

## Jesus – Lord of Memorials

5/26/19

In 1971, Congress declared that “Memorial Day” would be a national holiday which occurred on the fourth Monday of May (not on May 30th). It was to be a day where people focused on remembering, and honoring, those who had sacrificed their lives to secure our freedoms in this country.

How many Americans have given their lives for their country’s freedom, from the formation of the "United States" until now? Here are the approximate numbers from the major conflicts (with a separate listing for the War between the States):

- American Revolution: **4,435 deaths**; 6,188 wounded
- War of 1812: **2,260 deaths**; 4,505 wounded
- Mexican War: **13,283 Deaths**; 4,152 wounded
- U.S. Civil War: **620,000 deaths**; 476,000 wounded; 400,000 captured or missing
- Spanish-American War: **2,446 deaths**; 1,662 wounded
- World War I: **116,516 deaths**; 204,002 wounded
- World War II: **405,399 deaths**; 671,846 wounded
- Korean War: **36,574 deaths**; 103,284 wounded
- Vietnam War: **58,209 deaths**; 153,303 wounded
- Persian Gulf War (1990-91): **382 deaths**; 467 wounded

- “Global War on Terror,” including the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars:  
**+6,800 deaths**; more than 970,000 disability claims registered as of March 31, 2014

By Memorial Day, 2015, at least 1,266,304 people had died fighting for America

The blood of a million plus men and women paid for our freedom!

### **Pray**

40 years after leaving Egypt Joshua along with 2 million plus Hebrews stood on the eastern shore of the Jordon River as instructed by God. It was spring – the **WORST** time to be trying to cross this river. Under normal circumstances it is a peaceful little river. But, in spring when the snows of Mt. Hermon melt and rush into the sea of Galilee raising the water level by 5 + feet the water only has one place to go and that is down the little Jorden river.

### **Video**

God arranged this to show them in a powerful way that he was in control. As soon as the priests bearing the Ark put their feet in the water the river began to calm down and completely stopped. Joshua 3 tells us that God caused the waters to pile up at a little town upstream called Adam – most likely from a major landslide that dammed the river.

The ragging river had stopped the Hebrews crossed over to the other side.

God instructed Joshua to have a man from each tribe remove a stone from the river in the place where the priests stood. These stones were set up as a memorial near the crossing point so that the Israelites would never forget who gave them their freedom and rescued them from the Egyptians.

God establishes memorials so we can never forget!

Memorials that mean something important involving a sacrifice and or death.

The memorial that God had Joshua set up was to be a reminder of the powerful things that God had done for them and the generation that had been lost due to rebellion.

Scripture is filled with other memorials.

- **Exodus 12:12-14**

The last plague in Egypt was the worst. It was the death of every first-born male. The only thing that would stop it was the death of a sacrificial lamb and using its blood as a symbol of protection.

This day “Passover” was to be an eternal memorial in blood of God’s salvation and protection. It is to be celebrated and remembered so that the Israelites always remember the sacrifice and cost of their freedom.

It was a memorial in blood.

- **Isaiah 56:1-8**

In Isaiah God expresses his concern for all people, not just the Jews. Those who do his will and choose to do what pleases God he will give an everlasting name as a memorial.

Friends the only name that fits that description is the one that sacrificed his life so that we could bear His name. Jesus the Christ the Messiah the Son of God.

Name above all Names!

- **Luke 22:19-20**

Jesus establishes a memorial ceremony that has its roots in an ancient memorial service. The ancient memorial, “Passover” actually looked forward to the final sacrifice – Jesus’ sacrificial death on the cross for those who choose to do what pleases God and bear the name of their Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus established a memorial to remember His blood sacrifice and he stated that it would have its fulfillment in the future.

Like Passover it looked back and looked forward.

Lastly, God has allowed significant events to happen in our lives that are meant to remind us that God is in control. These events are to be a reminder (memorial) for us to look back and remember while looking forward in hope for the day when we will see Jesus Christ return.

Tomorrow we look back at the 1.2 million American dead so that we can look forward to this country’s future.

The question that should be on our minds, not just tomorrow but every day, is will this memorial, this blood sacrifice, affect the future of this

country. Will we be a nation that chooses to please God and bear the eternal Name of Jesus Christ?

Will we look to Jesus as our Lord? The Lord that all sacrificial memorials point to, or will we as so many Americans just think of it as another day to party and enjoy ourselves?

Memorials are a remembrance of a dreadful day – a day of terrible sacrifice. They are to help us to remember the pain of the past but also remind us that we need to do everything to avoid the pain of the future.

There is coming a dreadful day the likes of which this creation has never experienced. Where will you stand?

I hope it's with the one who we memorialize every Sunday. He has the name above all names and the right to claim you as his own. But you must choose to do what pleases him as we recognize our sinful past and look forward to an eternity with Christ.

How will you celebrate this Memorial Day?

Celebrate your Lord, the Lord of all memorials and the Lord of your Salvation – Jesus Christ.