

Remembrance Day 2023

Every year on November 11, Canadians pause in a silent moment of remembrance for the men and women who have served, and continue to serve our country during times of war, conflict and peace.

Is this a “good” or “godly” thing to do?



Scripture tells us about God’s Holy days - important annual reminders - which point to important events in history and in the future, filled with symbols, themes & lessons to help us to learn what God wants us to know & to focus on - His Plan of Salvation. (Leviticus 23)

<p>1 PASSOVER</p> <p>Christ died for us.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Passover lamb in the Old Testament pointed toward Christ giving His life to pay the death penalty for our sins. • The New Testament symbols of bread and wine represent Christ's broken body and shed blood. <p>Key scriptures: 1 Peter 2:24; 1 Corinthians 5:7.</p>	<p>2 DAYS OF UNLEAVENED BREAD</p> <p>We must remove sin and pursue righteousness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For seven days leaven represents sin. • Removing leaven reminds us to remove sin. • Eating unleavened bread reminds us to strive to live a life free from sin, putting Christ and His way of sincerity and truth into our lives. <p>Key scriptures: 1 Corinthians 5:6-8.</p>	<p>3 FEAST OF PENTECOST</p> <p>God gives the Holy Spirit and begins His Church.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God gives His Holy Spirit to those who obey Him. • We must repent and be baptized to receive the Holy Spirit. • God launched the New Testament Church—the “firstfruits” of His plan. • We must continue to allow God’s Spirit to lead us. <p>Key scriptures: Acts 2:38, 5:32; Romans 8:8-9; James 1:18; Revelation 14:4.</p>	
<p>4 FEAST OF TRUMPETS</p> <p>Christ will return and resurrect the saints.</p> <p>Trumpets will announce:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End-time plagues and war. • Christ’s return to earth to establish the Kingdom of God. • The resurrection of the saints. <p>Key scriptures: 1 Corinthians 15:51-52; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Revelation 8:6-13; 11:15.</p>	<p>5 DAY OF ATONEMENT</p> <p>God will remove Satan and reconcile humanity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God will bind Satan so he can’t deceive humans. • Christ’s sacrifice makes it possible to reconcile man to God. • Fasting helps us to learn humility and become at one with God. <p>Key scriptures: Leviticus 16:3-34; Revelation 20:1-3.</p>	<p>6 FEAST OF TABERNACLES</p> <p>Christ’s government will produce 1,000 years of peace.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The saints will serve as kings and priests assisting Christ on earth. • People will be healed of diseases. • The earth will become peaceful and abundantly productive. <p>Key scriptures: Isaiah 35:1-2, 5-6; Zechariah 14:16; Revelation 5:10.</p>	<p>7 LAST GREAT DAY</p> <p>God will offer eternal life to all!</p> <p>After the Millennium:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All humans who have ever lived without full knowledge of God’s way of life will be resurrected to physical life. • They will be taught God’s way and given a chance to respond. • In the end, every human will have had a full chance to accept God’s calling to become His children! <p>Key scriptures: Ezekiel 37:14; Matthew 12:41-42; Revelation 20:11-12.</p>

Scripture also establishes that it is perfectly natural & permitted (by God) that countries might create their own national holidays:

- **Purim:** Purim, based on the events described in the Book of Esther, is celebrated to remember the deliverance of the Jewish people from a plot to destroy them.
- **Hanukkah:** Hanukkah, also known as the Festival of Lights, is not mentioned in the Hebrew Bible but is based on events that took place in the Second Temple period. It is celebrated to commemorate the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem.

In Israel today...

- **Independence Day** - commemorates the establishment of the State of Israel on May 14, 1948. It is a day of joy and festivities, with fireworks, parades, and other celebrations.
- **Jerusalem Day** - marks the reunification of Jerusalem during the Six-Day War in 1967. It's a day to celebrate the city and its historical significance to Israel.

In Canada ...

- **Canada Day** - Celebrated on July 1st, it marks the anniversary of the confederation of Canada in 1867. It is a day of national pride & includes fireworks & festivities
- **Thanksgiving Day** - Observed on the second Monday in October, it is a time for Canadians to give thanks (to God?) for the harvest & blessings of the past year.

The time that national days become a **problem** ... is when:

- They have pagan origins or adopt symbols from paganism (eg Halloween, or groundhog day)

or

- They lead people away from keeping the Holy Days commanded by God.

They are often counterfeits. To counterfeit means *to imitate something authentic, with the intent to steal, destroy, or replace the original, or to deceive individuals into believing that the fake is of equal or greater value than the real thing* such as:

Jeroboam's False worship

1Ki 12:27-33 If these people go up to offer sacrifices in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will turn back to their lord, Rehoboam king of Judah, and they will kill me and go back to Rehoboam king of Judah."

1Ki 12:28 Therefore the king asked advice, made two calves of gold, and said to the people, "It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, O Israel, which brought you up from the land of Egypt!"



1Ki 12:29 And he set up one in **Bethel**, and the other he put in **Dan**.

1Ki 12:30 Now this thing became a **sin**, for the people went to worship before the one as far as Dan.

1Ki 12:31 He made shrines on the high places, and made priests from every class of people, who were not of the sons of Levi.

1Ki 12:32 Jeroboam ordained a feast on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, like the feast that was in Judah, and offered sacrifices on the altar. So he did at Bethel, sacrificing to the calves that he had made. And at Bethel he installed the priests of the high places which he had made.

1Ki 12:33 So he made offerings on the altar which he had made at Bethel on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, **in the month which he had devised in his own heart**. And he ordained a feast for the children of Israel, and offered sacrifices on the altar and burned incense.



Doctrinal Statement on EASTER

As any encyclopedia will note, Easter is an adaptation of an ancient, pagan, pre-Christian festival for celebration, which was adopted by traditional Christianity in place of the biblical Passover. Easter is nowhere mentioned in the Bible as a Christian holiday. Instead, the Passover should be properly observed on the correct date in accordance with Christ's example and Paul's instructions. The Church of God recognizes that references such as Ezekiel 8 are specifically about "sun worship" (rather than an Easter sunrise service tradition), but the curious practices today of eggs, bunnies, candles, and sunrise services are foreign to Scripture and more akin to characteristics of ancient sun worship and spring fertility festivals.

Deuteronomy 12:30–32; Jeremiah 10:2–5; 1Corinthians 11:2, 23–26



Doctrinal Statement on CHRISTMAS

Christmas is neither Christ's birthday nor a celebration Christians should observe. It is not mentioned in the Bible and in no way is an original Christian practice. As any encyclopedia will confirm, Christmas is an ancient pagan celebration, which predated Christianity, but was renamed and given new meaning when it was adopted into the professing Roman Universal (Catholic) Christian Churches. The Church of God movement recognizes references such as Jeremiah 10 are specifically about "idol worship" (rather than a Christmas tree tradition), but the curious practices today of yule logs, wreaths, and decorating Christmas trees is foreign to Scripture and more akin to characteristics of ancient sun worship and tree worship via evergreens.

Deuteronomy 12:30–32; Jeremiah 10:2–5

What are the Purposes, Themes & Impact of Remembrance Day for us to assess if it is a "good" or "godly" thing to observe? ... Are these "scriptural" themes?

1. **Commemoration:** National holidays often commemorate significant historical events, individuals, or milestones in a nation's history, helping people remember and celebrate their heritage and identity.

... As we have already read ... Israel had "days" to commemorate the rescue of Jews with Esther & the dedication of the 2nd Temple ... There is no evidence that God or Jesus condemned these days ...

2. **Patriotism and National Pride:** Holidays like Remembrance Day promote patriotism & foster a sense of national pride and unity among citizens. (eg Jericho, Goliath, or ...)

Jehoshaphat's Prayer

2Ch 20:1 It happened after this that the people of Moab with the people of Ammon, and others with them besides the Ammonites, came to battle against Jehoshaphat.

2Ch 20:2 Then some came and told Jehoshaphat, saying, "A great multitude is coming against you from beyond the sea, from Syria..."

2Ch 20:3 And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.

2Ch 20:4 So Judah gathered together to ask help from the LORD; and from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD.

2Ch 20:5 Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem...

2Ch 20:6 and said: "**O LORD God of our fathers, are You not God in heaven, and do You not rule over all the kingdoms of the nations, and in Your hand is there not power and might, so that no one is able to withstand You?**

2Ch 20:7 Are You not our God, who drove out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel, and gave it to the descendants of Abraham Your friend forever?

2Ch 20:8 & they dwell in it, and have built You a sanctuary in it for Your name, saying,

2Ch 20:9 'If disaster comes upon us—sword, judgment, pestilence, or famine—we will stand before this temple and in Your presence (for Your name is in this temple), and cry out to You in our affliction, and **You will hear and save.**'

2Ch 20:10 And now, here are the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir—whom You would not let Israel invade when they came out of the land of Egypt, but they turned from them and did not destroy them—

2Ch 20:11 here they are, rewarding us by coming to throw us out of Your possession which You have given us to inherit.

2Ch 20:12 O our God, **will You not judge them?** For **we have no power** against this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You."

2Ch 20:13 Now all Judah, with their **little ones**, their **wives**, and their **children**, stood before the LORD.

2Ch 20:14 Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, in the midst of the assembly.

2Ch 20:15 And he said, "Listen, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you, King Jehoshaphat! **Thus says the LORD** to you: 'Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God's.



2Ch 20:16 Tomorrow go down against them. They will surely come up by the Ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the brook before the Wilderness of Jeruel.

2Ch 20:17 **You will not need to fight in this battle.** Position yourselves, **stand still and see the salvation of the LORD**, who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem!' Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for the LORD is with you."

2Ch 20:18 And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem bowed before the LORD, **worshipping the LORD**.

2Ch 20:19 Then the Levites of the children of the Kohathites and of the children of the Korahites stood up to praise the **LORD God of Israel** with voices loud and high.

2Ch 20:20 So they rose early in the morning and went out into the Wilderness of Tekoa; and as they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem: **Believe** in the LORD your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper."

2Ch 20:21 And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who should **sing to the LORD**, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as **they went out before the army** and were saying: "Praise the LORD, For His mercy endures forever."

2Ch 20:22 Now **when they began to sing and to praise**, the LORD set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated.

2Ch 20:23 For the people of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of Mount Seir to utterly kill and destroy them. And when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, they helped to destroy one another.

The Lord Delivers Judah

2Ch 20:24 So when Judah came to a place overlooking the wilderness, they looked toward the multitude; and there were their dead bodies, fallen on the earth. No one had escaped.

2Ch 20:25 When Jehoshaphat and his people came to take away their spoil, they found among them an abundance of valuables on the dead bodies, and precious jewelry, which they stripped off for themselves, more than they could carry away; and they were **three days** gathering the spoil because there was so much.

2Ch 20:26 And on the fourth day they assembled in the Valley of Berachah, for there they blessed the LORD; therefore the name of that place was called The Valley of Berachah until this day.

2Ch 20:27 Then they returned, every man of Judah and Jerusalem, with Jehoshaphat in front of them, to go back to Jerusalem with joy, for the LORD had made them rejoice over their enemies.

2Ch 20:28 So they came to Jerusalem, with stringed instruments and harps and trumpets, to the house of the LORD.

2Ch 20:29 And the fear of God was on all the kingdoms of those countries when they heard that the LORD had fought against the enemies of Israel.

2Ch 20:30 Then the realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet, for his God gave him rest all around.



3. **Reflection and Remembrance:** Some holidays, such as Memorial Day or Remembrance Day, are dedicated to reflecting on and remembering the sacrifices of soldiers and individuals who gave their lives for their country.

- It's an opportunity to recognize their sacrifices and express gratitude for their service
- Honouring the Fallen - a solemn occasion to honour and remember the soldiers, sailors, airmen, and civilians who lost their lives in conflicts, particularly those who died during World Wars, but also in subsequent conflicts

Rom 5:7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die.

- Encourages people to take a moment of silence - an opportunity to reflect on something meaningful that you might otherwise NEVER take time to consider (meditate)

Psa 4:4 Be angry, & do not sin. Meditate within your heart on your bed, & be still

- **Poppies** as Symbols: The red poppy flower is a symbol of Remembrance Day. It is worn to remember those who have fallen in war and is often associated with the poem "In Flanders Fields" by John McCrae.



Psa 39:4-5 NLT "LORD, remind me how brief my time on earth will be. Remind me that my days are numbered—how fleeting my life is. You have made my life no longer than the width of my hand. My entire lifetime is just a moment to You; at best, each of us is but a breath."

Jas 4:14 How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow? Your life is like the morning fog—it's here a little while, then it's gone.

1Pe 1:24-25 As the Scriptures say, "People are like grass; their beauty is like a flower in the field. The grass withers and the flower fades. But the word of the Lord remains forever."

4. **Civic Engagement:** Holidays often include civic activities, parades, and ceremonies that encourage citizens to participate in the democratic process, celebrate achievements, and connect with their communities... such as at a Remembrance Days service

5. **Education and Historical Awareness:** National holidays can serve as opportunities for education and historical awareness, teaching younger generations about their country's history and values.

- Little is more special than a child thanking a veteran for their service - to be thankful, they must have **learned** about their sacrifice - it is not an empty gesture

- **Deu_32:7** "**Remember** the days of old, Consider the years of many generations. Ask your father, and he will show you; Your elders, and they will tell you

6. **Promotion of Values:** Holidays can emphasize and promote important national values such as freedom, democracy, equality, justice.

Gal 5:13 For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

Isaiah 1:17 Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause.



7. **Inspiration and Aspiration:** (Vision) National holidays (like Remembrance Day) often inspire citizens to strive for better and work towards a brighter future. They may serve as a source of inspiration for personal or collective goals.

Isa 2:4 ... They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore.

Rev 21:4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

8. **Preservation of Traditions:** Holidays (like Remembrance Day) help preserve cultural, religious, and historical traditions by providing occasions for the continuation of customary practices and rituals. Holidays often involve intergenerational activities, providing opportunities for older generations to pass down traditions and values to younger ones.

Deu 6:6-7 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

Psalms 78:4-7 We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done."

Proverbs 1:8-9 Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching, for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck."

9. **Promoting Peace and Unity:** It serves as a reminder of the devastating consequences of war and the need to work toward peaceful solutions to conflicts.

Jas 4:1 Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures. Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

Eccl 3:8 A time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

Romans 12:18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Psa 133:1 Behold, how good & how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity!

10. **Reinforcing National Symbols:** National holidays often highlight and reinforce the significance of national symbols such as flags, anthems, and emblems.



Lessons of World War I (WWI):

1. **The Destructive Power of Modern Warfare:** including the use of artillery, machine guns, chemical weapons, and trench warfare, leading to unprecedented casualties.
2. **Treaty of Versailles:** The harsh terms of the Treaty of Versailles, which ended WWI, taught that punitive and vindictive peace settlements can contribute to future conflicts
3. **The League of Nations:** The failure of the League of Nations to prevent further aggression highlighted the limitations of international organizations in maintaining
4. **Extreme Nationalism and Imperialism:** could lead to devastating conflicts,
5. **The Importance of Alliances:** the complex system of alliances, while meant to maintain peace, contributed to the escalation of conflict

Lessons of World War II (WWII):

1. **Appeasement & Aggression:** giving in to aggressive regimes leads to further aggression
2. **The Holocaust:** The Holocaust exposed the depths of human cruelty and intolerance, serving as a powerful reminder of the consequences of prejudice and hatred.
3. **The United Nations:** To foster international cooperation and diplomacy ... to prevent future conflicts.
4. **Nuclear Weapons:** The use of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki underscored the catastrophic potential of nuclear weapons, leading to efforts to control proliferation.
5. **War Crimes Trials:** The Nuremberg and Tokyo Trials established a precedent for holding individuals and leaders accountable for war crimes and crimes against humanity.
6. **Decolonization and Nationalism:** WWII accelerated decolonization movements as colonial powers were weakened, granting independence to many nations.
7. **Cold War and the Iron Curtain:** highlighted the importance of ideological & political struggles in global affairs.
8. **Human Rights & International Law:** The horrors of WWII inspired the development of international laws and norms to protect human rights and prevent genocide.