

Tomorrow is Memorial Day, a day when we recognize those who have given the ultimate sacrifice so we can enjoy the many freedoms we often take for granted. Not the least of these freedoms is the freedom to worship, just as we are doing this morning. Men and women have gone to war to protect our right to have church. Sadly, our soldiers, were often sent into battle without proper training and equipment, but nevertheless they went and they served. The Bible teaches us that war can only be avoided if we, as a nation, are prepared militarily, mentally, physically and spiritually. Unfortunately our country has a history of being drawn into conflicts because of our strange disdain for preparation. This morning I want us to listen and learn from the past. A new President is in the White House: I want to read from General MacArthur's book entitled "Reminiscences."

"With the advent of the new Administration, ... efforts were made to further reduce the military ... The Secretary of War (*George Dern*) became so alarmed that he requested a private conference with the President. Besides myself, he took with him the Assistant Chief of Staff, General Hugh Drum, and the Chief of Engineers, General Lytle Brown. The world situation had become too dangerous to allow a weakening of our defense. Germany and Italy were arming in Europe ... I felt it my duty to take up the cudgels. The country's safety was at stake ... The President turned the full vials of his sarcasm upon me ... I spoke recklessly and said something to the general effect ... "when we lose the next war, and an American boy, lying in the mud with an enemy bayonet through his belly and with an enemy foot on his dying throat, spat out his last curse, I wanted the name not to be MacArthur, but Roosevelt. The President grew livid. "you must not talk that way to the President!" ... I said I was sorry and apologized. But I felt my career was at an end. I told him he had my resignation as Chief of Staff of the Army."

Well, as you know, war did come and the men of the greatest generation, as they have become known, defeated the Axis Powers. General George S. Patton writes of those men, one month before his untimely death as follows:

"You men have just won a great war. You won it because you were better trained, better equipped, better clothed and better fed than any soldiers in the history of the world. I sometime wonder if you fully realize how very great you are. During combat I talked to every unit ... possible ... and I told you what to expect in battle and the best methods of ... defeating the enemy. The record of your achievements speaks for itself. As a moderate estimate we killed, wounded or captured ten Germans for every American lost, killed or wounded.

Now that all, or nearly all of you, are returning to civilian life, I believe that I should continue to do my best to instruct you how to save your lives and the lives of your children. I realize that in doing this I shall be criticized, but my conscience will be much clearer in the knowledge that I have done my duty ...

It is certain that the two world wars in which I have participated would not have occurred had we been prepared. It is my belief that adequate preparation on our part would have prevented or materially shortened all our other wars beginning with that of

1812. Yet, after each ... there have always been a great hue and cry to the effect that there will be no more wars. That disarmament is the sure road to health, happiness and peace and that by removing the fire department, we will remove the fires. These ideas spring from wishful thinking and from the error that wars result from logical processes. There is no logic in war. They are produced by mad men. No man can say when future mad men may reappear. I do not say that there will be no more wars. I devoutly hope that there will not, but I do say that the chances of avoiding future wars will be greatly enhanced if we are prepared ... Remember this and remember further that preparedness must be mental, physical and spiritual. If we have as we could have the greatest army, navy and air force in the world and yet are not mentally and spiritually prepared to do our duty as men our efforts will only be partially successful.

Many of you know by personal experience how difficult it was to adjust yourself to the brutal realities of battle after a lifetime of being told that there would be no more wars. If we produce another generation similarly indoctrinated, we may not be able to win. Twice in my lifetime America the arsenal of democracy has come from behind to ensure victory ... should another war arise those producing it will make every effort to see that the arsenal of democracy is knocked out in the first round. How can this be done I do not know but I do know that progress made in aircraft and in self-propelled missiles is such that the possibility of an early knockout can be a reality. You men are all American citizens and in your generation you will have a very large voice in determining the election of our public servants and the enforcement of our laws. I am sure that you have found out that discipline, self-reliance and mutual respect and faith are necessary in the army. These traits are just as necessary in civil life ...

Referring again to the fire department aspect of the prevention of war, a very large proportion of the duties of the fire department in large cities is not the extinguishing of fires but their prevention through advice and supervision. You men are all potential firemen. You have put out the fire of *W.W.II* by your heroic efforts. It is now your duty as citizens to see that other fires do not occur and that you and your children are not called upon again to extinguish them. I have been speaking to you not as your Commanding General but rather as an old man to young men. I am in no way trying to propagandize you but as I said before it is my considered opinion that my duty demands that I should explain a few things to you as I see them.

In closing let me say that it is my profound hope that we shall never again be engaged in war; but let me remind you also of the words of George Washington, "In time of peace, prepare for war."

Neither George Washington's, nor George Patton's advice, was heeded. America disarmed after *W.W. II* and it would only be a matter of time before a weakened military would be offered on the altar of political ignorance and sin. Clay Blair in her book The Forgotten War chronicles the debacle:

"Truman's sins against the military in his first three years and nine months were legion. The first and without a doubt the gravest, was his decision to impose unrealistic-even crippling-budget ceilings on the Pentagon which were based not on strategic

considerations but on what Truman himself decided the country could afford. Truman was determined that in the postwar years America must maintain a balanced federal budget and reduce the \$250 billion national debt ... The Pentagon threatened these fiscal objectives by recommending a minimum postwar "austerity" budget of about \$15 billion a year. In order to stay on his fiscal course, Truman arbitrarily cut the Pentagon budget by a third-to about \$10 billion a year, and turned a deaf ear to repeated pleas from his military chiefs for more ... By December 1948, at the end of Truman's first term ... the standing forces had shrunk to a mere 1.5 million ...

As a consequence, by March 1948 the Army had dwindled to 530,000 men and was, as Chief of Staff Omar Bradley wrote, "in a shockingly deplorable state." It had almost no combat effectiveness" and "could not fight its way out of a paper bag." ... The Navy of World War II was the mightiest seagoing fighting force in the history of the world. It consisted of a vast armada of fighting ships and a Marine Corps of 480,000 men ... By December 1948 Truman had savaged the Navy. For example the number of carriers had been reduced from 40 to 11 and the Marine Corps from 480,000 to a paltry 86,000 ... By June 1947 the Air Force had shrunk to thirty-eight groups, of which-scandalously-a mere eleven were operationally effective ... Truman's second greatest sin against the military was in permitting the nation's stockpile of atomic bombs to deteriorate to deplorably weak levels ... by ... April 1948 there were only a dozen atomic bombs in the stockpile ...

Unaware that he was being "used" in White House budget maneuvering, Eisenhower arrived in Washington in January 1949 to take up his duties as head of the Joint Chiefs ... He was shocked by all he saw and heard ... Eisenhower found, the military posture and readiness of the armed forces ... deplorable. "We're suffering," he noted in his diary. He blamed this on Truman's obsessive budget cutting. In his diary he recalled how he had futilely "pleaded" for a \$15 billion Pentagon budget ...

On the heels of these events yet another setback with profound military consequences ... In China the Nationalist forces were decisively defeated by the Communist ... In Peking the victorious Mao ... established the People's Republic of China. The Communist victory threatened America's military strategy in the Far East ... The explosion of the Russian atomic bomb and the defeat of Nationalist China persuaded Dean Acheson that a "different world" had indeed arrived. He was soon convinced that America must change course: arm rather than disarm ... In truth the American Army was once again in dreadful shape. In June 1950 it actually numbered only 591,000 ... Stockpiles of materiel left over from World War II were deteriorating ... By June ... of 1950, Harry Truman had all but wrecked the ... military forces of the United States ... He had set the stage for even more grievous punishment, should it be called upon for an emergency." Korea provided just such an emergency. The United States took heavy and needless casualties early in the "Korean war;" all because the U.S. thought they had fought a second war to end all wars."

We began our look at the past with the resignation of General MacArthur. The General was recalled from retirement first for W.W. II. and later to save our bacon in Korea. Though heralded as a hero by many, he never forgot those who made it all possible, the

average American soldier. Those great men who time and again stepped up to the plate to deliver us from the ignominy of national defeat. I want to read from a speech given by General MacArthur at a dedication ceremony in MacArthur Park. It was his 75th birthday, the year was 1955.

"I understand full well that this memorial is intended to commemorate an epic rather than an individual, an armed force rather than its commander, a nation rather than its servant, an ideal rather than a personality. This but increases my pride that my name has been the one chosen as the symbol of an epic struggle and victory by millions of unnamed others. It is their heroism, their sacrifice and their success, that you have honored today. I and this statue and this park are but selected reminders of their grandeur. Most of them were citizen soldiers, sailors and airmen. Men from the farm, from the city, from the schoolroom, from the college campus; men not dedicated to the profession of arms, men not primarily skilled in the arts of destruction, men, amazingly, like the men you see and meet each day of your lives; but men, animated, inspired, ennobled by a sublime cause, the defense of their country. The most divine of all human sentiment guided them, the spirit and the willingness to sacrifice. He who dares to die, to lay down his life on the altar of his nation's need is beyond doubt the noblest development of mankind. In this he comes the closest to the image of his creator, our Lord Jesus Christ, who died on the cross that we might have eternal life.

These men were my comrades in arms. With me they heard the far call of the bugles at reveille, the distant roll of drums at night fall, the endless tramp of marching feet, the incessant whine of the sniper's bullets, the ceaseless rattle and sputtering of machine guns, the ominous roar of threatening cannons, the sinister wail of the siren, the deafening blasts and crashing of bombs, the amphibious lurch over perilous waves, the dark majesty of fighting ships, the mad den of battle lines and all the stench and ghastly horrors and savage destruction of a stricken area of war. They suffered hunger and thirst, the broiling suns of relentless heat, the torrential rains of tropical storms, the loneliness and utter desolation of jungle trails, the bitterness of separation from those they loved and cherished. They went on and on and on when everything within them seemed to stop and die. They grew old in youth.

When I think of their patience under adversity, their courage under fire, their modesty in victory, I am filled with an emotion of admiration I cannot express. Many of them walked the tragic path of unknown fame that led to a stark white cross above a lonely grave and from their tortured, dying lips with the dreadful gurgle of the death rattle in their throats always came the same gasping prayer, that we who are left will go on to victory. I know not of the dignity of their birth, but I do know the glory of their death.

So this morning we owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to those who have made the ultimate sacrifices on battlefields the world-over. How better to eulogize these men and women than to stand and sing Hymn # 488 The Battle Hymn of The Republic. Ken come and lead us as we sing.

1. So far I have taught Daniel Chapters 1-11. This morning, we will study Daniel, chapter 12. Before we continue with our study, you may want to avail yourselves of God's grace provisions for fellowship, by silently naming your sins to God. Let us pray.

HELPFUL CHRONOLOGIES

625 B.C.	Babylon is established as a potential world power by Nabopolassar, an Assyrian
612 B.C.	Babylon (under Nebuchadnezzar) defeats Egypt and Assyria at Carchemish
606 B.C.	Judah is defeated by Babylon and the first deportation takes place, two major deportations follow in 597 and 586
539 B.C.	Cyrus conquers Babylon thus the end of the Babylonian Empire
538 B.C.	Cyrus the Great permits a Jewish repatriation
536 B.C.	Approximately 50,000 Jews return to the land, the book of Daniel is written and soon thereafter Daniel goes to be with the Lord
334 B.C.	Alexander begins his conquest of Persia
323 B.C.	Alexander's world conquest is completed; soon thereafter Alexander dies
323-147 B.C.	The world is ruled by four Hellenistic Empires (originally established by Cassander, Lysimachus, Ptolemy and Seleucus)
200 B.C.-476	The world is ruled by the Roman Empire
Tribulation	The world will be ruled by a Revived Roman Empire.

2. Daniel, Chapter Twelve - A Paraphrase

LGM

Dan 12:1 During the Tribulation, Michael, Israel's guardian angel, will establish himself as the protector of your people. Although Israel will experience great distress, Michael will make certain that all things work for the good of God's people. Though Israel will suffer greatly in that period of great persecution, in the end, true Israel will be delivered. All whose names are in the Book of Life will not only be delivered but they shall rule with Christ on earth for one thousand years.

NIV

Dan 12:1 "At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people--everyone whose name is found written in the book-- will be delivered.

LGM

Dan 12:2 Before the beginning of the Millennium, there will be a judgment of Israel. All Israel will stand before the Throne of Christ. Some will be raised and live forever in

ecstatic happiness and others will be raised for judgment, shame and everlasting contempt in a lake of fire.

NIV

Dan 12:2 Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt.

LGM

Dan 12:3 Throughout the ages there have been many Jews who wisely believed on their Messiah. These true believers will shine like the brightness of the heavens. Those who led others to the Lord will receive a special reward; they will shine like the stars forever.

NIV

Dan 12:3 Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

LGM

Dan 12:4 Close up and seal the scroll until the time of the end. From then until now, your people will travel all over the world seeking knowledge, but they will not acquire an understanding of eschatology. It is only during the time of the Great Tribulation that Israel will receive comfort when they see all these prophecies come true.

NIV

Dan 12:4 But you, Daniel, close up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end. Many will go here and there to increase knowledge."

LGM

Dan 12:5 Then I looked up, and there before my eyes were two angels, one on my side of the river and one on the other side. With them was the man wearing the linen garment.

NIV

Dan 12:5 Then I, Daniel, looked, and there before me stood two others, one on this bank of the river and one on the opposite bank.

LGM

Dan 12:6 The man wearing the linen garment was standing in the middle of the river on top of the water. He was asked by one of the angels, "How long will it be before these astonishing things come to pass?"

NIV

Dan 12:6 One of them said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, "How long will it be before these astonishing things are fulfilled?"

LGM

Dan 12:7 The Man in linen lifted both His hands toward heaven. He then swore by the Lord Jehovah, "It will go on for three and one-half years. When Israel has finally been brought to her knees, then shall the end come."

NIV

Dan 12:7 The man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, lifted his right hand and his left hand toward heaven, and I heard him swear by him who lives forever, saying, "It will be for a time, times and half a time. When the power of the holy people has been finally broken, all these things will be completed."

LGM

Dan 12:8 I heard everything the angel asked and I heard the answer from the Man in the linen garment. But I did not understand the meaning. So I asked, "My Lord, how will all this turn out?"

NIV

Dan 12:8 I heard, but I did not understand. So I asked, "My lord, what will the outcome of all this be?"

LGM

Dan 12:9 The Man answered, "Go, Daniel, and live your very own spiritual life. The prophecies concerning the end times are sealed until the Tribulation. The timing, though imminent, is indefinite."

NIV

Dan 12:9 He replied, "Go your way, Daniel, because the words are closed up and sealed until the time of the end."

LGM

Dan 12:10 During the Tribulation many will become believers; they will be made spotless and refined as the recipients of God's grace. But those who reject His offering of deliverance will continue in their sins. Unbelievers will not, and in fact, cannot, understand God's plan. But those who have become God's by faith alone in Christ alone, they will understand not only Daniel's vision but the whole realm of eschatology.

NIV

Dan 12:10 Many will be purified, made spotless and refined, but the wicked will continue to be wicked. None of the wicked will understand, but those who are wise will understand.

LGM

Dan 12:11 From the time the Antichrist rescinds the treaty with your people in the middle of the Tribulation and erects his statue in a wing of the temple until the Messiah destroys the armies of the world will be 1,290 days. The Lord will take 30 days to destroy Babylon, the Armies at Megiddo and Idumaea.

NIV

Dan 12:11 "From the time that the daily sacrifice is abolished and the abomination that causes desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days."

LGM

Dan 12:12 After the final battle of Armageddon, there will be a period of 45 days when the carnivorous birds of planet earth arrive to eat the bodies of those slaughtered. Additionally, it is in this period our Lord will set up a judgment seat in the Valley of Jehoshaphat where Jews and Gentiles surviving the Tribulation will be judged. Blessed most certainly are those who survive this judgment and follow our Lord into the Millennium. Blessed is the one who waits for and reaches the end of the 1,335 days.

NIV

Dan 12:12 Blessed is the one who waits for and reaches the end of the 1,335 days.

LGM

Dan 12:13 As for you Daniel, don't be concerned about all of this; just go your way until the end. You will rest in Sheol in the bosom of Abraham until your Messiah Christ removes your soul to heaven. At His return you will get your Millennial body and receive your allotted inheritance.

NIV

Dan 12:13 "As for you, go your way till the end. You will rest, and then at the end of the days you will rise to receive your allotted inheritance."

End Lesson Taught 5-24-09