

# 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 (6)

*Gabriel Rodriguez*

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There seems to be a consistent pattern in the judges (deliverers) of Israel. As noted, these judges strengthened themselves to deliver Israel from the plight of sinful conduct, which eventually led to their captivity. Their names tell the story. *Othniel* meant the force of God and *Ehud* meant united. The first two judges of Israel demonstrated what God expected of his people - to be strong and united in Him. In chapter 3 verse 31 we are introduced to the third judge/deliverer of Israel by the name of *Shamgar*. No detailed account is given of him other than his exploit of slaying 600 Philistine men with an ox goad. This demonstrated Shamgar's courage and proficiency in wielding a pointed instrument. Interestingly, the name *Shamgar* means "sword" and his father's name *Anath* meant "answer." Once again, their names reveal something important. Not only was Israel to be strong and united, but they were also expected to wield the answer of the sword. The symbol of the sword often referred to the destructive power of speech and communication (Ps. 149:6; Pr. 12:18). While *Shamgar* defeated 600 Philistines with a sharp instrument, likewise, spiritually speaking, God's people are commanded to war with speech. The Psalmist said, "I am for peace: but when I speak, they are for war" (120:7). But what type of language was God referring to?

The language that should come from our mouths should never be hurtful (Pr. 18:21) or filthy, foolish, and distasteful (Eph. 5:4), rather "let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye

ought to answer every man" (Col. 4:6). In other words, "let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers" (Eph. 4:29). Our goal is to always "speak the truth in love" (Eph. 4:15).

Now this doesn't mean there are never times when our communication with others must be frank and blunt as we rebuke those living in sin (2 Tim. 4:2), but we also recognize that we must always approach others in the spirit of meekness and gentleness (Gal. 6:1). When we follow the pattern of God's word, then we too can defeat the foes of spiritual warfare by words we use. We defeat them by the wisdom of God's word, which is described as a sword (Heb. 4:12). In other words, we take the word of God, which is the sword of the Spirit, and we wield it to conquer those enslaved in sin. As *Shamgar*, we too can accomplish great exploits for God, as we wield the sword of the Spirit. Words are powerful and in the hands of someone who uses them wisely, there is no argument, difference, and ideology we cannot overcome. But it all depends on how we use the sword. If we are not careful, certainly we can cut ourselves and others. The example of *Shamgar* suggests that we must be proficient in the use of the sword, suggesting we must be proficient in the use of God's word (2 Tim. 2:15, 24). May we in the spirit of *Shamgar* wield the sword of truth in order to free others taken captive by sin (2 Tim. 2:26). May God be praised!

# How Israel Fell From Glory (4)

## Church News and Announcements

### CONGREGATION

There will no Ladies' Bible class or Men's Training Class today, but there will be a mandatory meeting for all members 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

An application has been sent to TXDOT for Adopting A Highway. Hopefully Gabriel will get notice soon and set a date and time for young adults to help clean our environment. This will be our August project.

### AREA NEWS

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

The key phrase in last week's study was: "*for they shall eat the fruit of their doings*" (3:10-11). What we choose to do is what we'll get in return. The nation of Judah had chosen to entertain sinful conduct and in so doing, their lifestyle led them to be afflicted by their enemies, leading to the ultimate consequence of destruction and captivity. God then prophesied the horrible plight of the citizens of Judah and Jerusalem. In chapter 3, verses 16-24, God spoke about the fate of the women of Judah. How their "*haughty look*" and attention to beauty and pomp would soon be taken away with "*a scab on the crown of their head*" (17a) and "*burning instead of beauty*" (24c). God also mentioned the plight of Judah's strong men, how they would "*fall by the sword...the mighty in war*" (25). The land would no longer rejoice, but would "*lament and mourn... being desolate*" (26). This travesty would lead to a scarcity of men and with no men, to a scarcity of food and protection (4:1).

But as God showed in chapter 2, verses 2-4, He waited for the coming day when Israel would be restored to prominence once again. Isaiah spoke about a day in which "*the branch of the Lord*" would be "*beautiful and glorious and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and*

*comely for them that are escaped of Israel*" (4:2). But who was the Lord referring to? According to Jeremiah 23:5, the prophet there said, "*Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.*" As in Jeremiah 23, Isaiah referenced a coming King from the lineage of the few faithful that would be restored back to Jerusalem after the national purge of evil doers from Judah (vss. 3-4). This referenced Jesus Christ and the establishment of his kingdom, the church (Lk. 1:32-33). But what about Jesus would be unique and awesome? It was his life he would live. In this context of disobedience and faithlessness of Judah, Jesus Christ would restore the order of righteousness (1 Pet. 2:21-24); a life that God had always desired from the nation of Israel - to be a light to the world (cf. Deut. 4:6-8). Hence, the failures of Israel would be reinvigorated by the righteous Branch of God, Jesus Christ, who would serve as a cloud by day and fire by night, a symbol of guidance and glory (v.5, cf. 1 Cor. 10:1-4). Not only would Christ serve as their guide, but He also would serve as their tabernacle of refuge from the heat, storms, and rains life (v. 6, Jn. 1:14). *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 Necessary To Hear The Right Thing

Jesus stated, "They bear witness of me" (John 5:39). As is noticed, he was referring to the Scriptures. The apostle Paul later wrote, "I am not ashamed of the gospel: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth" (Rom.1:16). That gospel of your salvation" (Eph. 1:7) is powerful to do what the Lord intended: "Receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls" (James 1:21). This, then, is the message Christ wants us to hear. By the hearing of this message (the gospel, the Scriptures), faith is produced: "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom. 10:17).

But how can we be sure we are hearing the right thing? Isn't it true that some have been deceived? God gives us a great example with the people of Berea. When Paul preached the gospel in Thessalonica, opposition arose and he was forced to leave town. He came to Berea and preached the same message. "These were more noble than they of Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, examining the Scriptures daily, whether these things were so" (Acts 17:11). When they heard, they went to the word of God and checked up to see if the preachers were telling it correctly! That is exactly what we should do. The apostle John wrote, "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but prove the spirits, whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world" (1 John 4:1). Make no mistake, if we are misled, we'll be guilty. God has given us the Scriptures by which to check everything we hear. We encourage you to "Take heed how ye hear."

**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 28

## AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *T. Mayces*  
 Opening Prayer: *E. Castillo*  
 Song Leader: *A. Maldonado*  
 Lord's Supper: *R. Trevino; J. Guillen; J. Mora; R. Baltierra*

Scripture: *1 Cor. 11:23-29*  
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Benediction: *N. Esenowo*

## PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *T. Mayces*  
 Opening Prayer: *B. Dorries*  
 Song Leader: *Cong. Singing*  
 Lord's Supper: *N. Esenowo; E. Castillo*

Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Benediction: *S. Amos*

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  
 Lisa Bond  
 Sam Amos

### BATTLING CANCER:

Barbara Oakes     Johna Dorries  
 Abigail Reyes     Graciola Anderson  
 Briana Nieves     Sonny Cary  
 Lori Main's father (hospice)

### SHUT-INS:

Dorothy Harper  
 Dazel Ball  
 Mildred Geest  
 Sarah Cannon

### TRAVELING:

A. Jacob; Courtney Cobb (Japan)

## SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

*September*

Organizing Monthly Luncheon:

*P. White*

Preparing Lord's Supper:

*P. White*

Auditorium Service Duties:

*P. White*

Wash baptismal garments; clean cry room

*P. White*

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 67*

**PM Sermon:**

*Congregational Singing*

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

August 17: *T. Mayces*

August 24: *A. Maldonado*

August 31: *R. Baltierra*

## FOR THE RECORD

### AUGUST 21/24

#### Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study     31  
 Sunday AM Worship     68  
 Sunday PM Worship     35  
 Wednesday Bible Study     25  
 Budget/Offering:     **\$2,140.02/ \$1,322.17**

Weekly Bible Readers: 5/11 (Adult Bible class)

## SHENANDOAH CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Church email Address:

[shenandoah@shenandoahcofc.org](mailto:shenandoah@shenandoahcofc.org)

### 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