

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 (21)

*Gabriel Rodriguez*

### Inside This Issue:

**How Israel Fell From Glory (19)**

*Shepherd's Corner:*  
**You Can't Get To Heaven Without Being Born Again**

We learn in Joshua 19:40-48 that the descendants of Dan settled just northeast from the nation of Philistine. It is near the eastern border that Samson, a descendant of Dan, interacted with the Philistines, a pagan nation that ruled Israel for 40 years. But as we learned last week, during those 40 years, an angel of the Lord appeared unto a family from Dan to tell them that they would bear a man child, call his name Samson (who name means light), that he would submit to the Nazarite vow (Num. 6), and that he would grow to be the next deliverer of Israel (Judg. 13). From verses 24 and 25 we learn that “*the child grew, the Lord blessed him, and that the spirit of the Lord began to move,*” referring to the coming of age of Samson and his deliverance of Israel from Philistine rule. In chapter 14, we see an interesting account develop that must be thought of rationally. We are introduced to a grown up Samson who sees a beautiful woman from the daughters of the Philistines and asks his parents to retrieve this woman to be his wife (vss. 1-2). His “Jewish” parents quickly retort: “*Is there not a woman from among Israel that you can rather choose than an uncircumcised Philistine?*” (v.3a). But Samson said unto his father, “*Get her for me, for she pleases me well!*” (v.3b). Now the next verse says, “*But his father and mother*

*did not know that this request was authorized by God, that God sought an occasion against the Philistines*” (v.4). So, what’s going on here?

We learn in Deuteronomy 7:3-4 and Joshua 23:12 that God had strictly forbade anyone from Israel, namely males, to make marriages with those from pagan upbringings, lest they should corrupt the lineage of God through idolatrous practices (cf. Num. 25:1-3). So is God reneging on his command? No! More likely what happened was, God disclosed to Samson what he wanted him to do, but Samson did not obey God’s plan with what He (God) had in mind, rather he allowed his physical desires (sexual lust) to change what God desired. Sort of like the case of Balaam and Balak (Num. 22-24), where God commanded Balaam to initially not go to meet Balak to curse Israel, but then God allow it, but cursed Balaam for going because Balaam’s intent had completely changed to suit his physical desires and not God’s (Num. 22:20-41). This is what is happening in this case. While God had a master plan to rid Israel of Philistine rule, Samson misused the plan to gratify his physical pleasures, which ultimately lead to his demise. May God be praised!

# How Israel Fell From Glory (19)

A Study in the Book of Isaiah

## Church News and Announcements

### CONGREGATION

The fellowship luncheon, is today after our morning services. Everyone, especially our visitors, are invited to stay and eat with us.

The Sunny Glenn Children's Home is asking for juices and paper towels. As in the past, if you would like to donate money so that the items may be purchased in bulk, please annotate check for Sunny Glen and place in the collection plate, or you may bring these items and place them in the library by December 7.

Our next home devotional will be on December 31 in annex building. Festivities will begin around 8:00 pm. Please bring games. We'll have a devotional to bring in the New Year. The menu will be soups, salads, and sandwiches.

The privilege sheets for the year 2017 are in the foyer. Please indicate where and when you are willing to serve.

### YOUTH

Our young adults and youth devotionals will be combined on December 22nd at the home of the Rodriguez's. Each person is asked to bring a wrapped \$20 gift for exchange. The menu will be Christmas dishes.

### YOUNG ADULT

Our young adults and youth devotionals will be combined on December 22nd at the home of the Rodriguez's. Each person is asked to bring a wrapped \$20 gift for exchange. The menu will be Christmas dishes.

### AREA NEWS

See Bulletin Board for area wide meetings

Instead of submitting to the will of God and reasoning correctly, Israel failed to change their ways before the Lord, and as a consequence, God was sending a mighty nation (Assyrians) to punish them. Israel scoffed at the idea of punishment through a foreign nation and began to form alliances with pagan nations (namely Egypt, ch. 30) to help them against any and all threats to their way of life. But God warned that both Israel and Egypt would be destroyed by the Assyrians. But instead of listening and changing their ways, Israel continued in their obstinate ways, to which God said, *"This is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the Lord: Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophecy deceits: Get you out of the way, turn aside out of the path, cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us"* (30:9-11). The Israelites only desired to hear what suited them, or what made them feel better, but in doing so, they rejected the truth of God's prophecy (30:15-18). Sadly, some in Israel's camp, innocent of any wrong doing, would suffer by proximity and this experience would be known to them as *"the bread of adversity and water of*

*affliction"* (30:20a). But there would be a bright side. That in times of despair, the heart is softened and God's "true" people would humble themselves, seek the right paths of God if they had fallen, and reject evil (30:21-22). Then God would respond by blessing His people, physically and spiritually (30:23-26).

So Isaiah proclaimed in gist: Wake up Israel! God's punishment, in the form of the Assyrians, were coming to punish Israel's wicked ways (30:27-33); hence, don't rely on Egypt for safety and help, because Egypt is no better and will also be destroyed (ch. 31), rather submit to God, the righteous King (ch. 32).

God noted what he desired from his people. A people whose conduct and character mimicked His; therefore, Isaiah mentioned, practically and prophetically, of a king who would reign in righteousness and that his princes would rule in judgment (32:1). This type of person would be *"a hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land"* (32:2). When people choose to do what is right, they then become a blessing to the world, and their actions show that they desire to know God and His will (32:3-4). 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

### You Can't Get To Heaven Without Being Born Again

A ruler of the Jews, who considered himself child of Abraham and a citizen of the kingdom of God, came to Jesus by night. He said, "I know thou art a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that thou doest, except God be with him" (John 3:2). Nicodemus must have been startled when Jesus replied, "Except one be born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (v. 3). Nicodemus was a citizen of the kingdom of Israel by a physical birth. And Jesus tells him he must be born again. But how can a man be born again was the question of Nicodemus. And Jesus answered: "Except one be born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (v. 5). Unless one is born again, of water and the spirit, he cannot travel the road to heaven.

A new life, beginning with a new birth, is necessary because, "All have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23). The apostle then wrote, "God commendeth his own love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us...Are ye ignorant that all we who were baptized into Christ were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him through baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life" (Rom. 5:8; 6:3-4). When one is born, he begins a new life - that is precisely what the word of God says happens when we are baptized into the death of Christ! Notice it also in 2 Cor. 5:17, "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature." When one is baptized into Christ" (Rom. 6:3), he becomes a "new creature" (2 Cor. 5:17) because he has been born of water and the Spirit" (John 3:5).

In spiritual regeneration, the "old man is crucified with him that the body of sin might be done away" (Rom. 6:6). The new life in Christ is begun with the new birth. The apostle Paul refers to this as the "washing of regeneration" (Tit. 3:5) that saves us from our sins. This is exactly what the Lord stated in the great commission. "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:15-16). There is the washing of regeneration. There is the new birth. There is the road to heaven.

If you are in a situation where "you can't get there from here," we encourage you to change. Study your Bible much, much more. Learn God's will for your life by carefully studying His word to you, repent of your sins and turn from them, confess Jesus Christ as the Son of God, be baptized into Christ and into his death. Then having been born again, and continually walking in the light, as He is in the light, the rest of your days on this earth, you can walk confidently in that "newness of life" that leads God's children to His Heavenly home.

**Bro. Wayne Holmes**

# CHURCH LEADERSHIP

## BISHOPS/SHEPHERDS/ ELDERS

(1 Tim. 3: 1-6)

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

## DEACONS

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

*Brother Raul Baltierra*

(210) 843-9730

*Brother Bill Dorries*

(210) 253-0173

## GOSPEL PREACHER

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

*Brother Gabriel Rodriguez*

(210) 315-4453



# December 11

## AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *W. Holmes*  
 Opening Prayer: *A. Maldonado*  
 Song Leader: *E. Castillo*  
 Lord's Supper: *G. Rodriguez; R. Trevino; T. Mayces; B. Dorries*

Scripture: *Matt. 27:45-54*  
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Benediction: *R. Baltierra Jr.*

## PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *W. Holmes*  
 Opening Prayer: *R. Trevino*  
 Song Leader: *A. Maldonado*  
 Lord's Supper: *J. Guillen; J. Watkins*  
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Benediction: *Z. Watkins*

After Greeter: *J. Guillen*  
 Greeter/Usher: *S. Amos*  
 AV Duty: *T. Mayces*  
 Elder in charge: *E. Hipp*

## REMEMBERING OUR BELOVED

(by writing, calling, and praying)  
 Wayne Holmes  
 Joe Guillen  
 Ina Dial  
 David and Elijah Sudhoff  
 Caral O'Banon  
 Helen Gross (aunt of sister Sarah)  
 Sam Amos (awaiting surgery)  
 Parents of David Lyssy  
 Sandra Welch (sister-in-law of Billie Dorries)  
 Eloise Creek - recovering from a fall.  
 She is at home now.

## BATTLING CANCER:

Johna Dorries      Abigail Reyes  
 Graciola Anderson      Sonny Cary  
 Arturo Hernandez      Tomas Guillen  
 Renalto (brother-in-law of Joe Guillen)

## SHUT-INS:

Dazel Ball  
 Mildred Geest  
 Sarah Cannon

## TRAVELING:

A. Jacob; Courtney Cobb (Japan)

## SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES DECEMBER

Organizing Monthly Luncheon:  
*Hipp*  
 Preparing Lord's Supper:  
*Hipp*  
 Auditorium Service Duties:  
*Hipp*  
 Wash baptismal garments; clean cry  
 room  
*Hipp*  
 Brother in charge of services:  
*M. de la Garza*

AM Theme:  
**The Hall of Fame:**  
*A Study of Hebrews 11*  
 PM Theme:  
**God's Love For His Church:**  
*A Study of the Song of Solomon*

**AM Sermon:**  
*The Account of Abraham (3)*  
**PM Sermon:**  
*The First Song (3)*

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL  
**December 7:** *B. Dorries*  
**December 14:** *D. Mathis*  
**December 21:** *W. Holmes*

## FOR THE RECORD

### DECEMBER 4/7

**Attendance:**  
 Sunday Bible Study      34  
 Sunday AM Worship      42  
 Sunday PM Worship      24  
 Wednesday Bible Study      43  
 Budget/Offering:      **\$2,140.02/ \$1,085.09**

Weekly Bible Readers: 8/21 (Adult Bible class)

## SHENANDOAH CHURCH OF CHRIST

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[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