

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 (2)

Gabriel Rodriguez

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Combining the facts that there arose a generation which knew not the Lord (2:10) and Israel's failure to completely eradicate the Canaanites as God commanded (Deut. 7:1-5), the prediction of Israel's demise into sin and destruction came to pass (2:3-4). The remnant of Canaanites slowly influenced Israel to worship their false gods, namely Baal and Ashteroth (2:11-13). As a result, Israel succumbed to the evil and wicked practices of the Canaanites, and in return suffered tremendously socially, physically, and spiritually. Hence, *“the anger of the Lord was hot against Israel, and he delivered them into the hands of spoilers and spoiled them, and he sold them into the hands of their enemies round about, so that they could not any longer stand before their enemies”* (2:14). In other words, Israel had put herself in this predicament. By accepting and practicing idolatry, they in turn accepted the evil and wicked practices that followed, which later turned against them as they became prey. The message is, sin has a way of influencing us to accept and practice wickedness (Jas. 1:14), but what many don't realize is, the practice of sin eventually destroys ourselves and each other (Jas. 1:15; Gal. 5:19-21). This is what was going on during the days of the Judges. While at first everything seemed enjoyable, the practice of idolatry soon began to harm and destroy those who engaged in it. Israel became prey and victims to the horrible acts of idolatry, namely slavery (once again) to pagan inhabitants. And as before, Israel became *“greatly distressed”* (2:15, cf. Ex. 1:12-13) and pleaded with the Lord for help.

In God's kindness and generosity, God helped his people and raised up a judge (*a deliverer*), who would lift them up out of their own faulty decisions. Sort of like **Emergency First Responders** who are called to help someone trapped in a vehicle in flooding waters. But in many of these cases the person didn't use logic and common sense in crossing a raging flow of water with his vehicle and created her/his problem that could have been avoided. Hence, rescuers risk their lives to help someone who could have avoided the situation to begin with. This is what we have here with Israel.

Israel was warned in advance why it was necessary the entire population of Canaan be expunged; but through fear, lack of courage, and an undisciplined mind, Israel failed God and set herself up for future problems. And as God predicted, the evil influences were so great that Israel succumbed to sin and its practices, to which God had to send men and women (judges) who were examples of what God wanted the entire nation to be - strong and courageous unto God!

Yet the sad reality is, after Israel's deliverance and the death of their rescuing judge, Israel returned to idolatry and corrupted themselves more than their fathers (2:19). Hence, the cycle of sin problems started once again and Israel found herself in the same predicament. To which God said, *“I also will not henceforth drive out any from before them of the nations which Joshua left when he died. That through them I may prove Israel, whether they will keep the way of the Lord to walk therein...”* (2:21-22).

An Analysis of 1 Corinthians 12-14 (23)

Church News and Announcements

CONGREGATION

No announcements to be made.

YOUTH

Our next youth devotional will be August 12th at 7:00 pm at the Hipps' home. All our youth are encouraged to attend.

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.

Let's conclude everything we've studied up to chapter 14. The church at Corinth was plagued with problems arising from carnal minded brethren (1:10-3:5). Despite the influx of sin and fighting among each other (chs. 5-9), Paul encouraged the church to set aside differences and help each other in what truly mattered - the salvation of souls (chs. 10-12). Ultimately he wanted the body to practice love from which unity come only come from (ch. 13:1-8). But Paul understood that love and unity could only come from someone who was mature, meaning someone who knew and understood the will of the Lord (13:9-13). This is why Paul spent considerable time explaining the importance of knowing and understanding the word of God (ch. 14). When we are people that desire knowledge and understanding (Pr. 2:1-5), we know that this is the only way we can achieve what God demands and commands of us (Col. 3:17).

Let me emphasize again, Paul underscored the importance of knowing and understanding what God meant and said. This is what is destroying the unity of the church today. When people don't interpret correctly the word of God, following the rules of hermeneutics, then certainly disunity, hatred, and anger will be fueled; items that God condemns in his people (Eph. 4:31; Jas. 4:1-4). This was the exact problem of the Jews during the days of Jesus, men and women who were expected to know and understand the will of the Lord in their ignorance set in motion their defiance against God, and disunity with Jesus (Matt. 23). The same can happen to us if we are not careful. The church can follow the same path of the Jews and be destroyed for her lack of knowledge and understanding. More so, it comes in the area of understanding what the will of the Lord is (Eph. 5:17). Too

many times we have members of the church "speaking in different languages" (so to speak), when in reality we need each of us to be on the same page of understanding. Unfortunately, we have men and women who come to us in the spirit of the Pharisees and Sadducees, and who truly don't know and understand the will of God, but through tradition and illogical thinking lead others in the same path. This is why the church of our Lord has become stagnate in growth and prosperity. Often times many feel that works and intentions will cover up the error of understanding, but in reality this perpetuates sin and error.

The Bible is the mind of God and to know God is to know and understand His will for us. This is why we must study (2 Tim. 2:15) and meditate (Ps. 1:2) on God's will. By doing this we then can we effectively live as He has called us to live. This is why we have so many differences in thought and doctrine, because the goal of the student is not to study, meditate, and resolve differences and unity (1 Cor. 1:10), but to be okay with mediocrity and division we are witnessing. Let's be reminded that God "*abhors discord among brethren*" (Pr. 6:19) and that Jesus prayed for complete unity for all of his followers, just as God and Jesus are one (Jn. 17:20-21). So what makes us think that God isn't serious about misunderstanding, which leads to division, hatred, and anger. We as God's people should work together to figure out our differences we have and have the humility to admit fault. The only way we can make a change in life is when we showcase to the world our unity based on logic, reason, and common sense, supported by the Scriptures. It is time we begin to know and understand the Lord's will. 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

Learn To Slow Your Anger

"A hot tempered man stirs up strife, but the slow to anger pacifies contention" (Prov. 15:18). Some people just let their anger go, often at the very people with whom they are closest. This anger sometimes explodes for the smallest reasons. When people live in a home filled with that kind of anger, closeness and security are lost as people cower, afraid to try for fear of failing and causing another explosion. God asks us to go in the opposite direction by learning to be patient. This will not only keep those close to us from fearing us, it will also calm a quarrel.

"This you know, my beloved brethren. But let eve one be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger, for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God" (James 1:19-20). James tells us to use a similar pattern. In place of quick answers and quick arguments, we are told to learn to be patient, hearing others out. Then we are encouraged to mull things over before we speak. Using this process will low down our anger.

Then James makes a critical point for families today. Man's anger will not accomplish the righteous life (or family life) that God desires. Why do Christian homes have problems? Often, it is because too many believers let their anger loose, damaging the most precious relationships God can give them. If all people, especially believers, would learn to slow their anger, then more homes would have fewer problems.

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



July 31

AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *W. Holmes*
 Opening Prayer: *A. Maldonado*
 Song Leader: *R. Trevino*
 Lord's Supper: *N. Esenowo; M. de la Garza; J. Mora; S. Amos*

Scripture: *Jn. 19:17-22*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *B. Dorries*

PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *W. Holmes*
 Opening Prayer: *J. Guillen*
 Song Leader: *Cong. Singing*
 Lord's Supper: *E. Castillo; R. Trevino*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *E. Hipp*

After Greeter: *W & K Holmes*
 Greeter/Usher: *J. Guillen*
 AV Duty: *R. Baltierra Jr.*
 Elder in charge: *W. Holmes*

REMEMBERING OUR BELOVED

(by writing, calling, and praying)

Wayne Holmes
 Rina White
 Joe Guillen
 Sarah Cannon
 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
 George Jackson Briana Nieves
 Sonny Cary Elwyn Hipp
 Gwen Parker Lori Main's father
 Tomas Guillen

SHUT-INS:

Dorothy Harper
 Dazel Ball
 Mildred Geest

TRAVELING:

A. Jacob; Courtney Cobb (Japan); Mayces

DEPLOYED: Jimmie Cardenas

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 61

PM Sermon:

Congregational Singing

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

July 27: *E. Castillo*

August 3: *J. Guillen*

August 10: *R. Baltierra Jr.*

FOR THE RECORD

JULY 24/27

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study 29
 Sunday AM Worship 51
 Sunday PM Worship 31
 Wednesday Bible Study 34
 Budget/Offering: **\$2,140.02/ \$1,425.50**

Weekly Bible Readers: 8/21 (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