

MEMORIAL DAY

Intro: Memorial Day was officially proclaimed on May 5, 1868, by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, in his *General Order No. 11*: "The 30th day of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet church-yard in the land. In this observance no form of ceremony is prescribed, but posts and comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit."

This day was first observed on May 30, 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service.

In keeping with the purpose for Memorial Day as a day to reflect on those who died in battle, I would like to look at some of Bible soldiers who died, two in battle and who in old age.

(I-III show that warfare was a part of the life of the nation of Israel)

- I. Warfare _____ the people of God **Exodus 14:1-14, 21-28** (Pharaoh's army pursues the Israelites)
 - A. The initial _____ of the people when they saw the enemy approaching Vs 10-12
 - B. When under attack, the people of God can and should _____ in the Lord Vs 13-14
- II. Warfare conducted by the people of God, yet done _____ the will of God **Num 13-14** This battle followed on the heels of _____ by the people of God at Kadeshbarnea
 - A. Num 13-Spies sent at God's command and they returned with a discouraging report
 - B. Israel presumed the Lord would _____ their blatant disobedience and bless their efforts
 - C. They quickly learned they were _____ without the power of God upon them.
 - D. Many died that day and over the next 38 years Cf. Deut. 2:14-15 "And the space in which we came from Kadeshbarnea, until we were come over the brook Zered, was thirty and eight years; until all the generation of the men of war were wasted out from among the host, as the LORD swore unto them. 15 For indeed the hand of the LORD was against them, to destroy them from among the host, until they were consumed."
- III. Warfare with an unconquerable _____ (warfare conducted by the people of God, at the _____ of God) **Joshua 6**
 - A. This city had been built in such a fashion to be _____
 - B. Israel's _____ encounter after crossing the Jordan into the promised land 40 years after the Num. 14 events
 - C. Israel was ordered by _____ to take the city
 - D. God had a _____ plan for conquering Jericho
 1. The entire nation was to _____ around the city once per day for six days without making any vocal sounds
 2. On the seventh day they were to march around six times _____. On the seventh time around the priests were to blow the trumpets and the people were to _____, thus God would cause the walls of the city to fall and give access to Israel to conquer the city
 3. The entire city and its contents were _____ ("accursed"-KJV) to God alone, and nothing was to be taken from the city as spoils of war
 4. Israel obeyed God's command and not one Israelite _____ in battle
- IV. A soldier who died in honorable _____ **Judges 16:16-30**
 - A. Samson was a man blessed of the Lord, yet _____ to God for those blessings
 - B. Samson seemed to have little or no regard for the _____ of God
 - C. Samson's disregard for God's Word ultimately brought about his _____ 16:1-30
 1. Samson practiced _____ self-control Vs 1, 4
 2. Samson's sin _____ him to reality Vs 5-15

3. Samson's sin and disregard for God ultimately brought about his _____ of God's power and presence Vs 16-21 (to say nothing of his eyesight)

D. Samson's last _____-honorable disgrace Vs 22-30

V. The mighty fall in _____ 2 Sam 1:23-27

A. King Saul began his reign as a _____ man 1 Sam 10:19-24

B. King Saul soon _____ who his Master was 1 Sam 13:1-13

C. King Saul's disobedience causes the _____ of the Kingdom from him 1 Sam 13:14; 15:1-23

D. The _____ of the mighty in defeat 1 Sam 31:1-6

E. King Saul's _____ also cost the life of his loyal son, Jonathan

VI. A soldier's _____ death 1 Chronicles 29:26-28

A. David began his reign as a _____ man

1. 2 Sam 1:17-David lamented the death of Saul and Jonathan

2. 2 Sam 2:1-3-David asked God about returning to Israel

3. 2 Sam 2:4-9-David anointed King over Israel

B. David _____ humble as King and sought after the Lord _____ the days of his life.

C. David died a _____ death I Chronicles 29:26-28

1. He had seen his son _____ take the throne of Israel

2. He had been able to gather all the _____ needed to build the Temple for God

3. He had remained _____ to the Lord even in the end of his life

4. He dies an _____ death with God remembering him through the remainder of Scripture.

VII. _____ learned from these soldiers of the past

A. Fighting the "good fight of Faith" _____ be done at God's leading, not our own. (Jericho)

B. Most of these soldiers lived life in the _____, not in the _____ of God

4. 2Co 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

5. Jas 4:1 From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?

6. 1Pe 2:11 Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;

C. Most of these soldiers lived for the _____, David was one who lived for _____
2Ti 2:4 No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

D. We, as _____ of the Cross, must walk in obedience to our _____ commands, and fight the good fight of Faith according to the teaching of Scripture, leaving the _____ with our Commander.