

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 (20)

Gabriel Rodriguez

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Shepherd's Corner:
You Can't Get to Heaven In A Life Of Sin

We now come to chapters 13-16 and read about the account of *Samson*. Verse 1 tells us that the children of Israel had done evil again in the sight of the Lord, and through their wickedness, invited others of like sentiment, and fell under the tyranny of the Philistines, who enslaved them for 40 years. During that time, God prepared Israel's next deliverer. We learn in verse 2 of “*a certain man of Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah; and his wife was barren.*” An angel of the Lord visited his wife and told her, “*Behold now, thou art barren; but thou shalt conceive, and bear a son*” (v.3). The angel then told her, “*I pray thee, and drink not wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean thing; For, lo you will conceive, and bear a son; and no razor shall come on his head: for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb: and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines*” (vss. 4-5). The angel wanted the mother to take care of herself, namely her mental state, and then he wanted her to make sure that the son born to them was trained up in the same manner, by guarding their son's mind through the Nazarite vow (cf. Num. 5). The woman then told her husband (Monoah) about the meeting and the angel's message, which was later confirmed to him by the same angel in a

separate meeting (vss. 6-14). Monoah then proceeded to honor the man by wanting to provide him food and sacrifice. But the angel of the Lord rejected the food and sacrifice and told Monoah to worship God alone (vss. 15-17). Monoah then asked for the name of the angel, to which the angel replied, “*My name is secret*” (v. 18). Monoah then offered a sacrifice unto the Lord and the angel of the Lord worked miraculously by ascending into heaven in the flame of the altar of Monoah's sacrifice unto the Lord (v.20). The angel of the Lord did not appear anymore to Monoah and his wife (v. 21).

Just as the angel had augured, Monoah's wife bore a son and called his name Samson, and the Lord blessed him (v. 24). The name *Samson* meant brilliant, sunlight, a ray of the sun. In a time of darkness, Samson was called to provide light to Israel. This is why Samson's mind needed to be guarded, in order that his mind would be clear and strong to ward off the influences of his time, namely pagan Philistine culture and religion. Because of his strong mind, Samson's character, guided by God's mind, began to move in the camp of Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol. May God be praised!

How Israel Fell From Glory (18)

A Study in the Book of Isaiah

Church News and Announcements

CONGREGATION

The fellowship luncheon, hosted by the Hipps, will be next Sunday, December 11, after morning services. The menu is healthy potluck.

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

As we've noted, although God allowed wicked nations to destroy his people (this due to their practice of sin, which attracted others of like mind and therefore, suffering consequences of subjugation, destruction, and death), God reminded these pagan nations that they too would fall under condemnation and be destroyed (29:5-8). In other words, as the old proverb stated, "*Wickedness proceeds from the wicked...*" (1 Sam. 24:13). The problem with Israel had been, that their mind(s) had been taken captive by sin and wickedness (29:9-10). Israel had become enslaved to mental sinful habits, like a man enslaved to alcoholic consumption (29:9). And even when Israel attempted to draw near to God, their actions belied their true inner man - "*this people draw near to me with their mouth, and with their lips do honor me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men*" (v. 13). Israel was living a life of hypocrisy. Although they claimed themselves to be the people of God, their actions spoke differently. Israel was condemned because of their wickedness.

And despite their best efforts to hide their actions before the Lord, the Lord sees all and knows all (29:15). Isaiah then mentioned the example of the

potter and clay. Since the potter has all authority over the clay; therefore, what the potter wills, the clay will submit to (29:16). Israel was at the mercy of God, their potter.

But as before, God offered hope to those who would listen, repent, and obey (29:24). He promised a brighter tomorrow for the humble and godly seekers (29:18-19). But for the "*ruthless, scoffer, and all who watch to do evil,*" God would destroy (29:20-21). But in the end, God's name would be sanctified among his people and the world (29:22-23).

As pagan nations would eventually attack Israel, God recognized and abhorred their reliance upon other pagan nations to help them through their ordeal. This is exactly what Israel did as mentioned in chapter 30. Israel had become rebellious by rejecting the leadership and salvation of God (v.1), simply because they did not want to listen, change, and obey God. The majority of Israel thought they could win without God, and they asked the nation of Egypt to partner with them in order to conquer their enemy (vss. 2-3). But what God told Israel was, Egypt's help would be in vain, because the nation coming was mightier than they put together. 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 In A Life Of Sin

God's hatred of sin is clearly chronicled in His word (Prov. 6:16; 8-13; etc.). How much He hates sin is revealed best at Calvary, where Christ died to set us free from the shackles of sin. It is sin that separates us from God (Isa. 59:2). Jesus told the people of His day, "Except ye repent, ye shall all in like manner perish" (Luke 13:3). When the gospel was first preached after the death of Jesus on the cross, and people asked what to do, the first thing they were told was, "Repent" (Acts 2:38). To repent means to change one's mind about sin. If one truly intends to go to haven, he must be willing to repent of sin, and leave that kind of life.

The good news is that people can change. Christ will not save people in their sins, but He is anxious to forgive those who are willing to leave sin. "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God. Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, now effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with men, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Cor: 6: 9-10). But then the apostle added, "And such were some of you: but ye were washed, but ye were sanctified, but ye were justified" (1 Cor. 6: 9-11). Notice the tense of that verb: "were." They had been sinners. But that was in the past. They had quit living that kind of life. These people could not get to heaven if they continued to steal, get drunk, revile, etc. But they could "repent." And when they did, the road to heaven was opened to them, just the same as it is to us when we repent and live faithfully until death.

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 4

AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *D. Mathis*
 Opening Prayer: *R. Baltierra*
 Song Leader: *R. Trevino*
 Lord's Supper: *J. Mokry; N. Esenowo; E. Hipp; A. Maldonado*

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

PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *D. Mathis*
 Opening Prayer: *B. Dorries*
 Song Leader: *G. Rodriguez*
 Lord's Supper: *T. Mayces; S. Amos*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *W. Holmes*

After Greeter: *E & K Hipp*
 Greeter/Usher: *B. Dorries*
 AV Duty: *R. Baltierra Jr.*
 Elder in charge: *W. Holmes*

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 HealthSouth Rehab.

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 (2)
PM Sermon:
The First Song (2)

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

FOR THE RECORD

NOVEMBER 27/30

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study 50
 Sunday AM Worship 70
 Sunday PM Worship 52
 Wednesday Bible Study 46
 Budget/Offering: **\$2,140.02/ \$2,249.00**

Weekly Bible Readers: 4/21 (Adult Bible class)

SHENANDOAH CHURCH OF CHRIST

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 Church email Address:

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