

THE OLE COWBOY & INDIANS LAST RIDE & LAST STANCE

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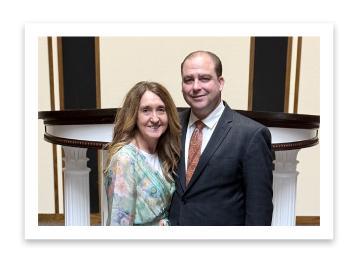


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1. Introduction

The concept of the "last stand" resonates deeply in the human experience. It symbolizes the culmination of a life's journey, the final moments of struggle, and the legacy left behind. In this booklet, we will explore the last stands and rides of historical figures, warriors, and biblical heroes. Each story offers profound lessons about faith, perseverance, and the human spirit.

The Cowboy's Last Ride

- Context: The cowboy represents the rugged individualism and adventurous spirit of the American West. Cowboys were known for their bravery, hard work, and dedication to their craft. The "last ride" of a cowboy symbolizes not only the end of a journey but also the culmination of a life lived with courage and integrity.
- Last Ride: The cowboy's last ride often evokes images of riding into the sunset, a metaphor for the end of an

era. Whether it's a final drive of cattle, a last journey across the plains, or a farewell to the open range, this ride signifies a deep connection to the land and a way of life that is fading.

- Significance: The cowboy's last ride serves as a poignant reminder of the values of perseverance, loyalty, and honor. It reflects the idea that life is a journey filled with challenges, and it is how we face those challenges that defines our legacy. The cowboy embodies the spirit of resilience, standing tall against adversity and embracing the freedom of the open range.
- Legacy: The stories of cowboys, their struggles, and their triumphs are woven into the fabric of American folklore. They remind us of the importance of living authentically and staying true to one's values. The cowboy's last ride symbolizes not just the end of a physical journey but also the enduring spirit of adventure and the quest for freedom.

Poetic Reflection:

"In the fading light of dusk, he rides alone, A cowboy's heart, a spirit of stone. With memories etched in the dust of the trail, He rides into the sunset, where legends prevail."

The Indian Last Ride and Stand

• Context: The "Indian Last Ride and Stand" symbolizes the fierce resistance and resilience of Native American tribes in the face of overwhelming odds. Throughout history, Native American warriors have fought valiantly to protect their lands, cultures, and ways of life against encroachment and oppression. Their stories are filled with bravery, sacrifice, and a deep connection to the earth.

- Last Ride: The last ride of an Indian warrior often signifies a final act of defiance or a poignant farewell to their ancestral lands. It may represent a journey into battle or a quest for peace, embodying the spirit of those who fought for their people and traditions. These rides are steeped in symbolism, reflecting the warrior's commitment to their tribe and the land they cherish.
- Significance: The last stand of Native American warriors, such as those at the Battle of Little Bighorn or the Siege of the Alamo, illustrates their courage and determination to defend their sovereignty. These moments are not just battles; they are the culmination of a struggle for identity, freedom, and justice. The legacy of these stands teaches us about the importance of standing firm in one's beliefs and the fight for what is right.
- Legacy: The stories of Native American warriors and their last rides resonate deeply in contemporary discussions about justice, identity, and resilience. They remind us of the importance of honoring and preserving cultural heritage, as well as the ongoing struggles faced by Indigenous communities. The legacy of these warriors continues to inspire new generations

to advocate for their rights and the rights of their land.

Poetic Reflection:

"In the whispering winds of the ancient plains, A warrior rides, where history remains. With spirit unbroken, he takes his last stand, For the love of his people, and the heart of his land."

2. The Last Stands of Warriors and Leaders

Custer's Last Stand

- Context: In 1876, Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer and his troops faced the combined forces of the Lakota, Northern Cheyenne, and Arapaho tribes at the Battle of Little Bighorn. Custer's last stand marked a pivotal moment in American history, symbolizing the tragic clash between Native American tribes and the U.S. government.
- Last Ride: Custer's final ride into battle was filled with bravado and determination, but it ended in defeat and loss.
- Significance: Custer's last stand represents the tragic consequences of underestimating one's opponent and the complexities of American expansion. The phrase "old soldiers never die; they just fade away" echoes the idea that while the physical presence may be gone, the impact of their actions endures in history.

Sitting Bull's Last Ride

- Context: Sitting Bull, a Hunkpapa Lakota leader, was a key figure in resisting U.S. government policies. His leadership culminated in the victory at Little Bighorn.
- Legacy: He became a symbol of Native American resistance and resilience.

Crazy Horse's Last Stand

- Context: Crazy Horse was a war leader of the Oglala Lakota. He played a crucial role in the defeat of Custer.
- Significance: His life and battles symbolize the fight for Native American rights and sovereignty.

Geronimo's Last Stand

- Context: Geronimo, a leader of the Apache, resisted U.S. and Mexican military campaigns. His last stand came during his final surrender in 1886.
- Legacy: Geronimo's story embodies the struggle for freedom and the spirit of resistance.

Winston Churchill's Last Ride

- Context: Churchill served as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom during World War II. His "last ride" can be seen as his final years in political life.
- Significance: He faded into history as a symbol of

determination and leadership during dark times.

Nolan Ryan's Last Pitch

- Context: Nolan Ryan, one of baseball's greatest pitchers, threw his last pitch in 1993, ending an illustrious career.
- Last Stand: His final appearance was a testament to his longevity and dedication to the game.
- Legacy: Ryan's career was marked by resilience and excellence, solidifying his place in baseball history as a true champion.

Babe Ruth's Last At-Bat

- Context: Babe Ruth, an iconic figure in baseball, played his last game on May 30, 1935.
- Last Stand: As he walked off the field for the final time, he left behind a legacy of greatness that would endure for generations.
- Significance: Ruth's departure marked the end of an era, and his influence on the game remains unmatched.

Hank Aaron's Last Stand

- Context: Hank Aaron, who broke Babe Ruth's home run record, played his final game in 1976.
- Last Stand: His last at-bat was not just about the game but also a culmination of his journey as a trailblazer in

baseball.

• Legacy: Aaron's impact transcended the sport, as he became a symbol of perseverance and excellence.

Vince Lombardi's Last Ride

- Context: Vince Lombardi, one of the most celebrated coaches in NFL history, coached his last game in Super Bowl II in 1968.
- Last Stand: Lombardi's leadership and mentorship shaped the lives of countless players, instilling in them the values of hard work and determination.
- Legacy: His impact on football and leadership continues to resonate, symbolizing the essence of what it means to be a champion.

Jerry Tarkanian's Last Game

- Context: Jerry Tarkanian, the legendary basketball coach, led the UNLV Runnin' Rebels to great success. His last game was a loss in the 1992 NCAA tournament.
- Last Walk: As he walked off the court for the final time, Tarkanian left behind a legacy of innovation and passion for the game.
- Significance: His influence on college basketball and coaching methods remains significant, as he mentored many players and coaches.

B.B. King's Last Ride

- Context: B.B. King, known as the "King of Blues," performed his last concert in 2014, leaving an indelible mark on the music world.
- Last Stance: As he played his final notes, he embodied the spirit of mentorship and artistry, inspiring countless musicians with his unique style.
- Legacy: King's contributions to music and his role as a mentor to younger artists solidified his status as a true legend.

Muhammad Ali's Last Fight

- Context: Muhammad Ali, one of the greatest boxers in history, fought his last match against Trevor Berbick in 1981.
- Last Ride: As he stepped into the ring for the final time, Ali's legacy as a champion was already cemented.
- Significance: Walking out of the ring alone, he faded into history, not just as a fighter but as a symbol of resilience and courage, inspiring generations.

Apostolic Pentecostal Leaders' Last Rides and Stands

• Context: The Apostolic Pentecostal movement has been shaped by many great leaders who dedicated their lives to the faith and ministry.

- Last Rides and Stands:
- T.W. Barnes: A prophetic voice whose ministry touched many lives.
- G.T. Haywood: A pioneer in Pentecostalism whose teachings continue to resonate.
- T.F. Tenney: A mentor and leader known for his wisdom and guidance.
- Nona Freeman: A missionary and leader who inspired many through her dedication to spreading the Gospel.
- Bud Freeman: A significant figure in the movement whose influence remains.
- Nathaniel Urshan: Known for his impactful ministry and leadership.
- Kenneth Haney: A leader whose contributions to the church are well-remembered.
- Muerll Uwing, Paul Price, Clen Cook, Andrew Urshan, Carl Balastero, Bill Yandrish, Verbal Bean, Missionary Lambeth, Charles Wycliffe, Triblett, Frank Bartleman, Handy Macdonald, Clyde Haney, Cavanas, Keith Clark, C.M. Becton, Elder Crist: Each of these leaders made significant contributions to the Apostolic movement, leaving behind a legacy of faith, perseverance, and dedication to the Gospel.

Davy Crockett's Last Stand

• Context: Davy Crockett, a frontiersman and folk hero, is best known for his role in the Texas Revolution and his defense of the Alamo in 1836.

- Last Stand: Crockett fought bravely alongside fellow defenders against the Mexican army led by General Santa Anna. Despite their valiant efforts, the Alamo fell on March 6, 1836.
- Death: Accounts of his death vary, but it is widely believed that Crockett fought to the end, symbolizing courage and sacrifice. His last stand at the Alamo has become a legendary story of heroism and resistance.
- Legacy: Davy Crockett is remembered not just for his fighting spirit but also for his larger-than-life persona, embodying the American spirit of adventure and resilience.

3. Biblical Warriors and Their Last Stands

Moses: The Final Journey

- Last Stand: Moses led the Israelites to the Promised Land but was not allowed to enter.
- Significance: His life teaches us about faithfulness and obedience to God's calling.

Joshua: The Warrior's Legacy

- Last Stand: Ioshua's final address to the Israelites (Joshua 24) emphasizes choosing to serve the Lord.
- Battles: Joshua led 14 battles, including Jericho and Ai, demonstrating faith in action.

Gideon: The Judge's Battles

- Last Stand: Gideon's final battle against the Midianites (Judges 7).
- Battles: He fought several battles, including the defeat of the Midianites with just 300 men.

David: The King's Conquests

- Last Stand: David's last battle against the Philistines (2 Samuel 21:15-17).
- Fights: Notable battles include Goliath, the Philistines, and Absalom's rebellion.

Joseph: The Journey of Faith

- Last Stand: Joseph's final moments in Egypt, where he forgave his brothers (Genesis 50:15-21).
- Struggles: From slavery to leadership, Joseph's life is a testament to faith and forgiveness.

Elijah: The Prophet's Ascension

- Last Stand: Elijah's confrontation with the prophets of Baal and his ascension into heaven (2 Kings 2).
- Trials: His life was marked by challenges, faithfulness, and divine encounters.

Job: The Endurance of Faith

- Last Stand: Job's unwavering faith amidst suffering (Job 42:1-6).
- Battles: He faced immense trials but remained steadfast in his belief in God's goodness.

Paul: The Apostle's Final Fight

- Last Stand: Paul's final words in 2 Timothy 4:7-8, declaring he fought the good fight.
- Death: Tradition holds that Paul was martyred in Rome, a testament to his unwavering faith.

Shamgar: The Warrior of Pea Patch

- Last Stand: Shamgar is known for his bold stand against the Philistines, using an ox goad as a weapon (Judges 3:31).
- Meaning of Name: Shamgar (רגמש) means "sword" or "to be strong."
- Significance: His victory over 600 Philistines illustrates that faith and courage can triumph, even against overwhelming odds.

Naboth: The Stand for Integrity

• Last Stand: Naboth stood firm against King Ahab's demand to sell his vineyard (1 Kings 21).

• Significance: His refusal to compromise his values teaches us about standing for what is right, even in the face of powerful opposition.

Jesus: The Ultimate Sacrifice

- Last Stand: Jesus' last stand was at Calvary, where He was crucified, embodying the ultimate sacrifice for humanity.
- Significance: As the incarnate God, He suffered and died for our sins, declaring, "It is finished" (John 19:30). His death signifies the culmination of His mission and the hope of salvation for all.

4. Metaphorical and Poetic Meanings

Each of these last stands carries metaphorical weight, representing the struggles we all face in life. They remind us that:

- Courage is not the absence of fear but the resolve to stand firm despite it.
- Legacy is built through our actions and choices, echoing through generations.
- Faith is the anchor that holds us steady amid life's storms.

Poetic Reflection:

"In the twilight of their journeys, they stood tall, Warriors

of faith, answering the call. With hearts ablaze, they faced the night, Leaving behind a legacy of light."

5. Tales and Fables of **Indigenous Warriors**

The stories of Sitting Bull, Crazy Horse, Red Cloud, and Geronimo have been passed down through generations, embodying the spirit of resilience and resistance. These tales often carry deep moral lessons about bravery, sacrifice, and the importance of standing for one's beliefs.

- Fable of the Eagle and the Bear: An eagle, soaring high, represents freedom and vision, while the bear, strong, symbolizes strength grounded and protection. Together, they teach us that true leadership requires both vision and strength.
- Tale of the Coyote: In many Native American cultures, the covote is a trickster figure, representing adaptability and cunning. His stories remind us to approach life with wisdom and humor, even in difficult times.

John Ross: A Cherokee Leader

• Stance: John Ross was a Cherokee chief who led the Cherokee Nation through the Trail of Tears and the rebuilding of the nation in Indian Territory. He was a leader of the antiremoval faction in the 1830s, spending much of his time in Washington, D.C., trying to convince the government to uphold treaties that guaranteed the tribe's lands.

- Last Ride: Ross's final public act was to lead a delegation to Washington, D.C. to negotiate a new treaty reestablishing relations between the Cherokee Nation and the United States. He died in Washington on August 1, 1866, two weeks after the treaty was completed.
- Trail of Tears: Ross led the tribe in their forced removal from the American Southeast to new Cherokee lands in present northeastern Oklahoma. The crossing, which has come to be called the Trail of Tears, killed perhaps as many as one-fourth of the tribe's 20,000 members. Ross is revered as one of the Cherokee Nation's most able leaders.

6. Conclusion

The last rides and stands of these warriors and biblical figures teach us invaluable lessons about faith, resilience, and the human spirit. They remind us that while our journeys may come to an end, the impact of our lives continues to inspire and guide future generations. As the saying goes, "Old soldiers never die; they just fade away," but their legacies live on in our hearts and minds.

7. Reflection Questions

- 1. What can we learn from the last rides and stands of these historical and biblical figures?
- 2. How can we apply the lessons of resilience and faith in our own lives?
- 3.In what ways can we honor the legacies of those who have gone before us?

May this exploration of the last stands and rides encourage you to reflect on your own journey of faith and the champions who have inspired you. Let their stories motivate you to stand firm in your Apostolic Pentecostal Faith in the Lord Iesus Christ. Read and obey Acts 2:38 and living a life pleasing to the Lord Jesus Christ leaves a lasting legacy.

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