

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 (18)

Gabriel Rodriguez

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The vow of Jephthah is a case of saying something before thinking. What is interesting in this section (11:32-40) is God's silence in the matter. We learned last week that Jephthah made a vow unto the Lord, saying, that if He (God) would give him the victory over the children of Ammon, then when he returned from battle, whatever came forth from the doors of his house to meet him, he would offer as a burnt offering unto the Lord. Several questions come to mind as one meditates on this pericope. *First*, how could Jephthah guarantee that an animal and not a person would come to meet him? *Second*, Jephthah was a mighty man of valor, so why wasn't he and the nation of Israel confident in securing a victory over Ammon, without making a vow? *Third*, when his “only” daughter was the first to meet him after his victory, thus enacting the vow, did God really desire Jephthah to fulfill his vow? In other words, did God expect a human sacrifice to be given unto Him?

There are numerous problems with this section. *First*, how can one make a vow on pure chance and speculation, especially when it came to sacrificing a burnt offering to the Lord? Jephthah knew and understood that the only item the Lord accepted as a burnt offering was an animal, so why would he make a vow that had the potential of a human

being meeting him from the doors of his house? Seems to me, then, that Jephthah made a foolish vow. *Second*, Jephthah should have been confident in his ability to lead Israel in victory over Ammon, thus alleviating the need for a vow. In other words, as a mighty man of valor, Jephthah had the tools by which to lead Israel to victory, and a vow for help only displayed Jephthah's vulnerability (a lack of courage). *Third*, if Jephthah would have been 100% confident in his and Israel abilities then his predicament with his only daughter would not have occurred.

Now, what is peculiar is, Jephthah exclaimed that he could not go back on the vow he made (v.35), but when we read of what occurred, Jephthah did not offer his daughter as a burnt offering. Why? Because this pagan and idolatrous practice (*human sacrifice*) was an abomination to the Lord (Lev. 18:21). Hence, the vow was changed, and instead the daughter was given wholly unto the service of the Lord (cf. 1 Cor. 7: 31-34). In other words, a sacrifice of self was what the daughter of Jephthah ended up observing, meaning she gave up being an eventual wife and mother to serve the Lord perpetually. What this section teaches is, be careful what you say. May God be praised!

How Israel Fell From Glory (16)

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 Rodriguezs' 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

As we learned last week, despite God's use of pagan nations to punish and destroy Israel for her wicked ways, God reminded these same pagan nations of their coming and just judgment: "*In that day the Lord with his sore and great and strong sword shall punish leviathan the piercing serpent, even leviathan that crooked serpent; and he shall slay the dragon that is in the sea*" (27:1). And in their destruction, God promised that a new Jacob and Israel would "*blossom, bud, and fill the face of the world with fruit*" (27:6). But before this could occur, Israel had to be "*purged of sin*" through the use of pagan powerhouses (27:9-13). Hence, in chapter 28:1-13, God reminds first, Ephraim, of their wicked ways and cleansing - "*Woe to the crown of pride, to the drunkards of Ephraim, whose glorious beauty is a fading flower...the Lord has a mighty and strong one, which as a tempest of hail and a destroying storm...shall case down to the earth with the hand. The crown of pride, the drunkards of Ephraim, shall be trodden under feet*" (vss. 1-3). Second, he reminded Jerusalem of her wicked ways saying, "*But they also have erred through wine, and through strong drink are out of the way; the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink, they are swallowed up of wine, they are*

out of the way through strong drink; they err in vision the stumble in judgment" (v. 7). Therefore, "*their tables are full of vomit and filthiness, so that there is no place clean*" (v. 8).

In both instances, Ephraim and Jerusalem had allowed herself to be corrupted with selfishness (pride) leading to actions that gratified their bodies. This is why the use of alcoholic beverages was prevalent among the nation of Israel, and as a result, God's people did not think clearly and their actions became disgusting and immoral. Because of their mumbled thought process, these were unable to "*teach and understand*" a unified doctrine of God (vss. 9-11). While the word of God intended to be refreshing to the minds of his hearers, through their actions of drunkenness, God's clear word was turned into a snare as they fell backwards into sin and wickedness. Hence, these "*scornful men*" (28:14) had made a "*covenant with death and hell under falsehood*" (28:15). But the Lord would set them in order as He prophesied of one that would come: "*I lay in Zion for a foundation, a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation; he that believes shall not make haste*" (28:16). 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

On Getting To Heaven

We all want to "go home" to be with God, and we search for the way that leads there. But truthfully, we sometimes aren't able to get there from where we are. Jesus said, "*Enter ye in by the narrow gate...For narrow is the gate, and straitened the way, that leadeth unto life, and few are they that find it*" (Matt. 7:13-14). If that comes across as being too narrow and restrictive, it could be because we don't appreciate the glories of Heaven and the path that leads there. Later in that same conversation, Jesus said, "*Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father who is in heaven*" (v.21). Just wanting to go to heaven doesn't guarantee we will! Jesus further said, "*I am the way, and the truth, and the life: no one cometh unto the Father, but by me*" (John 14:6). He is our only way to the Father. All those who go to heaven must go by Jesus Christ. There is no other way to God.

No one is going to go to heaven by accident. Many yearn for the joys and security of heaven, but they can't get there because they are uninformed of God's plan of salvation. Jesus explained, "*They shall all be taught of God. Every that hath heard from the Father, and hath learned, cometh unto me*" (John 6:45). One must learn the path God wants for him to walk before he can walk it. Christianity is a "taught religion," and the thing taught is clearly revealed: "*I am not ashamed of the gospel: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth...For therein is revealed a righteousness of God from faith unto faith*" (Rom. 1:16-17). The apostle then declared in that same letter, "*Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ*" (Rom. 10:17).

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

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 20

AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *E. Hipp*
 Opening Prayer: *R. Trevino*
 Song Leader: *E. Castillo*
 Lord's Supper: *B. Dorries; R. Baltierra; A. Maldonado; S. Amos*

Scripture: *Matt. 27:27-35*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *G. Rodriguez*

PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *E. Hipp*
 Opening Prayer: *J. Mokry*
 Song Leader: *G. Rodriguez*
 Lord's Supper: *E. Castillo; R. Trevino*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *T. Mayces*

After Greeter: *P. White*
 Greeter/Usher: *T. Mayces*
 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
 Sam Amos
 Helen Gross (aunt of sister Sarah)
 Sam Amos (awaiting surgery)
 Parents of David Lyssy
 Sandra Welch (sister-in-law of Billie Dorries)

BATTLING CANCER:

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

SHUT-INS:

Dorothy Harper
 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 Noah

PM Sermon:

The First Song:
True Love

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

November 23: *R. Baltierra*

November 30: *E. Hipp*

December 7: *B. Dorries*

FOR THE RECORD

NOVEMBER 13/16

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study 47
 Sunday AM Worship 63
 Sunday PM Worship 34
 Wednesday Bible Study 45
 Budget/Offering: **\$2,140.02/ \$1,150.10**

Weekly Bible Readers: 7/22 (Adult Bible class)

SHENANDOAH CHURCH OF CHRIST

11026 Wurzbach Rd.
 San Antonio, TX 78230
 (210) 696-5532

Fax: (210) 696-5181

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