

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 (22)

Gabriel Rodriguez

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What Is The Church Of The Bible?

Something we have to first identify to understand the language of the Bible is, especially here in the book of Judges, what role does God play and what role does man play in course of human events? In other words, when it makes mention of God doing something man is ultimately responsible for, then what does the statement actually mean? While we know all things come from God and nothing can be done without God's provisions and power (generally-speaking), then when great exploits were accomplished by man, it was not so much God doing them directly, rather indirectly (*through God's blessings*), man was able to accomplish great feats of life. For example, in the army of David we read of some great and mighty men (1 Chron. 11:10-47). We read of Benaiah, the son of a valiant man, who did many courageous acts, such as slaying two lion-like men of Moab and killing a lion in a pit on a snowy day. He also killed an Egyptian who stood over 7 1/2 feet tall (1 Chron. 11:23). Benaiah was the one who performed these great feats, but it is God who received all honor and glory, because without His provisions of mental and physical power we are nothing. This is the point.

Now, as we come back to the account of Samson, this is what we have here as well. Although the great exploits of

Samson are seen as coming from the Lord with the statement, “*and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him,*” this in no way suggested that God miraculously gave him direct power to accomplish these feats, rather through the provisions of God, Samson utilized his natural abilities and did some amazing things. Hence, we read in Judges 14:5-6 that as Samson and his family went to Timnath to search for the woman that he wanted to marry, a young lion roared against him and Samson killed the lion as easily as killing a goat. After which, the carcass of the lion he had killed yielded a rich food source for he and his family (i.e., *honey*) (Judg. 14:8-9). But not only was Samson a great man of courage and strength, he was also a man of wit and intellect, as demonstrated by the use of great riddles during his marriage feast with the men of Philistine (Judg. 14:10-14). If they could solve his riddle, Samson would bless them, but if not, then Samson suggested that he would receive blessings from the men of Philistine. But Samson's choice of wife, *a choice he made*, not for the purpose God intended, but for his own lustful pleasures, turned out to be his downfall and the cause for delaying and distorting the plan of God. May God be praised!

How Israel Fell From Glory (20)

A Study in the Book of Isaiah

Church News and Announcements

CONGREGATION

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

From chapters 32-35, Isaiah speaks of a coming King and people (i.e., Christ and His church) who would restore what Israel had failed to do, namely, to become God's models of righteousness and faithfulness to the entire whole world (Deut. 4:6-7). But since His people choose to become evil (32:6-7), God looked for "*he who is noble because he plans noble things, and on noble things he stands*" (32:8) - the man Jesus Christ

God condemned Israel, likening her to a stagnate and complacent woman, but prophesied that she would be stripped of her glory and blessings (32:9-14), until she possessed a different spirit (mindset) (32:15), a spirit of wanting to please God and do His blessed will. If they choose this path, then "*justice would dwell in the wilderness, righteousness would abide in the fruitful field, and peace, righteousness, quietness, and trust would remain forever*" (32:16-17). God promised His people, if they obeyed, that they would possess a peaceful habitation and secure dwelling, and would be blessed immensely (32:18-20).

And as mentioned, although God allowed Assyria and Babylon to be Israel's conquerers, their impudence would eventually be met by God's wrath, who would

destroy them for their wicked ways (33:1). In other words, God would restore His first, resentful and then faithful people, back to prominence after the hardship lessons of discipline (33:2-5). This would show that God is always exalted and that Zion (*His dwelling place*) calls for justice and righteousness. But before this could happen, despair would be confronted, because lessons are best learned when we struggle. Hence, Israel's struggles would come to teach them what they were missing when they choose to disobey God: blessings and honor (33:6-12). But as before, God prophesied that these pagan nations used in Israel's discipline would be destroyed for the same commitments of wickedness (33:13-14). Therefore, the rhetorical question was asked: "*Who among us can dwell with the consuming fire?*" God answers and says, "*He who walks uprightly, despises gain of oppressions, shakes hands to receive brides, stops his ears from hearing bloodshed, and shuts his eyes from looking on evil*" (33:15). It is this person who obeys God, that will be safe from harm, and who will be part of a kingdom that will be saved by God (33:16-24). 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

What Is The Church Of The Bible?

When Peter, with the other apostles, confessed to Jesus, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God," Jesus replied: "Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven" (Matt. 16:16-19). These words of the Lord Jesus Christ stand as a monument today testifying to the folly of men. According to His promise, He was to build His church. He did. But since that promise was given, men have "built" or "added" many other churches to the one which Jesus built. In spite of His promise, "Every plant which my heavenly Father hath not planted shall be rooted up" (Matt. 15:13). There are many who are perfectly willing to enter into competition with the Lord by establishing other churches.

Today, in the United States alone, there are hundreds of distinct religious groups - "churches" or denominations. Each one of these is different from all the rest in a few ways, or in many ways. They make many different kind of claims: as to purpose, authority, source, etc. In the face of so many claims, how can one know which is right - or even whether any of them are? The only way to be sure is to go back to the Bible, the inspired word of God, and find the church revealed there.

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 18

AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *G. Rodriguez*
 Opening Prayer: *J. Mokry*
 Song Leader: *E. Hipp*
 Lord's Supper: *E. Castillo; R. Baltierra, Jr.; J. Guillen; N. Esenowo*

Scripture: *Lk. 23:33-38*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *D. Mathis*

PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *G. Rodriguez*
 Opening Prayer: *J. Guillen*
 Song Leader: *R. Trevino*
 Lord's Supper: *E. Hipp; Z. Watkins*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *R. Baltierra*

After Greeter: *G & I Rodriguez*
 Greeter/Usher: *T. Mayces*
 AV Duty: *J. Guillen*
 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 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 (4)
PM Sermon:
The First Song (4)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

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

FOR THE RECORD

DECEMBER 11/15

Attendance:
 Sunday Bible Study 40
 Sunday AM Worship 65
 Sunday PM Worship 42
 Wednesday Bible Study 47
 Budget/Offering: **\$2,140.02/ \$14,035.15**

Weekly Bible Readers: 8/18 (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