuals and families practicing self-governance—was His original, good plan for mankind. America's founders understood this. As a Nation, we were born of a passion for liberty and the conviction that fundamental "unalienable rights" are granted by our Creator, not the government. They also understood that mankind is fallen and broken. And therefore, power, in the hands of fallen people, would corrupt those who held it.

Which is precisely why they penned a Constitution brilliantly designed to restrict the reach and power of the government over individuals while, through the Bill of Rights, clearly spelling out the rights and freedoms U.S. citizens enjoy.

Sadly, Americans have witnessed threats to those individual liberties. Benjamin Franklin once wrote: "Whoever would overthrow the liberty of a nation must begin by subduing the freeness of speech." Today, Christians are increasingly facing persecution, penalties, and sanctions for simply speaking their convictions and proclaiming the truths of the Bible. As a nation founded on religious liberty, faith has always been a vital part of the American experience, and a foundation of American liberty. Additionally, the basics of the two biological sexes are challenged, and life in the womb is devalued.

The decline of America's institutions, the degeneration of our culture, and the inexorable expansion of government have tracked closely with the decline in faith in America.

A core purpose of Christian engagement in these issues is to model freedom in Christ for ALL while standing for truth. The America First Agenda seeks to restore the innate value of each person by promoting freedom, equality, and self-governance.



KEY SCRIPTURES

Woe to those who enact unjust statutes, and to those who constantly record harmful decisions. Isaiah 10:1 (NASB)

Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

I Peter 2:16-17 (ESV)

For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Galatians 5:13–14

- ★ Defend our Constitutional Rights of Religious Liberty and Freedom of Conscience
- ★ Defend our Constitutional Right to Keep and Bear Arms
- ★ Stop Big Tech from Encroaching on our Free Speech
- ★ Honor the Sanctity of Every Innocent Human Life
- ★ Defend Female Athletes and Preserve Fairness in Women's Sports



Give Parents More Control over Their Children's Education

"We must do this for the sake of our children ..." has become a common refrain in recent years. "Our children." As if the responsibility for kids lay first and foremost with the government or with some faceless collective group. Yet, the Bible makes it clear that it is parents alone who shoulder the responsibility for their children—including for their education; for building character; and forging their worldview.

Yet many in places of power and influence today would completely usurp the God-ordained role of parents in these vital tasks. The current crisis in public education stems not only from the fact that children are no longer being taught the fundamental subjects and skills necessary to flourish as adults, they are also being indoctrinated into a worldview that is anti-Western, anti-Christian, and, increasingly, anti-reality.

In many places, the current curricula are saturated with radical agendas focused on extreme social experiments such as gender identity fluidity, identity politics, and alternative versions of history. The America First Agenda seeks to return education to the oversight of parents and restore sound educational principles for academics.



KEY SCRIPTURES

Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it.

Proverbs 22:6 (NLT)

"And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when your rise up.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

Tell your sons about it, and have your sons tell their sons, and their sons the next generation. Joel 1:3 (NASB)

- ★ Give Parents More Control by Allowing Them to Select the School Their Child Attends
- ★ Give Every Parent the Right to See All Curriculum Materials in Every Class Their Child Attends
- ★ Encourage Schools to Teach Basic Skills that Prepare Students for Life as an Adult
- ★ Advocate for Teaching the Truth About America's History



Finish the Wall, End Human Trafficking, and Defeat the Drug Cartels

The Bible instructs us both to love our neighbor and to consider the plight of the poor. Yet the effects of open and unprotected borders are devastating to our most vulnerable neighbors and fellow citizens.

These policies are a gift to both the human traffickers and the drug cartels. We're importing human misery and death while empowering the murderous drug cartels that have made our neighbor to the south a hotbed of lawlessness and murder. Meanwhile, winking at violations of U.S. immigration laws undermines the fundamental commitment to the rule of law that holds our society together.

Millions of poor, unskilled job seekers flooding into our Nation put downward pressure on the wages of the working poor. This is precisely why powerful corporate business interests have lobbied for open borders for decades. Cheap labor further enriches multinational corporations while impoverishing the working poor.

A country without meaningful, controlled borders is not really a country at all in any basic sense of the term. The America First Agenda seeks to provide greater security for all Americans by securing the borders.

KEY SCRIPTURES

Like a city that is broken into and without walls so is a person who has no self-control over his spirit. Proverbs 25:28 (NASB)

Rescue those who are being taken away to death; hold back those who are stumbling to the slaughter. Proverbs 24:11 (ESV)

Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. Psalm 82:3 (NIV)



- ★ Finish the Wall
- ★ Stop Human Trafficking by Instituting Effective Border Security and Immigration Enforcement Programs
- ★ Defeat the Drug Cartels
- ★ Modernize and Restore Integrity to the Immigration System
- ★ Boost Counterterrorism Capacity and Defend Critical Infrastructure

Deliver Peace through Strength and American Leadership

For many of the most powerful and influential in our Nation our "elites"—the idea of "American exceptionalism" is not only hopelessly old-fashioned but actually offensive. They mock the idea that our Nation's birth and rise to global preeminence stemmed from the application of God's founding ideals. For many of these, America is not good and therefore should not be great.

Yet many regular Americans know in their hearts that their country has sought to be a force for good in the world throughout her history. And can continue to do so if only we summon the will. We also know that there are other powerful nations in the world that are anything but a force for good. China's ruling Communist Party, for example, oppresses its people (including Christians, Muslims, and other people of faith), threatens its neighbors, and is guilty of appalling, genocidal human rights abuses.

THE AMERICA FIRST AGENDA

- Establish an America First Foreign Policy
- Maintain the World's Most Powerful Military Force
- ★ Pursue a Bold New Path to Peace and Prosperity in the Middle East
- Hold China Fully Accountable for Chronic Unfair Trade Practices, Stealing American Technologies, and Polluting our Planet's Air and Oceans

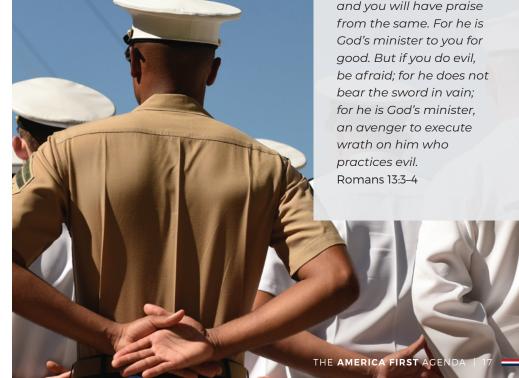
Peace and security are promised often throughout Scripture. God promises to help the vulnerable and punish those who exploit those weaker than themselves. It is the sacred job of a righteous government to accurately recognize good and evil. The America First Agenda seeks to restore and renew American military strength to protect our people and deter the worst actors in a dangerous world.

KEY SCRIPTURES

In peace I will both lie down and sleep, for You alone, LORD, have me dwell in safety. Psalm 4:8 (NIV)

"Because of the devastation of the poor, because of the groaning of the needy, now I will arise," says the LORD; "I will put him in the safety for which he longs." Psalm 12:5 (NASB)

For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid: for he does not bear the sword in vain: for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. Romans 13:3-4





Make America Energy Independent

A broad survey of the Bible reveals that God's conception of "good government" or just rule is one that advances the well-being of all the citizens of a nation—not just an elite and powerful few. The Scriptures also make it clear that God is the Creator of the Universe and everything in it. And that He delegated dominion stewardship over the earth to mankind.

Current energy and environmental policy in the U.S. often seems to assume that we have no right to wisely utilize the earth and its resources for human benefit. At the same time, our policies seem to benefit an elite few while placing

additional financial burdens on everyday Americans.

Energy should be reliable and affordable for Americans, Policies that safeguard the freedoms and opportunities presented by our energy potential and rebuild our Nation's energy independence while advancing clean air and clean water are critical to achieving our potential. The America First Agenda seeks to promote energy policies that wisely steward America's vast energy and environmental resources for the benefit of all her people, not just a few.

KEY SCRIPTURES

Then God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the skv. and all the animals that scurry along the ground." Genesis 1:28 (NLT)

"[God] doesn't care how great a person may be, and he pays no more attention to the rich than to the poor. He made them all." Job 34:19 (NLT)

Moreover, the profit of the land is for all... Fcclesiastes 5:9

- ★ Become Energy Independent to End America's Reliance on Foreign Sources of Oil and Gas
- ★ Lower the Price of Gas and Energy by Increasing Production of America's Energy Supplies
- ★ Create a Predictable, Transparent, and Efficient Permitting Process and Regulatory Environment
- Provide Clean Air, Clean Water, and a Clean Environment for All Americans

Make it Easy to Vote and Hard to Cheat

Abomination is a strong word, and the Bible uses it sparingly. Yet the Bible's wisdom book, Proverbs, tells us that "a false balance is an abomination to the LORD" (Proverbs 11:1, NASB). Likewise, the Scriptures are full of condemnation for cheating, bribery, injustice, and falsehood.

These truths speak directly to the importance of restoring and preserving integrity and transparency in America's voting and vote-counting processes. No republic or representative democracy can survive long without widespread confidence in the fairness and legitimacy of the electoral process. Without that confidence, our Nation will dissolve further and further into partisan chaos. Our extraordinary Nation will tear itself apart.

The America First Agenda seeks to promote policies that assure that every citizen eligible to vote can do so easily. And that America's elections—top to bottom—are transparent, fair, and just.

THE AMERICA FIRST AGENDA

- ★ Require Voters to Have Photo Identification
- ★ Clean Up Voter Rolls before Every Election
- ★ Require All Ballots to be Returned by Election Day
- ★ Eliminate Ballot Harvesting
- ★ Ban the Practice of Billionaires Giving Money to Election Officials to Influence Elections



KEY SCRIPTURES

"You shall do no injustice in judgment, in measurement of length, weight, or volume. You shall have honest scales, honest weights, an honest ephah, and an honest hin: I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt."

Leviticus 19:35–36

False weights and unequal measures—the LORD detests double standards of every kind. Proverbs 20:10 (NLT)

A righteous person hates deceit, but the wicked person is shameful and disgraceful.
Proverbs 13:5 (ISV)

Dishonest scales are an abomination to the LORD, but a just weight is His delight.
Proverbs 11:1

VOTE



Provide Safe and Secure Communities so All Americans Can Live Their Lives in Peace

Countless examples from history provide this sober warning: when respect for the rule of law disappears; when criminals at every level of society go unpunished; when the law-abiding and productive and vulnerable live in fear . . . society unravels. No such nation can remain truly great, or even long survive.

America's greatness sits on a foundation of self-governance and respect for the rule of law. These, in turn, find their foundation in Jesus' "Golden Rule." That is, to treat others the way we would want to be treated. This ethic is the glue that has held our society together for more than two centuries. But many

THE AMERICA FIRST AGENDA

- ★ Restore the Rule of Law
- ★ Promote Respect for Law Enforcement
- ★ Stop Chinese Communists' Malign Influence and Theft of American Intellectual Property
- ★ Address Homelessness and Mental Health and the Issues that Plague our Streets
- ★ Unravel Organized Crime, Human Trafficking Rings, and Drug Trade within our Cities
- ★ Strengthen Fatherhood and the Nuclear Family
- ★ Create a Pathway to a Second Chance

national and local leaders are intentionally, willfully dissolving that vital adhesive.

As a nation of self-governed individuals and families, we have the privilege (and responsibility) to ensure our leaders and communities value the rule of law. This is the very essence of the biblical word "justice." The America First Agenda seeks to restore law and order, promote justice, and secure our communities for ALL Americans.

KEY SCRIPTURES

I also examined on earth: where the halls of justice were supposed to be, there was lawlessness; and where the righteous were supposed to be, there was lawlessness.

Ecclesiastes 3:16 (ISV)

It is a joy for the just to do justice, but destruction will come to the workers of iniquity. Proverbs 21:15

"For I, the LORD, love justice; I hate robbery . . ." Isaiah 61:8

Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities.
For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.
Romans 13:1



Fight Government Corruption by Draining the Swamp

"Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely," warned Britain's Lord Acton. Access to enormous, unearned wealth has a corrupting influence as well. Both of these truths find ample validation in the Scriptures.

Here in America, as we have prospered as a nation, our national government has gathered more and more power to itself—far more than our country's founders could have possibly imagined. And with that power structure has come the tendency to make decisions for Americans that only grow the bloated government structure. This contrasts with the proper function of setting appropriate boundaries so that all in the society can thrive. In recent years, both the cost and reach of

government has soared—all at the taxpayers' expense. And so has the structure that allows exploitation, corruption, and bloated inefficiency at every level.

God's people are clearly instructed to pray for leaders and those with governing authority. But in a republic, we are also responsible for ensuring that the governing authorities and the structures in place to execute government will best serve the interests of the people.

The America First Agenda seeks to promote policies and outcomes that restore integrity, efficiency, transparency, accountability, and frugality in government.

KEY SCRIPTURES

When the godly are in authority, the people rejoice. But when the wicked are in power, they groan.

Proverbs 29:2 (NLT)

While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption . . . 2 Peter 2:19

Without wise leadership, a nation falls; there is safety in having many advisers. Proverbs 11:14 (NLT)



- **★** Fight Government Corruption
- ★ Move Federal Agencies and Decision-Making Closer to the People
- ★ Cut the Red Tape
- ★ Reform the Civil Service to Create Accountability in the Bureaucracy
- **★** Dismantle the Administrative State
- ★ Balance the Budget

Awaken Awaken

"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

MATTHEW 5:13-16

For more information, ask for the *America First Agenda: Guide to the Issues*

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AMERICA FIRST POLICY INSTITUTE

Center for American Values

The core of American government is, as the Declaration of Independence states, "to secure these rights"—namely, "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." Today, a dizzying array of ideas and influences counter to foundational American Values threaten our inalienable rights and our democratic republic system of government. America First Policy Institute's Center for American Values will advance messaging, policies, and litigation that respect and protect life, uphold God-given liberties, preserve freedoms of expression, and restore basic ideals and values that propel a prosperous society. In the same vein, the Center for American Values also features the "Second Chances Project," which aims to address America's incarceration problem through a faith-based lens and confront the root causes of crime: broken families and a lack of faith.



PAULA WHITE-CAIN CHAIR, CENTER FOR AMERICAN VALUES

Paula White-Cain was born in Tupelo, Mississippi, and serves as the Chair of the Center for American Values at AFPI. Currently, White-Cain serves as Senior Pastor at City of Destiny. For the past 37 years, White-Cain has worked across the world in almost 200 countries. ministering, fighting for religious freedom and humanitarian rights, and advocating for the voiceless. White-Cain also served as an advisor to President Donald J. Trump in the Office of Public Liaison's Faith and Opportunity Initiative.



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Endnotes

- 1 The Victory of Reason: How Christianity Led to Freedom, Capitalism, and Western Success, Rodney Stark, Random House, (2007). And: How Christianity Changed the World, Alvin Schmidt, Zondervan, (2009)
- 2 American Prosperity Series | The Bible and Politics. (2022). Retrieved 7 April 2022, from https://www.bibleandpolitics.com/american_prosperity_series/



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