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### **A CALL TO REMEMBRANCE**

*Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; but we will remember (or boast in) the name of the LORD our God. They have bowed down and fallen; but we have risen and stand upright.* We do not boast of our military power but rather, we boast of God's power. Memorial Day has been set aside for remembering those who fought for freedom in our nation—a special day that honors our military forces killed in wartime. It is also a day of reflection. Our testimony speaks of what God has done through our men and women in service to our nation, those willing to fight for liberty, trusting that God's purpose would be accomplished through them—not necessarily wearing a specific uniform but rather having the courage to maintain freedom.

Every coin minted in the United States bears these words: LIBERTY—IN GOD WE TRUST. Our forefathers chose these inseparable words, knowing the tremendous cost and sacrifice that had been paid to secure freedom. In gratitude, the founding fathers desired a continual acknowledgement of God's hand in America's freedom. They were confident that He was blessing their endeavors because they acknowledged Him and sought His aid in all their business—warning future generations that the day God was not earnestly revered in America; she would become a byword among nations. In gratitude, the founding fathers desired a continual acknowledgement of God's hand in preserving America.

America will lose her identity and purpose if she neglects her heritage. Just as Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were the fathers of the nation Israel, we likewise have the patriarchal line of the founding fathers that is the basis of our heritage. The significance of their vision of 'one nation under God' was for the freedom of succeeding generations.

A patriot is one who ardently and passionately pursues the vision of his founding fathers. We are patriots if we are zealously seeking the vision established for this nation. If he is patriotic then he has their same vision. Those in the line of the fathers are remembered for the price they paid for our freedom. Let this generation know the

mighty sweep of spiritual events in our heritage and the history of how, when, and why "God shed His grace on thee!"

When God listed the valiant warriors of Israel, He added a significant description about the sons of Issachar. They *were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do*. We likewise need men and women with vision, who understand the foundations of our nation and act accordingly, valiant men who recognize what ought to be done and bravely walk in it. We also recognize prayer warriors who *stand by night in the house of the Lord* as mighty men of valor—they may never even pick up a gun, yet through their diligence, God preserves our nation.

We remember the men and women who went to battle for our country. These are our unsung heroes, our valiant warriors and we choose to never forget the price they paid for our liberties and freedom. What they did had purpose. If we forget the purpose of the battle, we lose sight of our future—having no vision or inheritance.

Terror is total confusion and we fight against terrorism. We are engaged in a great spiritual battle between the forces of good and evil. Human weapons will not make it successful unless we have divine intervention. We have a hope as great as the goodness and grace of God! The Sovereign Ruler of the universe stands eager to manifest Himself to a generation that has never clearly seen Him. He extended His mercy on our behalf as we took the initiative to stand against terrorism in the liberating of Iraq. Never in modern history has a victory of such grand proportions been achieved with the loss of so few men—clearly the hand of God.

The history of ancient Israel and Judah is full of evidences that the prayers of God's people in times of crises resulted in divine intervention. There was an occasion when the powerful Moabites and Ammonites came to make war on Judah. Judah faced potential extermination, yet when King Jehoshaphat heard of the coming attack, he inquired of the Lord, proclaimed a fast and the people of Judah came together from every town to seek help from the Lord. King Jehoshaphat led all the men and woman, and children of Judah in an earnest prayer that prevailed upon God to defend His inheritance. In humility they acknowledged that *we have no might against this great company that comes against us; neither do we know what to do: but our eyes are upon God*. God heard from heaven, promised deliverance and won the battle in such a way that the fear of Him came upon all the surrounding nations. It was the humble prayer of one nation under God.

A nation that has no vision or purpose is a nation in rebellion—each man under his own rule does whatever seems right in his own eyes. Only when we have the same vision that was established by the founding fathers, will we be one nation under God. Men and women fought for liberty because of their duty to their country. This is being under authority—fighting as one nation under God. Without exception, when God's people unite in specific prayer—He hears, answers, provides, delivers, empowers, and conquers.

For example: On the morning of D-Day in Europe, many churches in the United States were filled with praying people. As men and women came off their night shifts,

they heard of the attack on the beaches and instead of going home to bed, they found a place to pray. Like King Jehoshaphat, they humbly acknowledged their inability and God's possibilities—their eyes were upon God.

There was a silence in the land as desperate hearts spoke earnestly to a God Who Alone was able to save their warriors from the destruction of the enemy. There was a holy hush over the nation as they waited for God to intervene. They trusted in God and He brought forth a victory! It is remembered in history as the 'Longest Day.' It seems strikingly similar to another day in history ... signifying that the same awesome power God displayed in the days of Joshua as the sun stood still till the battle was won—is still possible today. A great exploit was truly accomplished on the Longest Day ... the Americans and the British established a foothold in the stronghold of the enemy ... *and the fear of them spread because God was with them.*

These young men and women did not go to war alone. 'America' went to war, supporting her warriors. America was praying as her young men and women were across the seas fighting a battle they thought was so crucial that their lives were not to be compared to the cost of freedom. They felt confident that the price they paid was securing an inheritance for the generations to come.

What other men and women have fought and died for becomes our inheritance if we become part of America's vision. They gave us freedom. If we do not desire freedom, then our inheritance is useless and within a generation it can be squandered away. God shed His grace upon our nation to establish firm foundations. Unless we are one with Him in purpose, freedom will never be passed to another generation.

We experienced a horrendous awakening to the cruelty of war and terror on September 11, 2001 and watched our nation turn to God. It is merely an awakening, yet as our nation yawned we heard unusual testimonies ... once again the Name of God was spoken as news commentators proudly pointed to His divine intervention on television and radio. In the struggles and confusion of that long day, one simple plea was echoed—the urgent need for blood and prayer that God hold the fragile threads of life for us and for our nation.

Long ago a similar awakening was prophesied. *Awake, awake! Put on your strength O Zion; put on your beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city! ... Shake yourself from the dust, arise; sit down, O Jerusalem! Loose yourself from the bonds of your neck, O captive daughter of Zion!* Some may say that as a nation we still need to shake the stardust from our eyes ... others think that America is not only in bed but too weak to get up ... yet for all the wrestling of the sheets that once were our covering, we will not be restrained from rising up ... a nation awakening to the Voice of her God.

God does great and mighty acts through courageous men and women. Since the bloodshed of September 11<sup>th</sup>, America has come together in a singleness of purpose to defeat the enemy. We are currently engaged in battle and established a foothold in the

stronghold of the enemy camp ... and we prayerfully trust that God is with us and the fear of Him will ultimately defeat the opposition ... and liberate a nation.

*Some trust in chariots ... but we will remember the name of the LORD our God—we trust in God Almighty to defeat our enemies! The enemy has bowed down and fallen; but we as the risen Body of Christ will rise and stand upright." This is the risen Christ in power and glory! May God continue to bless America!*

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