God’s Memorial Day

**Text:** Hosea 12:5 “Even the LORD God of hosts; the LORD *is* his

memorial.”

**Introduction:** I want to start off with a fashion recommendation. If there is a seamstress or a tailor in the house you might become wealthy by stealing my idea. Actually it is God’s idea so it’s OK to use it without violating any copyright laws. Take a shirt or a blouse and sew pockets on top of the shoulder. Place the names of those you love in the pockets and pray for them. This way God sees their names when He looks down on you as you pray. Sounds silly: doesn’t it? Please turn with me to our scripture this morning.

**Read:** Exodus 28:9-12 & 29

**I. Cleansing & Anointing:** Before the high priest could wear this garment He had to go through a personal cleansing and anointing. His right ear, thumb, and great toe were anointed with oil. This represents the anointing of God on our hearing, doing, and going. If we are not cleansed and anointed the garment and its pockets is just another shirt.

**II. A Fire That Melts:** Onyx is formed in the vesicles of Lava. What that means is that these particular stones have been through the fire. Before they ever encounter the engravers chisel they have been in a fire so hot that it melts rock and iron. As water cleanses the outside of the body fire purifies the inside. An effective prayer warrior is one who has been through the fire of trials and adversity. They are usually someone who has agonized over unanswered prayers.

**III. A Hammer & Chisel:** Six tribal names were chiseled on each stone so that as God looked down from heaven in response to the pleas of the High Priest He would see the name of each of the twelve tribes. In this way they were kept in sight of God. God called them a memorial.

Chiseling is not an easy thing to do. The one who is doing the chiseling must be careful and deliberate. The one being chiseled may not be very happy for a time. As the prayer warrior chisels the names of those special to them in prayer it must be done faithfully and with determination. As the person is being placed before God be assured that they will be uncomfortable and may act out in anger. Calm down God is beginning His work.

**IV. God Sees Those You Place Before Him:** Even though the heavens may seem to be silent. Even though the one being brought before God may seem to be unaffected. Be assured that God sees and is working on your behalf. Just as it takes time for water to begin to boil after being placed on the stove so it takes time for the moving of the Holy Spirit to become evident in the life of one who has spent a great deal of time resisting Him. (Display Houdini trick) Talk about Houdini and his death.

**Conclude:** In Acts 10 we read about a Gentile man who was visited by The Angel of the Lord. This is what the Angel said to him: “…Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God.”

As we remember and honor those who sacrificed their life for our freedom I pray that we will also remember and honor the one who sacrificed His life so that you and I might have freedom from sin.