

Memorial and Monuments

(By Apostle Dina Ramos, Regional Council of Prophets)

We remember the veterans, the soldiers, the people that sacrificed so much for their country and for the love of others. I would like to include, this Memorial Day, the local police, the sheriffs, the Coast Guards, the National Reserve, and even first responders like pastors, fire fighters, and medical personnel. Those of you that are passionate about helping others, you that carry a burden in your heart to love on others and bring relief to people. There are many of you that God has awoken, even now, to use as His arms and feet to reach out to the "least of these". We love you guys, the rest of us need you, and you need to know that you are valued, prayed for and loved.

Memorials, monuments and commemorations uphold that which we hold dear, things we honor and identify as a collective memory. Memorials are a call to remembrance, as in a relationship of a society to that which we commemorate, our unity of purpose as a people group. Memorials are like the memory-of-a-society, that preserves the imagery of what we believe to be valuable and things we are attached to. We build memorials and monuments of what we revere, things that we want to keep before us and pass down to the next generation. Memorials are all about the next generation, what we want them to know, what we want them to receive as part of their inheritance. We see, possibly hundreds, of memorials in the Bible: Gen. 12:14, Joshua 4:4-7, Ex. 39:6-7, Ex. 28:29, Lev. 24:7, Num. 31:54, Lev. 2:1-2, Num. 10:10, 1 Cor. 11:23:-26, Deut. 16:1-8, Gen. 28:18-22, Esther 9:28, and many more that I challenge you to research.

The intention for God to establish Memorials is to always keep before you, to not forget, to recall as guidelines and to serve as signs and pointers for the next generation announcing who we are, where do we come from and where we are going. Memorials in the Bible were established to answer questions to the children rising up, as God said to Abraham " For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him." - Gen. 18:19 (see Ex. 13:14, Joshua 4:6-7, Joel 1:3)

Memorials represent times of transition, times of change like when Joshua said to the Israelites when they crossed the Jordan into the Promised Land "when your children ask of you what are these stones and what do they mean? Tell them..." - Joshua 4:21. Tell them who they are, tell them where they came from, tell them where they are going - the Promises of God. It is a matter of legacy. We can not allow what happened in Judges 2:10 "another generation rose up who did not know the LORD or the works that He had done for Israel." Then because they did not know God the generations that followed strayed away from the Lord for many, many years.

Memorials are landmarks that define the collective identity of our society, those things that we uphold valuable, sacred, and things we consider important and we keep "before us in our memory" as guidelines for our future. Memorials are godly structures in our mind that define what you believe in, your point of view and your perception who you are. These memorials are part of our belief system and they are reflected in our everyday lives. We have memorials at home too: pictures, souvenirs, home-made crafts, memorabilia that trigger imagery of significant moments, special days, and times of transition that marked our lives.

Memorials are claims of land and power, and they establish ownership (slavery, idolatry, covenants, ideologies, etc). They are regional landmarks for the people of the land to identify the bloodline of their ancestors and say "*this is who we are*". Memorials say "*these are the foundational blocks of our identity in this region*", like a signpost for who the people of the land are. Memorials are like local stakes in the land that hold the framework of the mindset in place.

We build Memorials because we want to honor and worship what we believe to be a determining factor in our lives. We build Memorials because we want to preserve to the next generation the richness of our heritage. We build Memorials because we tend to forget, and we want to keep decisive keys before us for planning our future. We build Memorials because we want to tell others of who we are, identify ourselves before the world. They are godly memorials and there are ungodly memorials. There are memorials that uphold that which is pure honorable, true, justice, righteousness and good (Phil. 4:8). There are memorials that are wicked, holding present a traumatic memory (recalling and keeping before you) of blood sheds, covenant breaking and immorality.

Pray for your land, look around your community, research your city and see what they identify with, what they are using as landmarks what do their memorials and monuments say about the people of the land. Look to see - Habakkuk 1:5 AMP