

Honoring Our Defenders on Memorial Day

Today, Memorial Day, the U.S. pauses to remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice in our defense.

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Warfare is one of mankind's oldest activities . Beginning with Nimrod in Babylon, rulers have used armed forces to subjugate their enemies and often, their own people. The great empires of antiquity—Babylon, Egypt, Assyria, Persia, Greece and Rome—rose and fell to the cadence of armies on the march. The people suffered from the plagues of death, famine and disease that followed the armies.

Into this world of brutal warfare God sent deliverers. Abraham rescued Lot, Moses freed his people from Egypt, Joshua defeated the Canaanites and the Judges fought to save the Israelites when they repented of their disastrous turns away from God. God built a great kingdom on the victories of King David, but the people kept falling into sin, and many of their kings moved in the oppressive spirit of Nimrod. The horrors of warfare came upon God's rebellious people, and the Israelites soon became slaves in the promised land (see Neh. 9:36. 37).

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Christ came into a world ruled by the sword but refused to build His kingdom by the sword. Instead, He established His kingdom within the hearts of believers, giving them inner strength to overcome their true enemy, Satan. Jesus, the greatest revolutionary of all time, brought millions out of the kingdom of darkness. Even the mighty Roman Empire finally

bowed its knee and surrendered to Christ.

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