

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 (19)

*Gabriel Rodriguez*

### Inside This Issue:

**How Israel Fell From Glory (17)**

*Shepherd's Corner:*  
**You Can't Get to Heaven Through Lack of Knowledge**

The account of Jephthah ends with a battle for power between Ephraim and Gilead (12:1-7). Since Jephthah had conquered the children of Ammon (11:320, just east of them, the tribe of Ephraim disputed against Jephthah, asking him why they weren't called to help wage war against the children of Ammon (12:1a). Jephthah responded by saying that he did, but at that time they didn't brother to help him, so he just went ahead and conquered the Ammonites (12:2-3). *(It was not until after Jephthah was successful that the leaders of Ephraim became interested, probably due to the gathering of land and power through the victory).*

Along with the threat of violence from the leaders of Ephraim (12:1b), Jephthah decided to strike militarily after an insult was given to his men of war, citing that the only reason they won the war against the Ammonites was because the men of Gilead were only fugitives of theirs (12:4). Jephthah and his men then defeated about 42,000 Ephraimites, showing that it wasn't Ephraim that won the battle for them, rather it was Jephthah and the Gileadites that conquered their foes (12:5-6). It goes to show that words can bring about disastrous results if we are not careful in what we say. *“Jephthah judged Israel six*

*years, and then he died and was buried in one of the cities of Gilead” (12:7).*

The next three judges mentioned were Ibzan, Elon, and Abdon (12: 8-15). Ibzan ruled for 7 years, Elon ruled for 10 years, and Abdon ruled for 8 years. The name Ibzan means *splendid*. The name Elon means *mighty*. And the name of Abdon meant *servile*. It seems to indicate from their names that the rule of these men were in line with the righteousness of God. With nothing really said of their tenure as ruler, this merely shows that after the death of Jephthah, the children of Israel lived in relative peace and prosperity. Both Ibzan and Abdon had the privilege of raising many sons, daughters, and relatives, suggesting the ease of life by which they were able to have children and prosper. But this time would soon be replaced by the cycle of Israel's desire to grope after sin again - *“And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the Lord; and the Lord delivered them into the hand of the Philistines forty years” (13:1).* As we mentioned before, through Israel's actions of sin and wickedness, this lifestyle attracted others of the same kind to her, and as such, suffered the consequences, which in turn was evil men subjugating her. May God be praised!

# How Israel Fell From Glory (17)

A Study in the Book of Isaiah

## Church News and Announcements

### CONGREGATION

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 at the home of the Rodriguezs'. Festivities will begin around 5:00 pm. The menu will be soups, salads, and sandwiches.

### YOUTH

Our next youth devotional will be at the home of the Rodriguez's on December 22. Each young person is asked to buy a unisex gift to be exchanged.

### YOUNG ADULT

Our next young adult devotional is scheduled for December 16th. More details to follow soon.

### AREA NEWS

See Bulletin Board for area wide meetings

Isaiah 28:16, "*Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation; he that believeth shall not make haste*" is mentioned by Jesus and the Apostles in Matthew 21:42, Mark 12:10, Acts 4:11-12, and Romans 9:33. In the context of wicked Israel, God promised of a coming prophet (Deut. 18:15-22), who would set in order God's plan of salvation. Both Jesus and the Apostles applied this passage in their ministry to (once again) a defunct Israel, apprising them that He, (Jesus), would serve as Israel's new foundational stone. But what did this mean? According to 1 Corinthians 3:11, Paul said, "*For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*" The foundation had reference to one's work (actions of life) (1 Cor. 3:13). Hence, the foundation of Christ signifies his body of work (his life), which would serve as the foundation for every man. In other words, how Christ lived his life would become the standard for how we should live ours. This is why Isaiah then says, "*Judgment will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet: and the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding place*" (28:17). Did you get that? Both judgment and righteousness would be the standard for living, and

those that didn't meet this standard would be destroyed - "*And your covenant with death shall be disannulled, and your agreement with hell shall not stand; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, then ye shall be trodden down by it*" (28:18). But Isaiah pointed out, though, God wasn't about complete destruction, rather He wanted these times of despair to instruct them distraction and insight (28:26). In other words, use this time for reflection. Why is this happening to me? What should I have done better? What can I correct? This is what God was trying to help Israel with. He was attempting to explain to her that with every action is a reaction, and for every effect a cause.

As we enter into chapter 29, God calls for his once "*lion-like*" (Ariel) nation to look at what has happened to her. God begins with the word "*woe*" to indicate how low Israel, the mighty, had fallen (v.1). She had fallen to the point that pagan idolatry had taken her captive; therefore, God would be in heaviness and sorrow (v. 2). God, in response, to Israel's actions would be destroyed by her enemies and her fame would be as a whisper from the dust of the ground (vss. 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 Through Lack Of Knowledge

Saul of Tarsus was an ardent defender of Judaism. He not only opposed Christianity, he persecuted Christians and helped put them to death (Acts 26:9-10). After his conversion to Christ, he said, "I verily thought with myself that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. And this I also did" (Acts 26:9-10). This man later called "Paul," looked back over his life and wrote, "I was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: howbeit I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief" (1 Tim. 1:13). He was sincere, he was honest, he earnestly believed he was right to oppose Christianity - but he was wrong. He could not go to heaven from a state of lacking knowledge. He had to learn the truth.

Paul knew that lack of knowledge could not save. After he came to Christ, he spent the rest of his life preaching the gospel of Christ. In Athens he found a city full of idols, and he began his preaching by talking about their alter "to an unknown God" (Acts 17-13). He told them, "The times of ignorance therefore God overlooked, but now he commandeth men that they should all everywhere repent" (v. 30). Jesus said it clearly, "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32). The only way to come to God is to learn from God (John 6:45). Only by knowing His truth can we be made free (John 8:32).

**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



# November 27

## AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *B. Dorries*  
 Opening Prayer: *N. Esenowo*  
 Song Leader: *A. Maldonado*  
 Lord's Supper: *E. Castillo; R. Baltierra Jr.; R. Trevino; D. Mathis*

Scripture: *Isa. 53:6-9*  
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Benediction: *S. Amos*

## PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *B. Dorries*  
 Opening Prayer: *A. Maldonado*  
 Song Leader: *Cong. singing*  
 Lord's Supper: *J. Mokry; Z. Watkins*  
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Benediction: *M. de la Garza*

After Greeter: *E. Creek*  
 Greeter/Usher: *G. Gribble*  
 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 (fell again last week; is in 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);  
 Mayces

## 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*  
**PM Sermon:**  
*Congregational Singing*

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL  
**November 23:** *R. Baltierra*  
**November 30:** *E. Hipp*  
**December 7:** *B. Dorries*

## FOR THE RECORD

### NOVEMBER 20/23

**Attendance:**  
 Sunday Bible Study      46  
 Sunday AM Worship      71  
 Sunday PM Worship      44  
 Wednesday Bible Study      36  
 Budget/Offering:      **\$2,140.02/ \$2,242.00**

Weekly Bible Readers: 7/21 (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