

THE LIES THAT BIND

✘ LIE 1: We Are a Christian Nation

✘ LIE 2: We All Are Immigrants

✘ LIE 3: We Are a Melting Pot

✘ LIE 4: All Men Are Created Equal

✘ LIE 5: We Are a Great Democracy

✘ LIE 6: The American Dream Is Alive and Well

✘ LIE 7: We Are the Most Prosperous Nation in the World

✘ LIE 8: We Are the Most Generous People in the World

✘ LIE 9: America Is the Land of the Free

✘ LIE 10: America Is the Home of the Brave

✘ LIE 11: America Is the Greatest Country on Earth

✘ LIE 12: We Are One Nation



JONATHAN WALTON

is an area ministry director for InterVarsity Christian Fellowship's New York/New Jersey region. He previously served for ten years as director of the New York City Urban Project. He writes regularly for *Huffington Post* and *medium.com*, and is the author of three books of poetry and short stories.

Jonathan's work fighting human trafficking has been featured in the *Christian Post*, *New York Daily News*, and *King Kulture*. He has been named one of *Christianity Today's* 33 Under 33, won a Young Christian Leaders World Changer award, and was honored as one of New York's New Abolitionists. He is a member of New Life Fellowship and lives in New York City.

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**The president is not
the Messiah,
the Constitution is not
the Bible,
and the United States is not
a city on a hill or
the hope for the world.**

In his book *Twelve Lies That Hold America Captive*, Jonathan Walton exposes cultural myths and misconceptions about America's identity, showing how American ideology has become a false religion and how our notions of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are at odds with the call to take up our cross and follow Jesus. Reject white American folk religion and discover how the kingdom of God offers true freedom and justice for all.



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“I ask you to resist judgment, the urge to look away, and the opportunity to move on. I invite you to carry your skepticism through this entire book while leaning in to understand. Hold your gaze on the picture I am painting and consider its implications for how you think, speak, pray, and act. Your salvation is at stake, and your evangelism is compromised if you claim to be a follower of Jesus while building dividing walls of hostility and allowing them to govern your life. We are to be his witnesses, living differently in this world so we point others to him, and we cannot do that if we are not willing to engage with our differences to seek his justice and reflect his kingdom.”

— TAKEN FROM THE INTRODUCTION

PRAISE FOR *Twelve Lies That Hold America Captive*

"We need to cry—deeply and sincerely in order to begin to find the healing and freedom this nation needs. We need sharp and prophetic voices that are prepared to smash us to pieces for our own good. . . . I'd encourage anyone serious about their spiritual journey to take heed to Jonathan's words."

RICH PEREZ, Christ Crucified Fellowship, New York City

"What I love and respect about Jonathan is that he is not content to name the lies. Any journalist or pundit could do that. Any self-appointed 'prophet' does that. Jonathan does more. He points past the lies to Jesus—he who is the Truth and the source of truths that can set us all free."

From the foreword by **GREG JAO**, author of *The Kingdom of God*

"Walton applies God's scriptural truth to the artifacts, sayings, and concepts that have formed the American imagination. With helpful historical context, he shows us how we got to where we are—and reveals the lies that we accidentally believe."

NIKKI TOYAMA-SZETO, executive director of Evangelicals for Social Action

"Jonathan Walton uncovers the idolatrous assumptions and infected lies that get in the way of America and Americans pursuing real change, healing, and shalom. . . . If knowing the truth can set us free, there's freedom from idolatry and blindness that's offered in these pages."

SARAH SHIN, author of *Beyond Colorblind*

"Walton says things I'm not sure I agree with, breaks taboos I've been reluctant to break, and makes me think deeply enough to get uncomfortable. I recommend the discomfort of this book to every American seeking to take Jesus seriously today."

GREGORY COLES, author of *Single, Gay, Christian*

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