

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 (5)

Gabriel Rodriguez

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It's Important How We Hear

After forty years of rest by the hand of Othniel (i.e., *the mighty one of God*), Israel “*did evil again in the sight of the Lord*” (3:12a). As was noted, through Israel’s indulgence in sin, the consequences were too great to bear, namely Eglon, a wicked doer and king of Moab, emboldened himself through wickedness against Israel and rallied Israel’s kinfolks (children of Ammon and Amalek) against her, and subdued them for 18 years (3:12b-14). Verse 13 says they possessed the “*city of palm trees*” referencing the city of Jericho (2 Chr. 28:15). Interesting that the idea of palm trees represented something erect, but now the nation of Israel was subjugated, no longer erect, but captured and humiliated. Symbolically, sin has a way of enslaving us through the decisions we’ve made; hence, we become captured and humiliated (2 Tim. 2:24-26). This is what has happened to Israel. And as before, a life of sin ultimately brings us pain and unhappiness, and the nation of Israel began to experience regret and cried out unto the Lord for assistance. And as before, someone from their midst was ready to make a change and bring Israel back from the tyranny of sin and death. His name was **Ehud**.

What is interesting about Ehud is his name, his lineage, and his physiological features (3:15). The name of Ehud meant strength and unity. Two key features pleasing unto God. Second, he came from the lineage of Benjamin, who was described in Genesis 49:27 by Jacob as “*a wolf: in the morning he shall devour the prey, and at night he shall divide the spoil.*” Ehud came from a fierce and

mighty lineage. Third, Ehud was left-handed, which were described in Judges 20:16 as being proficient in the art of war. The left-hand would also serve Ehud well in the plot to kill Eglon. Ehud had made himself a two edged sword and hid it underneath his raiment on his right-side, although he was left-handed (3:16).

THE PLOT:

The nation of Israel belied sending Eglon a present. The gift was to be delivered by the hand of Ehud (3:15,17). The Bible at this time discloses something interesting about king Eglon, that he was “*a very fat man.*” His size was a reflection of the indulgences of sin, of which would become Eglon’s demise. As Ehud was allowed to present his gift and approached the king, Ehud told the king that he also had a secret message for him. The king then sent out his guards to discuss these matters privately with Ehud (3:18-19). Ehud then said to Eglon, “*I have a message from God unto thee*” and he arose out of his seat, took the dagger from underneath his raiment from the right-side, (which Eglon’s security detail would have missed seeing that Ehud was left-handed), and thrust it into his belly and his fat closed upon the blade so that the dagger could not be drawn out of his belly (3:20-22). Ehud then escaped and the king was found dead hours later (3:23-26).

Ehud then summoned all Israel with the noise of a trumpet and they fought against the Moabites and prevailed, killing “*all fat men and all men of valor, and there escaped not a man*” (3:29). Sin, physically and spiritually, had been defeated again. Israel then rested.

How Israel Fell From Glory (3)

Church News and Announcements

CONGREGATION

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.

There will be a mandatory meeting for all teachers, men and women, at 4:00 on August 28th. This meeting has to do with changes in state law concerning child safety.

YOUTH

There will be a youth function at Canyon Lake church of Christ for 6th through 12th grade on Sept. 2 from 9-3 pm. Please get with Gabriel if you are interested in going.

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.

The Weber Rd. church of Christ will be hosting their Bible Bowl on November 5. They will be studying Acts 15-28. If you are interested, please see Gabriel.

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.

Although God augured in establishing his final and true kingdom, which would possess the greatest leader and followers (Isa. 2:1-5; Dan. 7:13-14, cf. 1 Pet. 2:5,9), the nation of Israel continued to be worked with, because through their lineage the kingdom of Christ would come (Matt. 1:1-17; Lk. 1:67-80). God loved Israel and continued to plead for her repentance in order to develop a nation that would honor and represent God well. Therefore in **chapter 2:5-22** God spoke concerning the destruction of the arrogant, those unwilling to change and repent of their ways.

There is a present danger in life that we need to be careful for. One that plagued Israel over and over again. It was called self-aggrandizement. This term means an act undertaken to increase your own power and influence to draw attention to your own importance. This is what happened to Israel. After being blessed with a mind and body to accomplish great things in life, and after amassing great wealth and prestige, first by the help of God and then secondly by joining forces with the wicked, Israel began to aggrandize themselves with lofty looks and haughtiness (11). But Isaiah reminded them: *"For the day of Lord of war, shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low"* (12). Isaiah reminded Israel that what they had cherished and treasured would one day be destroyed and *"that the Lord alone shall be exalted"* (17). Isaiah further said that men would attempt to flee the Lord in his destruction and hide from Him, but He alone would prevail, and all their worshipped idols would be destroyed (vss. 20-21). Isaiah then ended by saying that *"all breath"* belongs to the Lord and is subject unto him; therefore, stop depending on him (22).

God then directed his disappointment and fury at Judah and Jerusalem, people and cities that should have represented Him well, but had not; therefore, God said that He was going to *"take away all support of bread and water"* from Israel (3:1). In other words, God was sending a mighty nation to plunder and destroy Israel for their sinful impudence. In that destruction, *"the mighty man, man of war, judge, prophet, prudent, ancient, captain, honorable man, counselor, cunning artificer and the eloquent orator"* would cease (3:2-4a). In other words, all of Israel would suffer and their prestige people and work would cease. No longer would they reside in a nation filled with rules, laws, and order, rather living under the tyranny of an ungodly nation, Israel would experience the consequences of sin (3:5-7). But what led to this? God said, *"For Jerusalem has stumbled, and Judah has fallen, because their speech and deeds are against the Lord, defying his glorious presence"* (8). The people of Israel had not represented God well and sadly, they had emboldened their wicked lifestyle (3:9). They had gone in the way of Sodom and Gomorrah and as such *"had rewarded evil unto themselves"* (9).

As in our study in Judges, we bring upon ourselves the troubles and ills through engagement of sin. This is what Isaiah notes in verses 10-11: *"Say ye to the righteous that it shall be well with him: for they shall eat the fruit of their doings. Woe unto the wicked it shall be ill with them: for the reward of his hands shall be given him."* What we choose in life is what we receive. And as for the nation of Israel, they had been led by sinners and destroyed, both physically and spiritually (3:11-12). God then stood as judge to contend with his people and enter a judgment against them (3:13-14). May God be feared and honored!
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

It's Important How We Hear

Jesus was a teacher, the Master Teacher. His message is the "good news" or "gospel," which reveals the salvation He made possible by His death on the cross. Not only did He teach that gospel, He selected and commissioned twelve apostles and told them: "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). Jesus calls us to come to Him, to "die to sin" and "live for Him" (Rom. 6:2; 2 Cor. 5:15). The only way to come to Him is the learn, as He said in John 6:45, "They shall all be taught of God. Every one that hath heard from the Father, and hath learned, cometh unto me." As Jesus was a teacher, His method of bringing sinners to Himself was through the teaching of is word.

Jesus was the foremost parable-teacher in all history. No one ever used them as He did. After telling the parable of the sower (Luke 8:1-8), His disciples asked Him the meaning After explaining the parable, including "the seed is the word of God" (Luke 8-11), He told them, "Take heed therefore how ye hear" (v. 18). Every duty must not only be performed to please God, it must be done in the right way. Hearing Christ is no exception Although some may argue that man cannot help what, or how, he hears, this is actually not the case. Our Lord commands, "Take heed how ye hear." This command must be obeyed. As we "search the Scriptures" (John 5:39), we will find there are many things involved in hearing Christ.

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 21

AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *A. Maldonado*
 Opening Prayer: *R. Trevino*
 Song Leader: *E. Castillo*
 Lord's Supper: *R. Baltierra Jr.; G. Rodriguez; M. de la Garza; S. Amos*

Scripture: *Isa. 53:6-9*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *Z. Watkins*

PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *A. Maldonado*
 Opening Prayer: *G. Rodriguez*
 Song Leader: *R. Trevino*
 Lord's Supper: *R. Baltierra; J. Mora*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *M. de la Garza*

After Greeter: *G & D Gribble*
 Greeter/Usher: *J. Mora*
 AV Duty: *J. Guillen*
 Elder in charge: *E. Hipp*

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 66
PM Sermon:
Experience Instructs Youthful Behavior (Titus 2)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

August 17: T. Mayces
 August 24: A. Maldonado
 August 31: R. Baltierra

FOR THE RECORD

AUGUST 14/16

Attendance:
 Sunday Bible Study 44
 Sunday AM Worship 68
 Sunday PM Worship 37
 Wednesday Bible Study 44
 Budget/Offering: **\$2,140.02/ \$2,250.35**

Weekly Bible Readers: 11/27 (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