



Coffeeville First Baptist Church
By **Craig Baker, Pastor**

Monday was the day we know as Memorial Day, but did you know it was originally called Decoration Day? That name came from the practice of honoring fallen Civil War soldiers by decorating their graves. There are over a dozen cities and towns that claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day. Although President Lyndon Johnson declared Waterloo, NY as the official birthplace of Memorial Day in May 1966, it appears the practice

of setting aside a time each year to remember and honor our fallen soldiers began in many places around our nation about the same time in the 1860's. Decoration Day was officially proclaimed on May 5, 1868 by General John Logan when he ordered that on May 30 flowers be placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers buried at Arlington National Cemetery. After World War I Decoration Day changed from a remembrance of just those who had died in the Civil War to a remembrance of all Americans who died in any war. At that time the name shifted from Decoration Day to Memorial Day. We need days like Memorial Day because Lord knows we are forgetful people, but we are no different today than people have always been.

In the Old Testament in the days of Moses, after God had freed His people, the Israelites, from Egypt and was providing for them and leading them through the wilderness towards the Promised Land, He warned them to not forget Him (Deut. 8:10-20). Unfortunately, 1 Samuel 12:9 tells us, "But they forgot the Lord their God." They forgot His laws, His justice, His mercy, His covenant with them, and the Bible says they prostituted themselves out like harlots to the gods of the pagan nations rather than worshiping and honoring the one true God. God sent His prophets to bring His message of warning to His people, men such as Hosea, Joel, Amos, Micah, and Isaiah. The message was clear, repent or suffer God's judgment for your sins. For decades and generations, God warned His people, but despite God's warning, they refused to turn back to Him. That is exactly why we find them in captivity and peril in the Book of Esther. Their captivity was God's judgment for their rebellion and idolatry, but their time of captivity was nearing an end. God would soon work through the Persian king, Cyrus the Great, and the Persian nation to fulfill His promise of returning His people to their land and rebuilding their nation, but first they had to survive the decree of their death.

Despite his new position, Mordecai could not erase Haman's decree that had sentenced the Jews to death, so with the king's approval, Mordecai wrote a new decree that allowed the Jews to defend themselves, retaliate against anyone who attacked them, and take the property of any defeated enemies.

Their death had been ordered, but with this new decree came the possibility of life. That brings us to Esther 9. About nine months passed between chapters 8 and 9. Much changed in those nine months. The Jews now had friends in high places, and they knew it so did everyone else. None of the officials in the kingdom were willing to do anything to harm the Jews. What tipped the balances in the favor of the Jews was the officials fear of Mordecai. They were afraid of what the consequences might be if they were found favoring the wrong side. No doubt word had spread of Haman's death and what happened to those who opposed Mordecai and the Jews. The Jews were now in a position of power. Legally and practically, they had the resources and the opportunity to destroy their enemies. What did they do with such power? Although the decree gave the Jews the right to kill the women and children of their enemies and take the plunder for themselves, they chose not to exercise those rights. Instead, they exercised mercy and self-control and deliberately restrained themselves from going farther than they needed to go to protect themselves and gain victory over their enemies. Both mercy and justice were exercised on this day, and at the end of the day, the enemies of the Jews had been defeated (Esther 9:5-16). What do you do when you have defeated your enemies? You celebrate (Esther 9:17-32). With their enemies defeated, the Jews celebrated with a day of feasting. Chapter 9 closes with the details of their celebration and how it was established as an annual celebration. Jews still celebrate this feast today. On the day of the feast, the Book of Esther is read in their synagogues. As the name of Mordecai and Esther are read, the people in attendance cheer. When the name of Haman is read, they hiss, boo, and stomp their feet proclaiming, "May (Cont'd on page 8)

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Office Closure Memorial Day May 25th
Crews will remain on-call over the holiday weekend.

250 Power Drive, Batesville, MS 38606 (662) 563-2075

Life, Health & Accident Companies Abstract of the Annual Statement as of December 31, 2025	Life, Health & Accident Companies Abstract of the Annual Statement as of December 31, 2025	Life, Health & Accident Companies Abstract of the Annual Statement as of December 31, 2025	Life, Health & Accident Companies Abstract of the Annual Statement as of December 31, 2025	Life, Health & Accident Companies Abstract of the Annual Statement as of December 31, 2025
Banner Life Insurance Co. 3275 Bennett Creek Avenue Frederick, MD 21704	Beneficial Life Insurance Co. P. O. Box 45654 Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0654	Berkley Life and Health Insurance Co. PO Box 9190 Des Moines, IA 50306	Berkshire Hathaway Life Insurance Co. of Nebraska 1314 Douglas Street, Suite 1400 Omaha, NE 68102-1944	Berkshire Life Insurance Co. of America 700 South Street Pittsfield, MA 01201-8285
Total Assets \$ 13,451,811,205 Total Liabilities \$ 12,799,575,606 Capital Stock \$6,940,385 Surplus Funds \$ 645,295,214 Total Capital & Surplus \$ 652,235,599 Total Liabilities, Surplus & Other Funds \$ 13,451,811,205	Total Assets \$ 1,692,862,240 Total Liabilities \$ 1,473,913,899 Capital Stock \$2,500,000 Surplus Funds \$ 216,448,341 Total Capital & Surplus \$ 218,948,341 Total Liabilities, Surplus & Other Funds \$ 1,692,862,240	Total Assets \$ 857,210,206 Total Liabilities \$ 314,048,285 Capital Stock \$2,500,002 Surplus Funds \$ 540,661,919 Total Capital & Surplus \$ 543,161,921 Total Liabilities, Surplus & Other Funds \$ 857,210,206	Total Assets \$ 24,935,737,211 Total Liabilities \$ 11,242,717,329 Capital Stock \$3,000,000 Surplus Funds \$ 13,690,019,882 Total Capital & Surplus \$ 13,693,019,882 Total Liabilities, Surplus & Other Funds \$ 24,935,737,211	Total Assets \$ 5,733,984,810 Total Liabilities \$ 5,526,325,848 Capital Stock \$3,198,000 Surplus Funds \$ 204,460,962 Total Capital & Surplus \$ 207,658,962 Total Liabilities, Surplus & Other Funds \$ 5,733,984,810
Mississippi Insurance Department I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct abstract of the above-name company filed with the Mississippi Insurance Department showing the condition of said company on December 31, 2025.	Mississippi Insurance Department I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct abstract of the above-name company filed with the Mississippi Insurance Department showing the condition of said company on December 31, 2025.	Mississippi Insurance Department I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct abstract of the above-name company filed with the Mississippi Insurance Department showing the condition of said company on December 31, 2025.	Mississippi Insurance Department I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct abstract of the above-name company filed with the Mississippi Insurance Department showing the condition of said company on December 31, 2025.	Mississippi Insurance Department I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct abstract of the above-name company filed with the Mississippi Insurance Department showing the condition of said company on December 31, 2025.
Mike Chaney Commissioner of Insurance	Mike Chaney Commissioner of Insurance	Mike Chaney Commissioner of Insurance	Mike Chaney Commissioner of Insurance	Mike Chaney Commissioner of Insurance
BEST LIFE and Health Insurance Co. 17701 Mitchell North Irvine, CA 92614	Bluebonnet Life Insurance Co. 3545 Lakeland Drive Flowood, MS 39232	Boston Mutual Life Insurance Co. 120 Royall Street Canton, MA 02021	Brightshore Life Insurance Co. 11225 North Community House Road Charlotte, NC 28277	C. M. Life Insurance Co. 1295 State Street Springfield, MA 01111
Total Assets \$ 29,562,120 Total Liabilities \$ 9,057,702 Capital Stock \$2,500,000 Surplus Funds \$ 18,004,418 Total Capital & Surplus \$ 20,504,418 Total Liabilities, Surplus & Other Funds \$ 29,562,120	Total Assets \$ 78,571,489 Total Liabilities \$ 3,058,562 Capital Stock \$1,000,000 Surplus Funds \$ 74,512,927 Total Capital & Surplus \$ 75,512,927 Total Liabilities, Surplus & Other Funds \$ 78,571,489	Total Assets \$ 1,760,828,238 Total Liabilities \$ 1,501,639,813 Capital Stock \$0 Surplus Funds \$ 259,188,425 Total Capital & Surplus \$ 259,188,425 Total Liabilities, Surplus & Other Funds \$ 1,760,828,238	Total Assets \$ 192,764,891,358 Total Liabilities \$ 189,164,838,434 Capital Stock \$75,000,000 Surplus Funds \$ 3,525,052,924 Total Capital & Surplus \$ 3,600,052,924 Total Liabilities, Surplus & Other Funds \$ 192,764,891,358	Total Assets \$ 6,970,954,429 Total Liabilities \$ 5,207,577,878 Capital Stock \$2,500,000 Surplus Funds \$ 1,760,876,551 Total Capital & Surplus \$ 1,763,376,551 Total Liabilities, Surplus & Other Funds \$ 6,970,954,429
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Canada Life Assurance Co., The 8515 E. Orchard Rd. 772 Greenwood Village, CO 80111	Canada Life Reinsurance Co. P.O. Box 1120 Blue Bell, PA 19422-0778	Capitol Life Insurance Co. 1605 LBJ Freeway Dallas, TX 75234	CareScout Insurance Co. 6620 West Broad Street Richmond, VA 23230	Catholic Life Insurance PO Box 659527 San Antonio, TX 78265-9527
Total Assets \$ 9,283,115,785 Total Liabilities \$ 8,998,703,417 Capital Stock \$0 Surplus Funds \$ 284,412,368 Total Capital & Surplus \$ 284,412,368 Total Liabilities, Surplus & Other Funds \$ 9,283,115,785	Total Assets \$ 54,141,734 Total Liabilities \$ 19,491,752 Capital Stock \$14,000,000 Surplus Funds \$ 20,649,982 Total Capital & Surplus \$ 34,649,982 Total Liabilities, Surplus & Other Funds \$ 54,141,734	Total Assets \$ 884,305,063 Total Liabilities \$ 822,716,258 Capital Stock \$3,080,000 Surplus Funds \$ 58,508,805 Total Capital & Surplus \$ 61,588,805 Total Liabilities, Surplus & Other Funds \$ 884,305,063	Total Assets \$ 89,968,322 Total Liabilities \$ 6,038,124 Capital Stock \$3,000,000 Surplus Funds \$ 80,930,198 Total Capital & Surplus \$ 83,930,198 Total Liabilities, Surplus & Other Funds \$ 89,968,322	Total Assets \$ 1,209,343,765 Total Liabilities \$ 1,092,609,451 Capital Stock \$0 Surplus Funds \$ 116,734,314 Total Capital & Surplus \$ 116,734,314 Total Liabilities, Surplus & Other Funds \$ 1,209,343,765
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