

## Jewish Connections to Memorial Day

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### זכור

#### Exodus 13:3

And Moses said to the people, "Remember this day, on which you went free from Egypt, the house of bondage, how Adonai freed you from it with a mighty hand: no leavened bread shall be eaten.

וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה אֶל-הָעָם זְכוֹר אֶת-  
הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה אֲשֶׁר יִצְאָתֶם מִמִּצְרַיִם  
מִבֵּית עֲבָדִים כִּי בְתוֹזֵק יָד הוֹצִיא  
יְהוָה אֶתְכֶם מִצֵּיט וְלֹא יֵאָכֵל חֻמֶּץ:

#### Exodus 20:8

Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy.

זְכוֹר אֶת-יוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת לְקַדְּשׁוֹ

#### Numbers 15:39-40

That shall be your fringe; look at it and recall all the commandments of Adonai and observe them, so that you do not follow your heart and eyes in your lustful urge. Thus you shall be reminded to observe all My commandments and to be holy to your God.

וְהָיָה לָכֶם לְצִיצִית וּרְאִיתֶם אֹתוֹ  
וַיִּזְכַּרְתֶּם אֶת-כָּל-מִצְוֹת יְהוָה וַעֲשִׂיתֶם  
אֹתָם וְלֹא-תִתְּרוּ אַחֲרַי לְבַבְכֶם וְאַחֲרַי  
עֵינֵיכֶם אֲשֶׁר-אַתֶּם זֹנִים אַחֲרֵיהֶם:  
לְמַעַן תִּזְכְּרוּ וַעֲשִׂיתֶם אֶת-כָּל-מִצְוֹתַי  
וְהָיִיתֶם קְדוֹשִׁים לֵאלֹהֵיכֶם:

#### Deuteronomy 4:9

But take utmost care and watch yourselves scrupulously, so that you do not forget the things that you saw with your own eyes and so that they do not fade from your mind as long as you live. And make them known to your children and to your children's children:

רַק הִשָּׁמֶר לָךְ וּשְׁמַר נִפְשְׁךָ  
מְאֹד פֶּן-תִּשְׁכַּח אֶת-הַדְּבָרִים  
אֲשֶׁר-רָאוּ עֵינֶיךָ וּפֶן-יִסּוּרוּ  
מִלְּבַבְךָ כֹּל יְמֵי חַיֶּיךָ וְהוֹדַעְתֶּם  
לְבָנֶיךָ וּלְבְנֵי בָנֶיךָ:

### Deuteronomy 5:15

Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt and Adonai your God freed you from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm; therefore Adonai your God has commanded you to observe the sabbath day.

וְזָכַרְתָּ כִּי־עַבְדְּ בַד הָיִיתָ | בְּאֶרֶץ  
מִצְרַיִם וַיִּצְאֶךָ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ מִשָּׁם  
בְּיָד חֲזָקָה וּבְזְרֹעַ נְטוּיָה עַל־כֵּן  
צִוָּךְ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ לַעֲשׂוֹת אֶת־יוֹם  
הַשַּׁבָּת: (ט)

### Deuteronomy 25:17-19

Remember what Amalek did to you on your journey, after you left Egypt— how, undeterred by fear of God, he surprised you on the march, when you were famished and weary, and cut down all the stragglers in your rear. Therefore, when Adonai your God grants you safety from all your enemies around you, in the land that Adonai your God is giving you as a hereditary portion, you shall blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven. Do not forget!

זָכוֹר אֵת אֲשֶׁר־עָשָׂה לְךָ עַמְלֵק  
בְּדַרְדָּרְךָ בְּצֵאתְכֶם מִמִּצְרַיִם:  
אֲשֶׁר קָרָךְ בְּדַרְדָּרְךָ וַיִּזְגַּב בְּךָ כָּל־  
הַנְּחָשָׁלִים אַחֲרֶיךָ וְאֶתָּה עָיִף וְיָגַע  
וְלֹא יָרָא אֱלֹהִים:  
וְהָיָה בְּהִנָּגִים יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ | לְךָ מְכַל־  
אֵיבֶיךָ מִסָּבִיב בְּאֶרֶץ אֲשֶׁר יְהוָה־  
אֱלֹהֶיךָ נָתַן לְךָ נַחֲלָה לְרִשְׁתָּהּ תִּמְחָה  
אֶת־זָכַר עַמְלֵק מִתַּחַת הַשָּׁמַיִם לֹא  
תִשְׁכַּח: (פ)

### Deuteronomy 32:7

**Remember** the days of old, Consider the years of ages past; Ask your father, he will inform you, Your elders, they will tell you:

זָכַר יָמֹת עוֹלָם בִּינֹו שָׁנוֹת  
דוֹר־דָּוָר שְׁאֵל אָבִיךָ וַיִּגְדֶּךָ  
זְקֵנֶיךָ וַיֹּאמְרוּ לְךָ:

### Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks

Our identity is bound up horizontally with other individuals: our parents, spouse, children, neighbors, members of the community, fellow citizens, fellow Jews. We are also joined vertically to those who came before us, whose story we make our own. To be a Jew is to be a link in the chain of the generations, a character in a drama that began long before we were born and will continue long after our death. Memory is essential to identity – to be a Jew is to know that the history of our people lives on in us.

## **Memorial Day Prayer** by Rabbi Dr. Laurence Milder

Our God, God of our ancestors, we thank you for the numerous blessings you have bestowed upon our nation. Out of the many nations of the world, our country has been blessed with a singular opportunity - to demonstrate how peoples of many faiths and heritages can live side by side, and enrich one another's lives through friendship and the sharing of our unique traditions.

We are united this day in a solemn act of gratitude: to those who have served in our nation's defense, to those who have risked their personal safety to save the lives of others, and above all to those who have died serving this country. Their sacrifices are forever remembered by us and by our children for generations to come. We do not forget.

Our hearts go out to those serving today in our armed forces, and to their families. Those of us who are veterans of previous wars, know best of all what they must be feeling, what their spouses and children are feeling, what they pray for. In all our many faiths, we are united in this: our prayers are with those who serve our country today. We ask God that they may return speedily and in good health and safety to their loved ones. And may God grant each of us the wisdom to uphold this nation's virtues, that it may continue to serve as a beacon of liberty and harmony between peoples, for all the world to see. Amen.