

Intro: In a few days from now we will celebrate our fallen heroes from previous wars. Memorial Day is for the remembrances of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice, their lives! Veterans Day is for those who served, giving their time, but not their lives. As we read in through the Bible, we find a whole host of memorials and their significances. In the first part of this Sunday School series, we will be looking and learning some basic truths that will help us better understand the Lord our God. The memorials we will be looking at were memorials instituted by God meant to be observed by God's people to guide them in focusing on certain attributes or qualities belonging to God.

First one up:

I. The memorial of God's _____ revealing the character of God's mercy – **Gen. 9:13 – 16**

- A. We need to understand the differences between the words _____ and _____.
1. Grace is our receiving that which is good though we are totally _____ – such as, Salvation – **Romans 3:23 & Ephesians 2:8 & 9.**
 2. Mercy is receiving that which we do not _____ – **Matthew 20:29 – 34**, they did not present themselves as _____, but sought mercy in spite of their unworthiness.
- B. The known world before the ante diluvial flood was _____ of either mercy or grace – **Romans 9:15 – “For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.”**
1. In the midst of the then population of the world, “_____ found grace in the eyes of the Lord” and as a result, Noah and his family experienced God's mercy and the rest of the world was so evil. God _____ His mercy and they all perished. **Genesis 6:1 – 7.**
 2. So it is due to this event that we have our first _____ in the Bible which we still see today and attribute it to this historical event, the rainbow. **Genesis 9:15 & 16.**
 3. So, we can see the significance is very great because God wants us to _____ two things about this particular flood.
 - a. God never wants us to _____ that He destroyed the entire world by a flood exactly as the Bible states.
 - b. Almost six thousand years of human history and when we see a rainbow, we _____ God and His power, and His mercy.
 - c. And as well, He wants us to remember that He promised He would _____ do this again in display of His wrath.

- d. We need to be careful here and not assume that this means God is going to more _____ of sin or more _____ concerning sin.
- e. What it does mean is that the _____ time God destroy the earth it will be with fire and take place at the end of the millennium – **II Peter 3:9 – 13**.
- f. The biblical time line is as follows – Church age following the death of & resurrection of Christ, the Rapture, the Tribulation (pseudo-peace first half, desolation in the middle), the second coming of Christ, judgment of the nations, Millennium, new Heavens and the new earth.

C. While there are scientific explanations for the rainbow, the reality is that it _____ rained before the flood, there was mist that went up from the earth. Earth prior to the flood was more like a terrarium.

1. **Genesis 1:7 – 10, 14 – 18, 20**.

2. Firmament – meaning a flat or solid surface, or a support.

3. The firmament above was a frozen firmament.

4. When the flood took place, the waters above (frozen firmament) rained down and the waters beneath broke upward and changed the character of the earth in the process.

5. How did it change?

a. Now there would be _____.

b. Land masses were _____ and mountains raised up.

c. With the upper firmament gone, _____ became stronger to name a few.

e. _____ disappeared as they were air-breathing.

f. Enough land and air breathing life forms were preserved because of the ark.