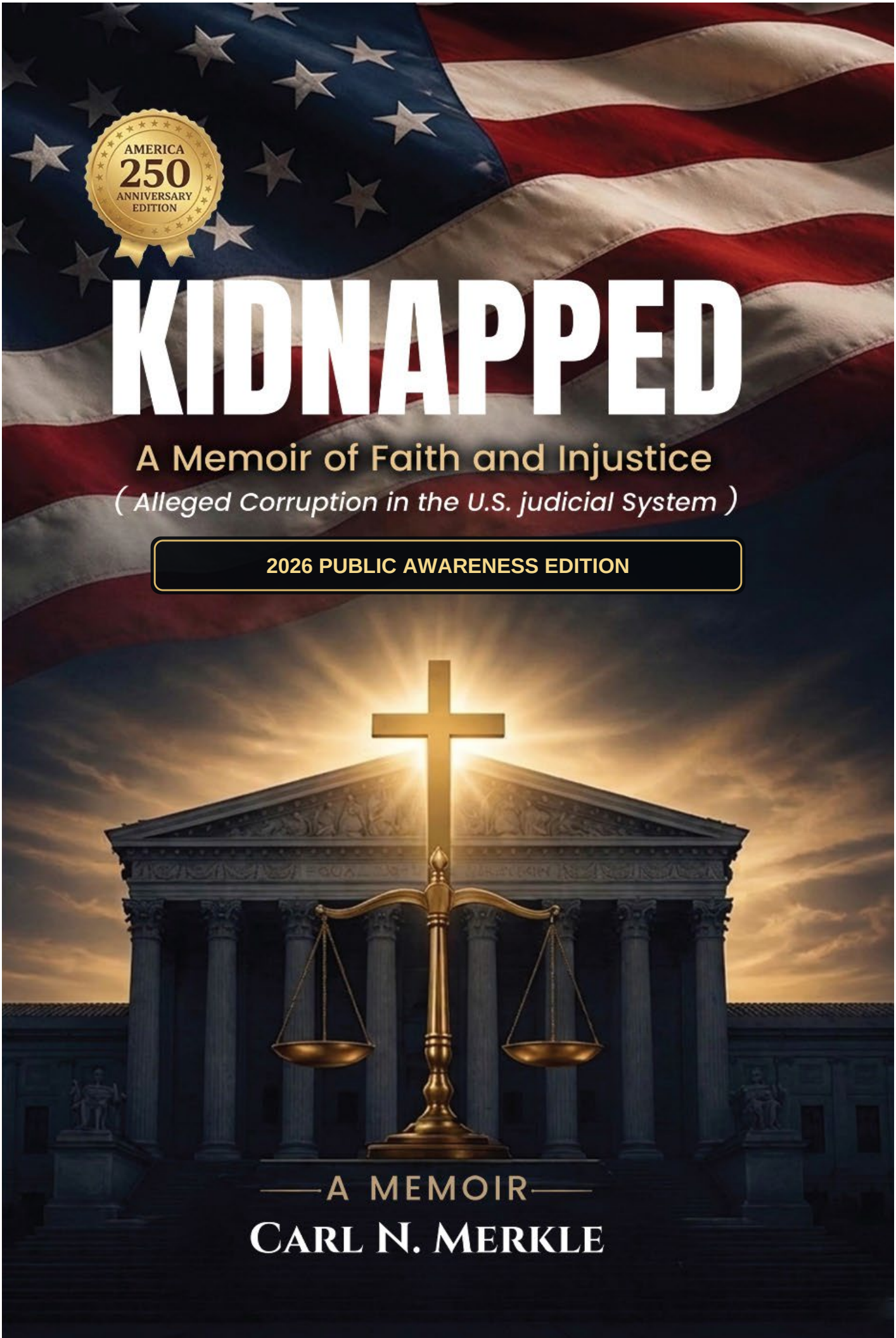

AMERICA
250
ANNIVERSARY
EDITION
KIDNAPPED
A Memoir of Faith and Injustice
(Alleged Corruption in the U.S. judicial System)
2026 PUBLIC AWARENESS EDITION
A MEMOIR
CARL N. MERKLE

"Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious People. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."
— John Adams

★

On December 6, 2021, Carl N. Merkle was taken into custody in a federal bankruptcy courtroom.

What began as a bankruptcy case turned into years of litigation, appeals, and unanswered questions—raising serious concerns about how justice is administered and whether it is always accessible to those who seek it.

Merkle's case never reached a jury.

Instead, it moved through a system where decisions were made based on a record he believes did not reflect the truth as he experienced it.

As legal avenues closed, the questions only grew:

What happens when the system designed to deliver justice no longer allows it to be fully heard?

★

Blending personal testimony with historical reflection and biblical insight, *Kidnapped* explores the intersection of faith, authority, and accountability in modern America.

This is not just one man's story.

It is a challenge to consider whether justice can exist without truth—and whether a nation can remain free without a moral foundation.

KIDNAPPED

2026 PUBLIC AWARENESS EDITION

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A NOTE BEFORE THE PROLOGUE

The story, the record, the question

I believe Jesus Christ is King—King of the Universe. I believe he is tangibly revealing himself as the United States' hidden King and Supreme Judge, as I understand Isaiah 33:22 and Deuteronomy 33:5. That may sound like an unexpected opening to a story about a bankruptcy case. I understand. I ask you to begin with what happened, examine the record, and then consider the larger spiritual and constitutional questions my experience has raised for me.

On December 6, 2021, I was taken into custody in a federal bankruptcy courtroom. I call that event a kidnapping. My account and the court record should be examined separately from my religious interpretation of them.

These ten pages are a path into the story. The next three pages are the prologue to my memoir. A bridge then connects my reflections on liberty and conscience to an auditor's question about the decisions, notices, and money in my case. An invitation to read and share follows. The closing page asks: What is the cornerstone of American liberty?

I prepared this public awareness edition for the court of public opinion. I am also preparing a Texas state court civil lawsuit, demanding a jury trial, that I intend to bring against three federal judges. That petition has not been filed. Here, I invite you to read my account, follow the linked source record, and decide what you think.

PROLOGUE

An Introduction to My Story (Kidnapped)

On December 6, 2021, I was taken into custody in a federal bankruptcy courtroom. That moment became the turning point of my case—and of my life. This book is titled after what I allege occurred on that day. What happened in that courtroom raised questions I could not ignore. Questions about justice. About authority. And about the system I believed would protect both.

Over time, those questions led me somewhere I did not expect.

The Declaration of Independence, signed on July 4, 1776, refers to a "Supreme Judge of the world." It is not a casual phrase. It appears as a prayer to a higher power in the closing paragraph of a document that declared independence from a tyrannical human king (supported by a government structure loyal to that king). That reference stayed with me. Because it raises a question that still exists today:

In a nation that declares, "In God We Trust," in a nation that has become a pluralistic nation of many religions outside of Christianity, the question then becomes: which God/god?

This book was completed in advance of a national moment calling for prayer, reflection, and rededication. In preparation for the 250th anniversary of the United States, public invitations have gone out for Americans to consider what it means to be:

"One Nation Under God."

That timing is not incidental. Because the question is not only historical. It is present.

In that context, I began to see my experience differently. Not only as a legal case — But as something that forced me to confront deeper questions about authority, truth, and the foundation of the system itself, and what happens when a branch of government becomes tyrannical, with no checks and balances.

I brought my case through the courts, including two filings that reached and were docketed at the highest human court, the United States Supreme Court—public records that anyone can review: Cases 24-6088 and 25-6192.

But what I came to believe went beyond what could be decided in a courtroom. I came to believe that the questions raised by my case point to something larger.

This book, KIDNAPPED: A Memoir of Faith and Injustice, is my attempt to explore those questions. Not by demanding agreement — But by asking the reader to consider them.

Because if the foundation of a system is unclear, everything built on it is affected. And in the end, the question is not only what happened to me. It is what we believe about the authority we trust—and why.

KIDNAPPED: A Memoir of Faith and Injustice is an outgrowth of an earlier 518-page book that became part of the court system's record. A book with a similar, but more fiery, title. A hint of my interpretation of strange headline events in this nation and in the world since March 2020.

March 2020 is when things started visibly getting really weird out there. With the masking, stay-at-home orders, churches shut down. Then the summer 2020 BLM riots, and so on. What I refer to as a shaking. Something biblical.

The title of that earlier book that became a part of what is called in the US Court System the "Record on Appeal" ("ROA") is *KIDNAPPED by a criminally behaving bankruptcy judge. Revealing the spiritual cause of many of the 2 Chronicles 7:13 plagues since March 2020 that dominate headline news.* This Memoir condenses that August 2023 story and brings it up to date.

This Memoir is written in two parts: History and My Story.

The History section lays out USA's founding within a heavily Protestant Christian moral and cultural framework.

The "My Story" section is about how God took me through the bankruptcy system, a "court of equity." (Spoiler alert: Jesus Christ is the ultimate court of equity.) About my journey of discovery. Something I never anticipated when I first filed bankruptcy to stop what I now know to be an attempted illegal foreclosure of my then sole and primary personal residence and planned form of retirement income.

My opponents did what they did out of evil intentions. God allowed it to occur to bring about repentance and a great revival in this land. To save many people.

Jesus exists. He is made tangible in my case. You can learn to hear Him speak. You can form a personal relationship with Him. Seek Him while you can.

Two kingdoms rule the earth behind the scenes, in the thought life of every man, woman, and child on the face of the planet. They are revealed in my case and in SCOTUS Cases 24-6088 and 25-6192, now on the clouds (internet). I call those two kingdoms "darkness" and "light." Others call them "evil" and "good." Each can speak to us. As thoughts.

We all engage in a "battle" each moment of our day. Which thoughts we are going to entertain. The Christian Bible New Testament gives us a technique. A very powerful technique that can be learned. To take every thought "captive" and make it obedient to God (good—the word of God). That process is a journey. It can be learned. Peace, joy, love, and self-control are available on that journey.

May God richly bless you.

A BRIDGE: LIBERTY, CONSCIENCE, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

What I learned after writing the memoir

The Declaration of Independence speaks of “Nature’s God,” a “Creator,” the “Supreme Judge of the world,” and “divine Providence.” It asserts that rights precede government, while governments are formed to secure them. When I wrote KIDNAPPED, I did not yet appreciate the Treaty of Paris as a bridge to our present Constitution.

The Declaration did not end the Revolutionary War. The Continental Congress led the struggle; the states then adopted the Articles of Confederation, America’s first national constitution, effective in 1781. Its ratification text invoked the “Great Governor of the World.” Under that government, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and John Jay signed the peace treaty with Britain on September 3, 1783. Britain recognized the United States as independent. The treaty begins, “In the Name of the most Holy & undivided Trinity,” and speaks of “Divine Providence.” Britain and America agreed to that language. It is a historical text to examine, not a statement of what every American believed.

Four years later, delegates signed the Constitution. Its Preamble names six purposes, ending with securing the “Blessings of Liberty” for ourselves and posterity. It says that “We the People” “do ordain and establish this Constitution” to pursue them. Article VII dates its signing in “the Year of our Lord.” The Constitution establishes how the people govern and limit their government. Its First Amendment protects religious exercise and prohibits Congress from establishing a national religion or otherwise making a law respecting an establishment of religion. Article VI bars religious tests for federal office.

Here is my distinctive conclusion: I believe the founding generation forged a Joshua 24:15-style covenant relationship with the Creator God invoked in the Declaration, whom I identify through Article VII’s “Year of our Lord” with Jesus Christ. Joshua’s challenge was to choose whom to serve. I understand America’s extraordinary blessings through Deuteronomy 28 as blessings of a covenant nation under the New Covenant. I also read Isaiah 33:22—LORD as judge, lawgiver, and king—alongside the Constitution’s divided powers. These are my theological interpretations, not religious tests or rules a court must impose.

In his 1796 Farewell Address, George Washington connected religion and morality with the health of self-government. I read it only after the memoir was written. His warning adds a question I cannot dismiss: how does a free people preserve the character needed to govern itself—and to hold its own institutions accountable?

FROM THE FOUNDING TO THE AUDIT QUESTION

The Constitution originally coexisted with slavery. A civil war and later amendments confronted that contradiction. Liberty does not enforce itself; people must confront the distance between principle and practice.

I ask what changed in the public treatment of religion. Everson (1947), Lemon (1971), and Stone (1980) are milestones in church-state law. Stone invalidated Kentucky's mandatory Ten Commandments classroom postings; Kennedy (2022) departed from Lemon's test. Their wider moral effects remain open to debate. I have been involved in three Texas Ten Commandments cases.

Americans hold many faiths, cultures, and convictions. My Christianity affirms my neighbors' liberty of conscience. It also asks more of institutions entrusted with power: truthfulness, fair process, a willingness to correct errors, and moral and law-abiding leaders.

I read a warning in Israel's biblical story. Deuteronomy 33:5 describes kingship among the assembled people; Judges twice says that Israel had no king and that people did what seemed right in their own eyes (17:6; 21:25). Judges 2:10 describes a later generation that did not know the LORD or what he had done for Israel. I see a pattern of remembrance, drift, and possible return. Ancient Israel and the United States are not identical. I offer this reading as a warning about our own conduct.

For Christians, 2 Chronicles 7:14 points toward humility, prayer, seeking God, and turning from wrongdoing. I believe that is a way forward. In civic life, repentance also needs visible fruit: records examined, mistakes acknowledged, rights respected, and wrongs corrected.

My decade in the bankruptcy and appellate courts became an auditor's "test of one." I believe that the covenant I describe was breached in my case when institutions entrusted with justice failed to uphold truth, liberty, and accountability. That is my moral and theological conclusion. My allegations about particular acts must be tested against the record. What would you find if you traced the decisions, money, notices, and opportunities for correction yourself?

That is why I invite you into the full memoir and the underlying record. The next page explains how to read, share, and support this work.

Historical sources: National Archives, "Declaration of Independence: A Transcription," "Articles of Confederation (1777)," and "Treaty of Paris (1783)"; U.S. Senate, Washington's Farewell Address; U.S. Constitution, Preamble, Articles VI–VII, and Amendment I. The court decisions named above are Everson v. Board of Education, Lemon v. Kurtzman, Stone v. Graham, and Kennedy v. Bremerton School District.

AN INVITATION TO READ, SHARE, AND SUPPORT

Christ is King. The message is for everyone.

I believe Jesus Christ is King of the United States and of the universe. I feel called to bring a message of hope, truth, justice, and accountability first to San Antonio, then wherever people are willing to consider it. Like Thomas Paine's Common Sense, I want an accessible invitation that can travel farther than I can—across regions and nations.

Jesus spoke of the good news of the Kingdom going throughout the world so all nations could hear it (Matthew 24:14). Salvation is God's gift through faith, not a reward for works. Receiving that gift opens a life of growth. In 2 Peter 1:2–11, I see a path from faith through moral excellence, knowledge, self-control, patient endurance, godliness, and brotherly affection to love for everyone—including enemies. Peter roots this growth in divine power and speaks of a grand entrance into Christ's eternal Kingdom. This Holy Spirit-led path is voluntary and noncoercive.

My legal case is one reason I began asking what truth, liberty, and moral excellence require of our institutions and of us. I ask you to examine the documents and form your own judgment. My testimony tells you why I have persevered; the record must show what happened.

Three ways to take part

1. Read and examine. Start with the 25-page sample, read the full memoir free, and explore my Executive Summary and Testimony, which points to underlying records.

2. Share. If this raises questions worth examining, please send this edition to two friends and invite them to read for themselves. A thoughtful conversation is a good beginning.

3. Support the work, if you wish. I ask first for your prayers—for wisdom, truth, justice, and strength to carry this work forward. Financial gifts of any amount can help bring this message and its source material to more readers. Gifts go to Trinity Holdings Group. These materials are free whether or not you give.
Partner in the Work · truthjusticeaccountability.org/support

Thank you for considering the message, examining the record, and deciding what you will do with what you find.
Carl N. Merkle

Scripture: Matthew 24:14; Ephesians 2:8–10; 2 Peter 1:2–11 (NLT).

WHAT IS THE CORNERSTONE OF AMERICAN LIBERTY?

"Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom."

2 Corinthians 3:17 (NIV)

THE SPIRIT OF 1776



A KING ABOVE (LIGHT)

NOT BELOW (DARKNESS)

Colossians 1; Proverbs 4:18-19

Jesus Christ is YHWH
revealed in the flesh.

All authority in heaven
and on earth is his.
Matthew 28:18

"Choose for yourselves
this day whom you will
serve." Joshua 24:15

U.S. Constitution
Article I — Legislative
Article II — Executive
Article III — Judicial

"Religion and Morality are indispensable supports."

George Washington, Farewell Address (1796), excerpt

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD"

Psalm 33:12 (NIV)

"What joy for all who take refuge in him!"

Psalm 2:12 (NLT)

I believe Jesus Christ is YHWH, and YHWH is Jesus Christ. My understanding is that Father, Son, and Holy Spirit all bear the name Jesus Christ.