

Bible Memorials

Various Passages

Introduction:

1. Shortly after the end of the Civil War women in the south began to decorate the graves of Confederate soldiers. Each spring when the flowers were blooming woman placed flowers on the graves of their loved ones. It became known as Decoration Day and soon women in the north were also decorating the graves of soldiers on Decoration Day. In 1971 Congress declared Memorial Day to be a national holiday. Soldiers from all wars are honored and remembered on the last Monday of May.
2. In every city, town and community there are memorials. Monuments are set up to remember to remember war heroes or great citizens of that town. Buildings, bridges, highways, colleges and universities, hospitals, airports and named after people to help us remember them. We see memorials along the highway in the form of crosses where a loved one was killed in a wreck.
3. In our day many do not reflect on the past during this holiday any more than they do on any other day. Today's ever-accelerating change means that many don't look to the past to find wisdom. We view what "has been" as largely irrelevant to what is now. The ancients are not our models. We place little value in traditions and customs. And so when Memorial Day comes our thoughts do not automatically turn to the past and to the departed.
4. How easy it is to forget.
 - a. There was a preacher's meeting at the Moody Church in Chicago. They had just completed a new addition and the pastor of Moody Church was showing the other preachers around. Every few minutes a screech and a cry would be heard out in the distance. The preachers on the tour tried to ignore the sound. Finally Erwin Lutzer explained

to the pastors. We have a problem with pigeons here so every two minutes we play the sound of a falcon killing a pigeon. The screech was the sound of the falcon diving on the pigeon and the cry was the sound of the captured pigeon. One of the pastors on the tour then asked, "Why do you have to play that recording every two minutes?" Lutzer answered that studies showed that the memory span of the pigeon is about two minutes and then they forget. One of the pastors on the tour spoke up. "Sounds like some of my church members."

b. Two elderly ladies had been friends since they were in their 30s. Now, in their 80s they still got together for tea a couple of times each week. One day they were playing gin rummy and one of them said, "You know, we've been friends for many years, please don't get mad, but for the life of me I can't remember your name. Please tell me what it is." Her friend glared at her. She continued to glare and stare for at least three minutes. Finally, she said, "How soon do you need to know?"

5. A memorial is something that keeps the memory alive

6. In the Bible we see a number of memorials and we want to look at four of them this morning.

I. THE RAINBOW - GEN 9:8-18

8 And God spake unto Noah, and to his sons with him, saying, 9 And I, behold, I establish my covenant with you, and with your seed after you; 10 And with every living creature that *is* with you, of the fowl, of the cattle, and of every beast of the earth with you; from all that go out of the ark, to every beast of the earth. 11 And I will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth. 12 And God said, This *is* the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that *is* with you, for perpetual generations: 13 I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth. 14 And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth,

that the bow shall be seen in the cloud: 15 And I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh. 16 And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth. 17 And God said unto Noah, This is the token of the covenant, which I have established between me and all flesh that is upon the earth. 18 And the sons of Noah, that went forth of the ark, were Shem, and Ham, and Japheth: and Ham is the father of Canaan. 19 These are the three sons of Noah: and of them was the whole earth overspread.

A. The Background

1. God determined to judge this sinful world with a flood
Ge 6:5 And GOD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every imagination of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually. 6 And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. 7 And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.
2. Noah found grace in the sight of the Lord and God instructed him to build a giant ark
3. For 120 years Noah, his sons, and probably a number of hired workers worked to build the ark
4. The Lord brought the animals to the ark
5. Noah and his family entered the ark and God shut them in
6. The rain started, the fountains of the great deep opened up and God opened the windows of heaven

B. The Memorial

1. The flood was over and Noah and his family exited the ark
2. They began settling down and living their post-flood lives
3. I wonder how they felt when the sky began to grow dark with thunderclouds forming on the horizon

- a) *Imagine the fear*
 - b) *Then the rain begins*
 - c) *But the sun comes out and there is a marvelous rainbow in the sky*
 - d) *There were no rainbows before the flood since there was no rain before the flood*
4. Then God told Noah and his family that the rainbow was a token of God's covenant with Noah
- a) *There would never again be a worldwide flood to destroy man from off the earth*
 - b) *There would be local floods*

c. Remember

1. The rainbow reminds us of God's goodness and kindness
2. The rainbow reminds us of God's severity
3. The rainbow reminds us of God's faithfulness

II. THE FEAST OF PASSOVER - EX 12:3-14

3 Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth *day* of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of *their* fathers, a lamb for an house: 4 And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next unto his house take *it* according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb. 5 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take *it* out from the sheep, or from the goats: 6 And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening. 7 And they shall take of the blood, and strike *it* on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it. 8 And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; *and* with bitter *herbs* they shall eat it. 9 Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast *with* fire; his head with his legs, and with the purtenance thereof. 10 And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire. 11 And thus shall ye eat it; *with* your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in

your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it *is* the LORD'S passover. 12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I *am* the LORD. 13 And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye *are*: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy *you*, when I smite the land of Egypt. 14 And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever.

A. The Background

1. At the burning bush, God called Moses to go to Egypt to lead the Israelites to freedom

Ex 8:1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, Go unto Pharaoh, and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Let my people go, that they may serve me.

2. Moses made excuses but God answered all the excuses
3. Moses stood before Pharaoh and told him to let the Hebrews go but Pharaoh refused to listen to the command of God
 - a) *Moses stretched forth his arm with the rod of God and the waters of the Nile River turned to blood - fish died, the river began to stink*
 - b) *2nd plague was the plague of frogs*
 - c) *3rd plague - Moses stretched out his hand with the rod and the dust of the earth became lice*
 - d) *4th plague - the plague of flies*
 - e) *5th plague - murrain on cattle, horses, donkeys, camels, oxen, sheep*
 - f) *6th plague - boils on man*
 - g) *7th plague - hail mixed fire - destroyed crops and killed people*
 - h) *8th plague - plague of hail*
 - i) *9th plague - plague of darkness that could be felt*
 - j) *10th plague - the death of the firstborn*

B. The Memorial

1. Take a lamb, without blemish, a male, and kill it
 - a) *This lamb pictured the Lamb of God*
 - b) *Since it represented Jesus, the lamb had to be without blemish*
2. Kill the lamb and catch the blood and put the blood on the side posts of the door and the upper door post
 - a) *It wasn't the life of the lamb that saved the Israelites from judgment, but the death of the lamb*
 - b) *Some claim to admire the life and teachings of Christ but they don't want the cross of Jesus. Yet, it is the death of Christ on the cross that paid the price for our redemption*
 - c) *The blood had to be applied to the doorposts to be effective and it is not enough to know that Jesus died we must appropriate that sacrifice for ourselves*
3. Roast the lamb, eat unleavened bread and bitter herbs
 - a) *Roasting the lamb meant that not a bone was broken*
 - b) *They were to eat the meal prepared to leave quickly*
 - c) *Their sandals were on their feet*
 - d) *They ate with their staffs in their hands*
4. The death angel would go through the land of Egypt and in the homes that had no blood the firstborn died
5. Screaming and wailing was heard throughout the land that night
6. The children of Israel were free to leave for the promised land
7. The Passover would be a memorial for Jews

c. Remember

1. An innocent lamb had to die to save the family
2. The lamb had to be spotless (without blemish)
3. The blood had to be applied to the door

III. JOSHUA'S STONES AT GILGAL - JOSH 4:1-7

1 And it came to pass, when all the people were clean passed over Jordan, that the LORD spake unto Joshua, saying, 2 Take you twelve men out of the people, out of every tribe a man, 3 And command ye them, saying, Take you hence out of the midst of Jordan, out of the place where the priests' feet

stood firm, twelve stones, and ye shall carry them over with you, and leave them in the lodging place, where ye shall lodge this night. 4 Then Joshua called the twelve men, whom he had prepared of the children of Israel, out of every tribe a man: 5 And Joshua said unto them, Pass over before the ark of the LORD your God into the midst of Jordan, and take ye up every man of you a stone upon his shoulder, according unto the number of the tribes of the children of Israel: 6 That this may be a sign among you, that when your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, What mean ye by these stones? 7 Then ye shall answer them, That the waters of Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD; when it passed over Jordan, the waters of Jordan were cut off: and these stones shall be for a memorial unto the children of Israel for ever.

A. The Background

1. Moses died and Joshua took over as leader of the children of Israel
2. They had traveled through the Sinai peninsula for 40 years while one generation died off and the next generation grew up
3. It was time to cross the Jordan River and enter the Promised Land
 - a) *The priests carrying the ark of the covenant were to lead the way and the people were to follow*
 - b) *When the priests entered the Jordan River God stopped the water and the people could pass over to the Promised Land*

B. The Memorial

1. Joshua chose one man from each of the 12 tribes of Israel
 - a) *As they crossed the river, these men would pick up a large rock and carry it on their shoulders to the other side*
 - b) *Those rocks would be piled up for a memorial*
 - c) *In succeeding years, when children would see those stones and ask what they mean, then parents could rehearse the story of God's goodness and power*
2. The stones reminded the people that God honors faith and works on behalf of those who trust Him
3. Gilgal became an important city for the nation of Israel

- a) *Their first king was crowned at Gilgal*
- b) *After Absalom's rebellion was put down, David was welcomed back to Israel at Gilgal*
- c) *Samuel thought Gilgal was important enough to include in his ministry circuit*
- d) *There was a "school of the prophets" at Gilgal in the days of Elijah and Elisha*

C. Remember

1. The faithfulness of God - He promised to lead the children of Israel into the promised land and he did
2. The power of God to stop the Jordan River

IV. THE LORD'S SUPPER - A MEMORIAL MEAL - 1 COR 11:23-26

23 For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the *same* night in which he was betrayed took bread: 24 And when he had given thanks, he brake *it*, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. 25 After the same manner also *he took* the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink *it*, in remembrance of me. 26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.

A. The Background

1. Soon Jesus would be crucified
2. Judas went to the chief priests and made a deal to deliver Jesus to them for 30 pieces of silver
3. The Passover was at hand and Jesus and the disciples gathered in the upper room in order to remember the Passover
4. During the meal, Jesus commented that one of the apostles would betray Him - each asked, "Is it I?"
5. Judas left to betray Jesus
6. Then Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper

B. The Memorial

1. Jesus took the bread and told the 11 disciples that it represented his body - then Jesus broke the bread
2. Jesus then took the cup and explained that the wine pictured his blood
3. This was something that was done from time to time to remember the Lord
 - a) *It hardly seem possible that those who have been redeemed by the blood of the dying Lamb should forget that gracious Savior*
 - b) *Forget Him who shed His blood for our sins?*
 - c) *Forget Him who loved us even to the death?*
4. When we take the Lord's Supper we look back to the Lord's death
 - a) *We are reminded of the Lord's sacrifice for us*
 - b) *We are reminded of the terrible price paid for our salvation*
5. We also look forward to His second coming

C. Remember

1. The Savior's body was broken
2. The Savior's blood saves from sin

Conclusion:

1. Parents / grand-parents - our children and grand-children should learn about God's wonderful attributes through hearing about the great things that God has done for us
2. Begin talking to your children / grand-children about Jesus as soon as they understand right from wrong.
3. Read Bible stories to your children / grand-children.
4. 75 to 90% of a child's moral training he receives before his 12th birthday so don't wait till your child is in middle school to begin spiritual training.
5. Make sure that your children / grand-children are in Sunday School and church.