

Shenandoah

church of Christ

TRIUMPH

“Do you know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it” (1 Cor. 9:24)

The Judges of Israel (4)

Gabriel Rodriguez

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The cycle of Israel's existence was given in Judges 2:11-23: Israel sinned through influence of their enemies, God punished Israel by allowing their choice to sin to engulf them in problems - leading to oppression, Israel cried out unto God for assistance, God sent judges to rescue and save Israel, Israel experienced peace for a while, Israel forgot about God in their peace, and the cycle started over again. The reason why God allowed this to occur is because he wanted to test Israel to see whether they would hearken unto His commandments (3:1-4). As history and time would show, Israel failed consistently and ensnared herself in problems. As was noted last week, we are guilty of creating our own problems, as did Israel. And in the problems we create, the fruits of sin become so unbearable that we seek assistance. In other words, they dug themselves into deep holes and by the time they came to their senses they were unable to get themselves out. Hence, they cried out unto the Lord for assistance, but lo and behold, the answer to their problems had always been among them, lying dormant; it just needed to be nudged and God's people reminded what man, especially God's people, are capable of doing.

OTHNIEL:

We read in 3:7-11 the account of Othniel the judge. We're told in verse 7 that the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, forgot God, and served the idol Baal. As was noted, the fruits of their sin brought unbearable consequences, ending in harmful subjugation for the people of God (v.8). When

the Israelites came to their senses and realized their state, they cried out unto the Lord for assistance, but only to realize that the answer was present among them. In verse 9, we are told the the Lord "*raised up a deliverer to the children of Israel...even Othniel the son Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother.*" The phrase "*raise up*" is the Hebrew word *qum* and it suggests to maintain oneself, to stand, to raise oneself, or to stir up. Knowing that God doesn't impinge on someone's freewill, the only logically conclusion we're left with is that someone among Israel had the courage to stand up in the midst of evil and fight back. We see this happening in numerous occasions, but the one that stands out is found in Numbers 13 where the pessimism of the greater was quieted by the lone voice of one, namely Caleb. It's interesting that the first person who decides to rise up and take a stand against God's enemies, restoring righteousness and peace was a man by the name of Othniel, whose name means "the force (*othniy*) of God (*el*)". His name is interesting because the name *el* is also used to refer to mighty men, men of rank, and mighty heroes (Ps. 82:1; Ezek. 32:21). Hence, it seems to indicate that this judge encouraged himself through his thoughts of God for spiritual greatness and righteousness, and took the fight to the enemy, indicating what man is capable of doing regardless of the odds. This is why Othniel is used first to show us that we can become mighty heroes for God. Othniel led a revolt, which resulted in peace for 40 years. May God be praised!

How Israel Fell From Glory (2)

Church News and Announcements

CONGREGATION

The fellowship luncheon is today after our morning service. Everyone is welcomed to stay with us to eat and fellowship.

The family home devotional will be on August 19th at 7:00 pm in the home of Austin and Merissa Maldonado. The menu is healthy potluck.

The Ladies' Bible class and Men's Training class will be on August 28th at 4:00 pm. The ladies will be studying lesson 4 and the men will be studying the prophet Zechariah given by Bro. Trevino.

YOUTH

Our youth have been invited to a Youth Rally on Oct. 22-23 at Camp Bandina, hosted by the Weber Rd. congregation. Cost is \$20, which will cover food and a place to sleep. See Gabriel if you are interested in attending.

YOUNG ADULT

Our next young adult devotional is scheduled for August 26th. More details to follow.

AREA NEWS

See bulletin board in the foyer for many area wide meetings and youth events.

God gave Israel the answer to correct her problems from sin - the ability to think (*reason*) correctly (1:18). If Israel used her mind to awaken herself from the fruits of sin (1 Cor. 15:34a) and then sought solutions to her problems, she then would lift herself up from despair into prosperity. This is why Isaiah said, "*If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it*" (1:19-20). It was all on them to make their lives better, or else face the consequences of their decisions.

In verses 21-31, God gives a host of problems that Israel brought upon herself. The once faithful people of God, full of judgment and righteousness, had become a harlot (v. 21). In other words, Israel had become an unfaithful bride of God by no longer remaining vigilant to the cause of God; instead, they become murderers, both physically and spiritually. Their choice to sin left them tainted and unsure (v.22). It all began with their leaders, who were rebellious and thieves, and mistreated the less fortunate (v.23). Therefore, in God's displeasure with His people, God uttered destruction to come and likened it to a purge of the people (vss. 24-25). In His purge, He would come to restore judges and counselors, which would be responsible in making Israel, once again, the city of righteousness, the faithful city (vss. 26-27). This certainly would have happened through the "*very small remnant*" of God (v.9), who would incite a change for the better. But before this occurred the sinners would be destroyed and purged from God's fold (v. 28). All of the things which corrupted Israel would soon dissipate and erode like an oak and garden which withers away (vss. 29-31). But if Israel was going to be

ultimately destroyed, what would take her place?

In chapter 2:1-4, Isaiah augers the next institution, which would take the place of Israel. Although Israel would rebound from her demise, God took this opportunity to teach of a coming kingdom that would surpass the greatness of the nation of Israel. While we read in 1:23 that leaders of Israel had become corrupt and useless, God said, "*And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it*" (v.2). The last days references the age of Christ (2 Tim. 3:1; Heb. 1:2). During the coming of the final spokesman for God, Jesus Christ (Heb. 1:2), God would establish on the top of the mountains his house. What did this mean? In Hebrews 3 we are given the meaning. Just as Moses was faithful to God in all his house; likewise, someone greater than Moses would also be faithful to God and thus given charge over his own house, "*whose house are we*" (vss. 3-6a). In other words, Jesus Christ, through His faithful obedience to God, would be given charge over a house, whom God would give him. Therefore, the Lord's house that would be established in the top of the mountains referred to Jesus' house - the kingdom, church, and/or body. This body would be made up of Christians (1 Pet. 2:5) from all nations and cultures. It would come to be recognized as the exalted house of God among the many. But this house was led by the greatest of all spiritual leaders, Jesus Christ. May God be praised!

Bro. G. Rodriguez

WHAT SAITH THE LORD?

Nearly two thousand years ago an important question was raised before the Apostles after they had delivered the good news of Jesus's life, death, burial, and resurrection (Acts 2:21-36). The hearer's conscience were pricked of sinful conduct (2 Cor. 7: 10-11) and asked: "*Men and brethren, what shall we do* (in order to be saved)? (Acts 2:37). Without hesitation, Peter elevated his voice and proclaimed: "*Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit*" (Acts 2:38).

Upon hearing the words of Peter, the people obeyed. This demonstrated their belief in Christ (Jn. 8:24). Hence, they repented of sin and confessed allegiance to the name of Christ (Matt. 10:32-33). Afterwards, the people were baptized for the remission of their sins (Acts 2:41, cf. Mrk. 16:16; 1 Pet. 3:21).

The people's submission to the words of salvation granted them a relationship with God the Father by accessing citizenship into the church of Christ (Acts 2:47, cf. Matt. 16:18; Mrk. 9:1; Acts. 2:1-4). As a member of Christ's body (Acts 8:4) the people were then encouraged to live faithful unto death by conquering sin in their lives (Rev. 2:10; Rom. 6: 4-12; 2 Tim. 4: 6-8). We then await for the coming day in which all men shall be judged the word of God (Jn 12:48; Acts 17:30-31; 2 Cor. 5:10). Will we be ready?

SHEPHERD'S CORNER

Accept God's Way For Your Life

For the past few weeks we have examined several ways that would make our lives better. All of these principles require only one simple thing: submission to God's will in all things. This submission is not merely found in accepting God's will on repentance and immersion, although God commands both (Acts 2:38). This submission goes beyond how often we assemble or whether we use an instrument in our worship, although God cares deeply about our worship assemblies. This sort of submission is even more basic and more important to our lives. Can we submit to God and learn to have a cheerful heart? Can we learn to be gentle and not harsh with our words? Can we slow our anger so that God's righteousness can work in our lives? Can we learn to forgive and never again bring up the past failings of a loved one? These are critical areas of submission for every Christian. Too many have been immersed, but still criticize their loved ones. Too many attend every service, but are angry and argumentative toward their spouses and children. Too many people show a religious lifestyle, but with the people closest to them they are harsh and unyielding, completely the opposite of God and Jesus Christ.

How do we face the problems of families today? Sometimes marriages and families need the help of professionals who will equip them to live in better harmony, just the way God wants. In many other cases, a simple dose of God's home remedies would change the whole atmosphere in a home. Whatever your home is like, whether close or distant, tender or angry, try a dose of God's Home Remedies, and see if your home isn't stronger?

Bro. W Holmes

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

BISHOPS/SHEPHERDS/ELDERS

(1 Tim. 3: 1-6)

Brother Elwyn Hipp (830) 510-6311,
Brother Wayne Holmes (210) 696-8597

DEACON

(Acts 6: 1-5; 1
Tim. 3: 7-12)

Brother Raul Baltierra
(210) 843-9730

GOSPEL PREACHER

(1 Cor. 9:1-16; 1 Tim.
4:6; 2 Tim. 4: 2-5)

Brother Gabriel Rodriguez
(210)315-4453



August 14

AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *B. Dorries*
 Opening Prayer: *J. Mora*
 Song Leader: *R. Trevino*
 Lord's Supper: *N. Esenowo; T. Mayces; J. Mokry; J. Guillen*

Scripture: *Matt. 27:27-35*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *M. de la Garza*

PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *B. Dorries*
 Opening Prayer: *R. Baltierra*
 Song Leader: *G. Rodriguez*
 Lord's Supper: *A. Maldonado; E. Castillo*

Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *J. Guillen*

After Greeter: *G & I Rodriguez*
 Greeter/Usher: *S. Amos*
 AV Duty: *R. Baltierra Jr.*
 Elder in charge: *W. Holmes*

REMEMBERING OUR BELOVED

(by writing, calling, and praying)

Wayne Holmes
 Rina White
 Joe Guillen
 Ina Dial
 David and Elijah Sudhoff
 Roy Guajardo (battling Parkinsons)
 Rose Scott (grandmother of Clay and Wes Bond)
 Caral O'Banon

BATTLING CANCER:

Barbara Oakes Johna Dorries
 Abigail Reyes Graciola Anderson
 Briana Nieves Sonny Cary
 Elwyn Hipp Lori Main's father
 Tomas Guillen

SHUT-INS:

Dorothy Harper
 Dazel Ball
 Mildred Geest
 Sarah Cannon

TRAVELING:

A. Jacob; Courtney Cobb (Japan)

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

August

Organizing Monthly Luncheon: *NA*
 Preparing Lord's Supper: *Rodriguez*
 Auditorium Service Duties: *Rodriguez*
 Wash baptismal garments; clean cry room
Rodriguez
 Brother in charge of services: *NA*

AM Theme:
"Praising God" - A Study in the book of Psalms
 PM Theme:
Setting the Church in Order - A Study in the books of 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus

AM Sermon:
Psalm 65
PM Sermon:
Experience Should Instruct Youth (Titus 2)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL
 August 17: *T. Mayces*
 August 24: *A. Maldonado*
 August 31: *R. Baltierra*

FOR THE RECORD

AUGUST 7/10

Attendance:
 Sunday Bible Study 33
 Sunday AM Worship 53
 Sunday PM Worship 26
 Wednesday Bible Study 37
 Budget/Offering: **\$2,140.02/ \$2,367.32**

Weekly Bible Readers: *NA (Adult Bible class)*

SHENANDOAH CHURCH OF CHRIST

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:

Sunday: Bible Study at 9:30 am; Worship at 10:30 am;
 Worship at 5:00 pm.
 Wednesday: Bible Study at 7:00 pm