

Preserving a Memory

May 24th & 25th, 2014

Joshua 4:1-8

Memorial Day

Memorial: “That which preserves a memory; anything that serves to keep in memory”¹

“Memorial Day was officially proclaimed on 5 May 1868 by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, in his General Order No. 11, and was first observed on 30 May 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery.”²

- ❖ In the past, Memorial Day was a sacred day to remember those who paid the ultimate price for our freedom. It also became a time to remember loved ones who had died.
- ❖ It is human nature to avoid unpleasant memories of war and destruction – but we need to remember the cost of war and the price paid for our freedom.

A Biblical Memorial in the Days of Joshua

- ❖ In the Days of Joshua, God wanted the children of Israel to remember that the land was given to them by the hand of Almighty God! Because of man’s sin against God and the evil that prevails in the world, war was the only way God’s people would settle in the land.

“The purpose of the [memorial] and telling about it is for future generations to remember the wonderful faithfulness of God to His promises...”³

The Importance of Remembering the Lord our God

Deuteronomy 8:1-20

- ❖ God called the Children of Israel to remember “the whole way” that God had led them through the desert!

The knowledge of History was critical for God’s people!

Why? ...

... To understand total dependence on God! *Deuteronomy 8:2-4*

- The desert could not sustain the people – reliance on the supernatural work of God was required!

... To learn to fear the Lord! *Deuteronomy 8:6*

- The fear of the Lord is understanding the seriousness of God!
↳ The natural man does not fear God.

“*There is no fear of God before their eyes.*” *Romans 3:18*

- The fear of the Lord is the beginning of Wisdom.

“*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.*” *Proverbs 1:7*

- The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life!

“*In the fear of the Lord one has strong confidence, and His children will have a refuge. The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, that one may turn away from the snares of death.*” *Proverbs 14:26-27*

... To be grateful for God’s gifts! *Deuteronomy 8:7-10*

- The people would lack nothing. *verse 9*
- The people would be fully satisfied. *verse 10*

... To forget God, would give way to pride and self-destruction! *Deuteronomy 8:14-20*

- In the midst of abundance, the people would forget God. *verse 14*
- The people would think that their own abilities accomplished all the abundance that they enjoyed. *verse 17*
 - ↳ Ungratefulness toward God would be the prevailing attitude.
- The people would then be taken in by the godless cultural mindset and turn from God! *verse 19*
- Destruction would be the end result! *verse 20*

The memorial that Joshua erected was to remind God's people of His power and faithfulness. Today, we remember those who have gone before us – but most importantly – that Almighty God has blessed us with the abundance and freedom that we enjoy.
All Praise to Him!

Endnotes:

¹ Webster, Noah. *American Dictionary of the English Language (1828 Facsimile Edition)*. San Francisco: Foundation for American Christian Education, 1989.

² "Memorial Day History." *www.usmemorialday.org*. Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War & David Merchant, 4 Apr. 2009. Web. 19 May 2014. <<http://www.usmemorialday.org/backgrnd.html>>.

³ Sproul, R.C. *The Reformation Study Bible*. Orlando: Ligonier Ministries, 2005.

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