Memorial Day:
How The Mighty Have Fallen

(More Bible Studies Available @ marktabata.com)

Memorial Day is one of the most solemn and meaningful observances in the United States. It serves as a day of reflection, reverence, and gratitude for those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country. The origins of Memorial Day date back to the aftermath of the Civil War, one of the deadliest and most divisive conflicts in American history. In the wake of such immense loss, communities across the nation sought to honor the fallen. Informal tributes to soldiers, both Union and Confederate, began as early as the 1860s, with families and communities gathering to decorate graves and remember their loved ones. This practice eventually became known as "Decoration Day." The first official Decoration Day was observed on May 30, 1868, following a proclamation by General John A. Logan, the commander-inchief of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of Union veterans. Logan chose this date because it was not the anniversary of any specific battle, allowing it to be a universal day of remembrance. On that first Decoration Day, flowers were placed on the graves of both Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery, symbolizing a nation's desire for reconciliation after the deep wounds of war. (Olivia M. Reagan, Inspiring Memorial Day Quotes, 1-2 (Kindle Edition)

2 Samuel 1:17-27-Then David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and over Jonathan his son, **18** and he told *them* to teach the children of Judah *the Song of* the Bow; indeed *it is* written in the Book of Jasher: **19** "The beauty of Israel is slain on your high places! How the mighty have fallen! **20** Tell *it* not in Gath, Proclaim *it* not in the streets of Ashkelon—Lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice, Lest the daughters of the uncircumcised triumph. **21** "O mountains of Gilboa, *Let there be* no dew nor rain upon you, Nor fields of offerings. For the shield of the mighty is cast away there! The shield of Saul, not anointed with oil. **22** From the blood of the slain, From the fat of the mighty, The bow of Jonathan did not turn back, And the sword of Saul did not return empty. **23** "Saul and Jonathan *were* beloved and pleasant in their lives, And in their death they were not divided; They were swifter than eagles, They were stronger than lions. **24** "O daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, Who clothed you in scarlet, with luxury; Who put ornaments of gold on

your apparel. 25 "How the mighty have fallen in the midst of the battle!
Jonathan *was* slain in your high places. 26 I am distressed for you, my
brother Jonathan; You have been very pleasant to me; Your love to me was
wonderful, Surpassing the love of women. 27 "How the mighty have fallen,
And the weapons of war perished!"

Memorials Demonstrate The Importance Of Remembering And Learning From Those Who Have Gone On (2 Samuel 1:17-19; Hebrews 11:3*)

Memorials Commemorate The Whole Picture (2 Samuel 1:20-22; 1 Samuel 10:6, 10-11; 9-11; 16:14; 28:16; 1 Chronicles 10:13)

Memorials Recognize The Legacy Of Goodness (2 Samuel 2:23-25; Romans 13:7)

Memorials Can Inspire Doing Good For Others In Honor Of Those Who Have Died (2 Samuel 1:26; 1 Samuel 18:1-3; 2 Samuel 9:1)

Memorials Remind Us To Live In View Of Eternity (2 Samuel 1:27; 1 Corinthians 15:29)

*"So, the writer to the Hebrews says: 'Although he died for his faith, he is still speaking to us.' Moffatt comments: 'Death is never the last word in the life of a righteous man.' When people leave this world, they leave something in it. They may leave something which will grow and spread like a disease; or they may leave something fine which continues always to blossom and flourish. They leave an influence of good or ill; everyone who dies goes on speaking. May God grant that we leave behind not a germ of evil but a lovely thing in which the lives of those who come afterwards will find blessing.". (William Barclay, The New Daily Study Bible: The Letter To The Hebrews, 158 (Kindle Edition); Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press)