

**“A Christmas Of New Hope!”**

**Trenton, New Jersey 1776**

**Isaiah Chapter 40 (Selected Verses)**

**This Is The 2nd Part Of A 3 # Part Series On The Revolutionary War  
From The Summer of 1776 To Spring of 1777**

**Q**

**“Who Here Today Or Listening Online This Morning,  
Remembers What I Proclaimed To You & The Country  
As God’s Message To His People  
On This Past Independence Day In July?”**

**I Will Attempt To Refresh Your Memory & Give You An Opportunity  
To See How The End Of That 1<sup>st</sup> Message Relates  
To Today’s – Veteran’s Day Message  
And To The Current State Of Affairs  
We Find Ourselves In Today Here In New Jersey,  
And In The United States Of America!**

**The Message This Past 4th Of July Was Entitled,  
“Retreat: To Repent, Recoup, Retrain, & Revive!”  
Central Theme – “A People Living Under Tyranny!”**

**Desperately Trying To Find A Way To Stem The Tide Of Failures.**

**There Had Been Nothing But Defeat, Retreat,  
& A Growing Sense Of Despair & Depression**

**That Had Fallen Upon The Soldiers & Citizens Of The Young Rebellion,  
None More So; Then In The Colony Of New Jersey!**

**It Chronicled A Few Brave Soldiers, Families, Statesmen, & Citizens,  
A Minority (Less Than 5%) Who Decided That Needed To Stand & Fight!**

**Among These Brave Patriots Of Faith  
Was A Lawyer Named James Otis Who Said This,  
“We Cannot Continue To Allow**

**Tyranny & Taxation Without Representation,  
In The Government & In The Affairs Of Our Lives, As Citizens!”**

**Councilor James Otis**

**Today It Is You And I, And Others Around The Country In Every State,**

**Not A Minority, But Not The Majority Either,**

**Who Consider Themselves Everyday Patriots Of Faith.**

**So, On Your Behalf, My Fellow Citizens,**

**I Would Like To Coin A New Phrase For Our Times!**

**As An American Patriot, Veteran US Army Chaplain,  
And Today Pastor Of Crossway Church of the Nazarene,  
In Clinton, New Jersey I Now Declare,**

**“We Cannot Continue To Allow Today  
“Tyranny & Voting Without Validation,**

**In The Government Of The People, & For The People,  
To Ever Again Affect The Affairs Of Our Lives, As Citizens!”**

**Rev. Scott A. Kovalcik**

This Past Independence Day Message Chronicled  
In Detail The Long List Of Early Defeats  
Across Massachusetts, Long Island, New York City  
And The Devastating List Of Retreats All Across New Jersey,  
Even To The Final Escape To Temporary Safety Across The Delaware River  
Intro Pennsylvania At The Onset Of Winter 1776.  
It Chronicled The Deep Despair, The Lack Of Optimism,  
And Misery Of The Everyday Soldiers & Citizens,  
It Also Outlined The Desperate Need To Halt The Retreat  
& To Try To Find Victory Soon Somewhere  
Or The Revolution To Set The People Free  
Would Be Over Before It Started!

**Now For A Quick Review Of 1776 & The Long Retreat!**

**See Appendix A**

***“Retreat Across New York” - Summer To Fall 1776***

**See Appendix B**

***“Retreat Across New Jersey” – Fall To Winter 1776***

**Let’s Take A Look At The State Of Affairs Just Before Christmas 1776**

In The Forest Of Pennsylvania Between Newton, PA & Trenton, NJ  
Alongside The Delaware River For George Washington  
As The Commander Of The Colonial Army  
On The Morning Of December 4<sup>th</sup>, 1776

**Washington Faced Many Problems**

- 1) Lack Of Winter Clothing & Shelter
- 2) Lack Of Winter Boots Or Even Shoes & Socks
- 3) Lack Of Food & Scared Citizens Who Were Afraid To Help
- 4) Lack Of Ammunition & A Way To Keep It Dry
- 5) A Broke Government Who Could Not Pay The Troops
- 6) Enlistments That Ended In 27 Days On December 31, 1776
- 7) Not One Victory Since The War Started – Only Defeats & Retreats

**George Had Some Positives On His Side**

- 1) He Had Great Faith In God
- 2) He Had Faith In His Fellow Citizens
- 3) He Believed God Had Called Him To Lead
- 4) He Had A Private In His Ranks Named Thomas Paine
- 5) He Had Shown Great Initiative & Acted Quickly  
When First Arriving In Pennsylvania To Secure  
All The Bridges, Ferries & Boats Along The Delaware River
- 6) He Had Already In Prayer Sought God’s Direction  
That Led Him To Direct With Great Fervor His Troops

***“To Repent, Recoup, Retrain, & Revive Their Spirits & Their Esprit De Corps!”***

**7) The Weather Had Always, Just At The Right Moment, Swung In Favor Of Divine Protection!**

**A) During The Long Retreat He Remained Undetected At Times For Days**

**B) Even Now Before The Eve Of Battle The Enemy Was Slowed & Hampered**

**C) And Soon After The Battle When He Was Forced To Move Again,  
He Would Find Divine Favor & Be Cloaked At Times In Secrecy**

### George Began To Turn The Tide Seven Ways

- 1) He Read Aloud Thomas Paine's *The American Crisis*
- 2) He Held Prayer & Revival Services
- 3) He Formulated Battle Plans To Immediately Snatch Victory From Defeat
- 4) He Sent Out Riders For Reinforcements
- 5) He Sent Out Foraging Parties For Supplies & Food
- 6) He Sent Out Scouts & Spies To Reconnoiter  
The Enemy Disposition: Attitude, Strength & Position
- 7) Washington Finally Acted Boldly & Decisively  
With Faith In His Cause Before God  
& Being Open & Transparent With His Commanders  
Something He Had Failed To Do For Over A Year Now  
Which Had Led To Only Defeat, Depression, & Retreat!

### Washington Enacted A Series Of 3 # Faith, Health, Moral & Welfare Boosts For The Troops

- 1) A Reading To The Troops  
& Publication Across The Colonies Of

### Thomas Paine's - *The American Crisis No. #1*

*"These are the times that try men's souls! The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph. What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly: it is dearness only that gives everything its value. "Heaven knows how to put a proper price upon its goods; and it would be strange indeed if so celestial an article as Freedom should not be highly rated. Britain, with an army to enforce her tyranny, has declared that she has a right (not only to Tax) but "To Bind us in ALL CASES WHATSOEVER," and if being bound in that manner, is not slavery, then is there not such a thing as slavery upon earth. Even the expression is impious; for so unlimited a power can belong only to God!"*

*"Whether the independence of the continent was declared too soon, or delayed too long, I will not now enter into as an argument; my own simple opinion is, that had it been eight months earlier, it would have been much better. We did not make a proper use of last winter, neither could we, while we were in a dependent state. However, the fault, if it were one, was all our own\*; we have none to blame but ourselves. The present winter is worth an age, if rightly employed; but, if lost or neglected, the whole continent will partake of the evil; and there is no punishment that man does not deserve, be he who, or what, or where he will, that may be the means of sacrificing a season so precious and useful. I have as little superstition in me as any man living, but my secret opinion has ever been, and still is, that God Almighty will not give up a people to military destruction, or leave them unsupportedly to perish, who have so earnestly and so repeatedly sought to avoid the calamities of war, by every decent method which wisdom could invent. Neither have I so much of the infidel in me, as to suppose that He has relinquished the government of the world, and given us up to the care of devils; and as I do not, I cannot see on what grounds the king of Britain can look up to heaven for help against us: a common murderer, a highwayman, or a house-breaker, has as good a pretence as he. 'Tis surprising to see how rapidly a panic will sometimes run through a country. All nations and ages have been subject to them!"*

*“I shall not now attempt to give all the particulars of our retreat to the Delaware; suffice it for the present to say, that both officers and men, though greatly harassed and fatigued, frequently without rest, covering, or provision, the inevitable consequences of a long retreat, bore it with a manly and martial spirit. All their wishes centered in one, which was, that the country would turn out and help them to drive the enemy back!”*

*Tomas Paine, The American Crisis - No. 1*

**Washington Enacted A Series Of 3 #**

**Faith, Health, Moral & Welfare Boosts For The Troops**

**2) Prayer & Revival Services By The Chaplains**

**With A Reading From The Prophet Isaiah Focused On**

**God’s Power, Providence, & Sovereignty**

**& His People’s Faith & Responsibility**

**In Service To God & Each Other!**

*“Comfort, Yes, Comfort My People!” Says Your God ... “I Am The Voice of One Crying in the Wilderness: ‘Prepare the Way of the Lord; Make Straight in the Desert a Highway for Our God. Every Valley shall Be Exalted and Every Mountain and Hill Brought Low; the Crooked Places shall be Made Straight and the Rough Places Made Smooth; and the Glory of the Lord Shall Be Revealed, and All Flesh Shall See It Together; For The Mouth Of The Lord Has Spoken!’” ... “Behold, the Lord God Shall Come with a Strong Hand, and His Arm Shall Rule for Him; Behold, His Reward is With Him, and His Work Before Him. He Will Feed His Flock like a Shepherd; He Will Gather the Lambs with His Arm, and Carry Them in His Bosom, and Gently Lead Those Who Are With Young.” ... “Behold, the Nations are as a Drop in a Bucket, and are Counted as the Small Dust on the Scales; Look, He Lifts Up the Isles as a Very Little Thing. And Lebanon is Not Sufficient to Burn, Nor its Beasts Sufficient for a Burnt Offering. All Nations before Him Are As Nothing, And They are Counted by Him Less Than Nothing and Worthless. To Whom Then Will You Liken God? Or What Likeness Will You Compare To Him?” ... “Have You Not Known? Have You Not Heard? Has It Not Been Told You From The Beginning? Have You Not Understood From The Foundations Of The Earth? It is He Who Sits above the Circle of the Earth, and its Inhabitants are like Grasshoppers, Who Stretches Out the Heavens like a Curtain, and Spreads Them out like a Tent to Dwell In. He Brings the Princes to Nothing; He Makes the Judges of the Earth Useless. Scarcely Shall They Be Planted, Scarcely Shall They Be Sown, Scarcely Shall Their Stock Take Root in the Earth, When He Will also Blow on Them, and They Will Wither Away, and the Whirlwind Will Take Them Away like Stubble. To Whom Then Will You Liken Me, Or To Whom Shall I Be Equal?” Says The Holy One. “Lift Up Your Eyes On High, and See Who Has Created These Things, Who Brings Out Their Host by Number; He Calls Them All By Name, By the Greatness of His Might and the Strength of His Power; Not One Is Missing. Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel: ‘My Way Is Hidden from the Lord, and My Just Claim Is Passes Over By My God? Have You Not Known? Have You Not Heard? The Everlasting God, The LORD, The Creator Of The Ends Of The Earth, Neither Faints Nor Is Weary. His Understanding is Unsearchable. He Gives Power to the Weak, and to Those Who Have No Might He Increases Strength. Even the Youths Shall Faint and Be Weary, and the Young Men Shall Utterly Fall, But Those Who Wait On The Lord Shall Renew Their Strength; They Shall Mount Up With Wings Like Eagles, They Shall Run And Not Be Weary, They Shall Walk And Not Grow Faint!”*

**Isaiah 40:1, 3-5, 10-11,15-18, & 21-31 (NKJV)**

Washington Enacted A Series Of 3 #  
Faith, Health, Moral & Welfare Boosts For The Troops  
3) Washington Personally Led The Troops Into Battle  
& Sacrificed His Own Life Leading From The Front!

He Also Personally Guaranteed Them Pay From His Own Coffers

If Their Promised Allotments Did Not Arrive From Congress By The New Year!

See Appendix C

Let's Look Now At The

*"Lay Of The Land Around Trenton & Troop Deployment  
On The Eve Of December 24<sup>th</sup> 1776"*

See Appendix D

Let's Look Now At The "Battle Plan  
Night Of Christmas Day To Early Morning Of Next Day  
December 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> 1776"

A Good Start

- 1) Everything Started Off Really Good & Undetected By The Enemy
- 2) Everyone Was Moving From Their Jump Off Points  
Especially The Main Attacking Force At McKonkey's Ferry Into Position
- 3) The Encircling Forces Were Also In Position & Ready To Move Out
- 4) All The Lead Commanders Knew What Was Expected Of Them

Something's Unforeseen

- 1) The Ferry Of The Artillery Took Way Longer Than Expected
- 2) The Weather Although A Hindrance In Slowing The Crossing Of The Delaware River  
Added To The Cover & Concealment Of The Columns Of Soldiers In New Jersey
- 3) The Encircling 2 # Forces Unbeknownst To Washington Did Not Follow Up
  - a) In One Case (**Cadwalader's Regiment**) Never Made The Dangerous Crossing
  - b) The Other (**Ewing's Regiment**) Went Across The River  
& Then Lost Their Nerve & Retreated Back Across The River Again

What Went Well

- 1) Lack Of Faith Of The Enemy
- 2) Contempt & Pride Of The Enemy
- 3) Over Confidence Of The Enemy
- 4) Drunkenness & Debauchery Of The Enemy
- 5) Lack Of Alertness & Preparedness Of The Enemy
- 6) Total Surprise Due To Discipline, Stealth,  
& Divine Weather Intervention – Freezing Roads & Fields  
That Were Muddy Prior To This, Due To The Sudden Change  
In The Awful Weather That Actually Aided Them Again  
In Both Concealment & Movement
- 7) The Initial 2 # Prongs Of Advance & Encirclement  
Made Their Rendezvous Points Nearly Simultaneously & Nearly Undetected
  - a) North & East Of Town – Greene's Men
  - & b) North & West Of Town – Sullivan's Men

See Appendix E

*"Initial Undetected Movement & Readiness Of The Two Main Columns"*

### Results In Battle

- 1) Almost Total Surprise Of The Enemy By Washington's Men  
Due To Great Planning & Execution
- 2) Great Personal Leadership By The Commanders  
In The Field Showing Flexibility & Decisiveness
- 3) Great Personal Discipline & Initiative  
By The Common Soldiers In The Heat Of Battle

See Appendix F

### Final Outcome Of Battle

*"Nearly Complete Encirclement!"*

### Final Outcomes Of The Battle

- 1) Almost Total Victory
- 2) Great Catch Of Prisoners
- 3) Great Cache Of Supplies, Weapons, & Ammunition
- 4) Quick Retreat Back Across The Delaware River  
Due To Failure Of The 2 # Other Encircling Forces To Follow Through
- 5) Great Demoralization & Chaos In The Enemies Rear & Headquarters
- 6) Great Boost In Faith, Hope, & Moral In The Colonial Army's Ranks
- 7) Great Boost In Faith, Hope, & Moral For The Citizens Of All The Colonies,  
None More So; Then Those Of The Colony Of New Jersey!

A Way, Where There Seemed To Be No Way,  
Was Now Opened To [Future Success In Battle](#)

And In [Finding An Secluded Place To Shelter For Winter](#)

Back Near Where Future Battles Must Be Fought In Order To Win The War!

A Place That Could Provide Camouflage, Cover, & Concealment,

A Place Again To Rest, Recoup, Refit, Retrain, & Revitalize,

A Place To Give Thanks To Almighty God For His Victory,

His Hope, His Care, & His Continued Protection

By His Presence Among Them, - [A Place Called Morristown, New Jersey!](#)

Tune In For Part 3 # Of These Messages Of Faith, Hope, & Revival!

Tune In Just 2 # Weeks From Today, For A Thanksgiving Message Entitled,

*"A Place Of Refuge, Solitude, Strength, & Thanksgiving!"* [Morristown January To May 1777](#)

**Please Rise**

On This Hallowed Veteran's Day

Let's Thanks Those Who Have Gone Before Us,

Marked With The Sign Of Faith, Marked By Their Sacrificial Giving,

Marked By The Last Full Measure Of Devotion,

By Giving Their Lives For Our Freedom Today!

Let's Thank Almighty God,

For His Giving Of Forgiveness,

Through His Son Jesus Christ Our Lord!

For His Restoration Of Relationship With Us

& His Abiding Presence Within Us

Through His Holy Spirit!

Let's Give Our Gratitude, Our Praise, & Our Thanks To God,  
In Joining Together With One Voice As Today's True Patriots,

Sons & Daughters Of Liberty, & Justice For All,

In Signing All 4 Verses Of - *"America The Beautiful!"*

Appendix A

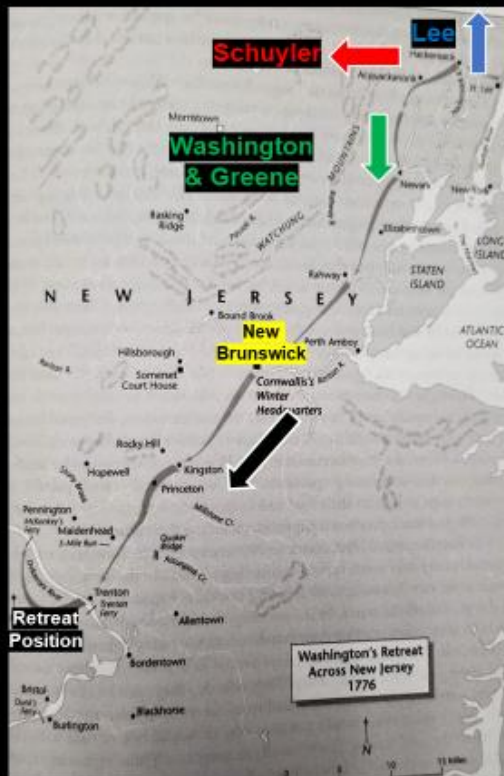
Retreat  
Across  
New York



Summer  
To Fall  
1776

Appendix B

Retreat  
Across  
New Jersey



Fall To  
Winter  
1776

Appendix C

Lay of the Land  
Around Trenton  
& Troop Deployment  
On The Eve Of  
December 24, 1776



Appendix D

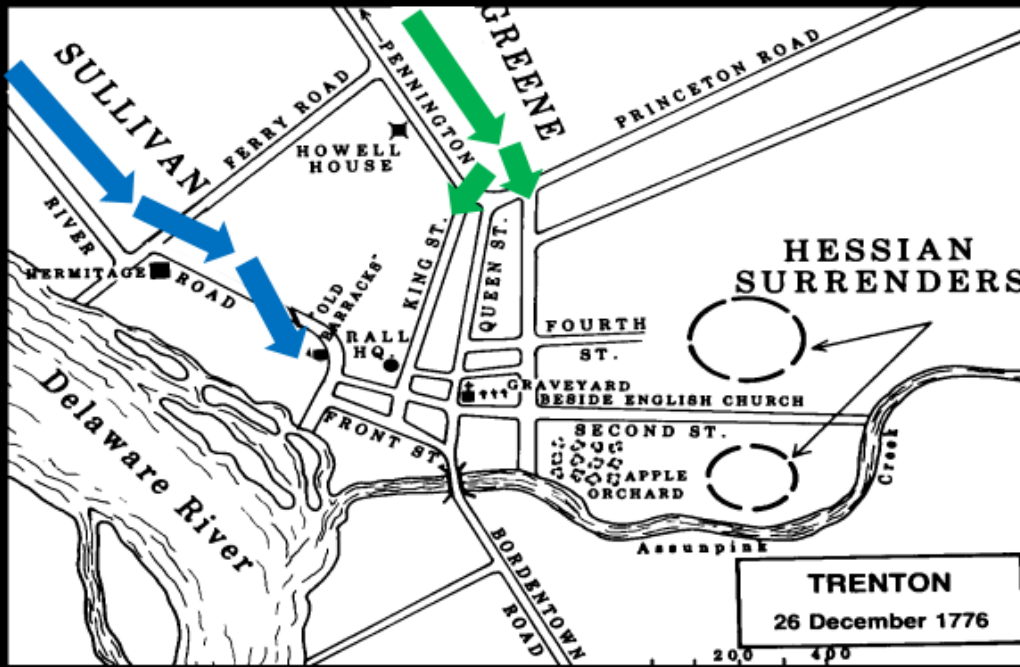
Battle Plan  
Night Of Christmas Day To  
Early Morning Of Next Day  
December 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> 1776





Appendix E

**“Initial Undetected Movement  
& Readiness Of The Two Main Columns”**



Appendix F

**Final Outcome Of Battle  
“Nearly Complete Encirclement!”**

