

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 (14)

Gabriel Rodriguez

Inside This Issue:

How Israel Fell From Glory (12)

Shepherd's Corner:

We Must Retain Our Commitment to the Lord

Chapter 9 gives us a glimpse of what happens when people are not fully committed in following God's will. After Gideon's victory over the Midianites and his eventual death (8:33a), Israel returned to wickedness (through unresolved mental wicked habits learned from pagan neighbors) by worshipping an ephod that Gideon had constructed out of gold (8:27) - *“they turned again and went a whoring after Baalim, and made Baal-beirth their god”* (8:33b). Their sin was exacerbated by Gideon's penchant for sex, as he had 70 sons from his many wives and 1 son from a concubine he had in Shechem, who he named Abimelech (i.e., “father of a king”) (8:29-31). All of these evil actions served to create the perfect storm for internal chaos and future problems and destruction.

Through Gideon's poor choice of allowing his pleasures to dominate his life, the fruit of his lustful passions took center stage in chapter 9 as Abimelech, the son of his concubine, led a private campaign to aggrandize himself before the people of his mother's house in Shechem (9:1-2). Abimelech wanted to the right to rule over the people of Israel, but he knew that 70 legitimate sons of Gideon, who resided in Orpah, stood in his way. As soon as Abimelech secured the votes of the people of

Shechem to help him become their next king, Abimelech led a mutiny, hiring *“vain and wicked persons”* to help him kill the 70 sons of Gideon at Orpah (9:3-4).

They killed all, save one, named Jotham, the youngest son of Gideon, who hid himself during the violence (9:5). After the slaughter, Abimelech secured his kingship (9:6). But Jotham later emerged after hearing that Abimelech was made king and went to the top of mount Gerizim, crying out to the people of Israel to help them understand through a parable what Abimelech had truly done (9:7-21). Abimelech had swindled his way into the kingship by forcing himself upon them (vss. 8-16). He further noted that Abimelech wasn't even a true heir to the throne (v.18). Jotham then rhetorically asked, Is this any way to treat a war hero's family? (vss. 16-17) He then made a plea to their sense of logic and sensibility by expressing that if their decision to kill Gideon's sons was right, then everything following should be blessed; but if not, then let fire and destruction plague Abimelech and the men of Shechem for their gross sinful conduct (vss. 19-21). Abimelech ruled over Israel for three years (v.22). May God be praised!

How Israel Fell From Glory (12)

A Study in the Book of Isaiah

Church News and Announcements

CONGREGATION

The Ladies' Bible class and Men's Training class is today at 4:00 pm. The ladies will be studying lesson 4 in their book and the men will resume their study in the book of Zechariah.

YOUTH

Our youth devotional is being paired with our young adult devotional on October 28 at the home of the Rodriguez at 7:00 pm. We look forward to seeing everyone with us that night.

YOUNG ADULT

An application has been sent to TXDOT for Adopting A Highway. Hopefully Gabriel will get notice soon and set a date and time for young adults to help clean our environment.

Our next young adult devotional is scheduled for October 28 at the home of the Rodriguez's. Festivities will begin at 7:00 pm.

AREA NEWS

See Bulletin Board for area wide meetings

Since Israel and Judah had become a kingdom of sin and wickedness, God prophesied of a coming kingdom that would possess an opposite nature - an obedient and faithful kingdom to God (2:2-3). This kingdom would be led by a faithful and righteous king (7:13-15; 9:6). And so again, after the prophecy of Israel's and Judah's destruction and demise, God augured the coming of a new king and kingdom that would eventually dominate the world.

In chapter 11, Isaiah said, "*And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots*" (v.1). A rod was a symbol of power and authority; hence, power and authority would come from the loins of Jesse, referring to the lineage of Jesse and David (cf. 2 Sam. 7:13-14). From the throne of David, a branch, signifying growth and sustenance, would grow out of his roots (cf. Lk. 1:30-33), the man Jesus Christ (Lk. 2:40,52). Isaiah said that upon Jesus "*the spirit (mind) of the Lord shall rest upon him - the spirit (mind) of knowledge, understanding, wisdom, counsel, might, and the fear of the Lord*" (v.2). What would make Jesus great was his mind and the use of it - as he read, understood, and correctly obeyed the Lord. This rendered Christ righteous and faithful

before the Lord (v.5), and because of his righteous' behavior, he would then have the authority to rule and judge over God's people and the entire world (vss. 3-4). Further, because of his wise mind, counsel, and stature, Jesus would have the ability to bring enemies together and create a kingdom of peace (vss. 6-9).

Jesus then would become the true "*ensign*" for all people of the world, and through him all nations would be blessed and be a peace (vss. 10-16, cf. 2:2-3). Jesus would gather all of God's faithful remnant throughout the world, and as for God's enemies, they would be destroyed. God would leave a "*highway*" (v.16) for the world, signifying a path left for the people of the world to find God and travel back home. In John 14:6, Jesus would say, "*I am the way, the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father, except by me.*" Jesus is the highway by which we come back home to God. How? Jesus becomes the standard, model, and example in how we should live our lives. The word "*ensign*" means a standard by which to follow; hence, Christ, his life, words, and actions becomes our way of life, and if we follow him, then we'll be with God. 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

We Must Retain Our Commitment To The Lord

"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful" (Heb.10:23). Having given His children the great gift of fellowship with Him, God now desires that His children not lose that gift. So, God encourages His followers to "hold fast" and not give up. For the recipients of this epistle that meant they were not to return to Judaism. They were tempted to go back because Christians were facing persecution and hardship. Being a Jew had not been that challenging. Being a Christian was turning out to be hard.

This problem occurs in every age. Not many believers would be tempted to go back to Judaism. But many new believers, perhaps all, are seriously tempted to go back into their old lives. For some this is a return to denominationalism and churches that abandoned the Bible. For others, it is a return to worldliness and sin. To others, it is a return to indifference toward God. In all ages, the temptation, especially when Christianity is challenging, is to go back to the old way of life.

But God wants us to stay faithful to Him and wants us to remain in His presence. He encourages us by reminding us that "He is faithful who promised", that is, God Keeps His promises to us so we are encouraged to keep ours to Him.

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



October 23

AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *B. Dorries*
 Opening Prayer: *T. Mayces*
 Song Leader: *E. Castillo*
 Lord's Supper: *G. Rodriguez; J. Mokry; Open; M. de la Garza*

Scripture: *Ps. 23*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *R. Baltierra Jr.*

PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *B. Dorries*
 Opening Prayer: *G. Rodriguez*
 Song Leader: *A. Maldonado*
 Lord's Supper: *R. Trevino; S. Amos*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *W. Holmes*

After Greeter: *G & D Gribble*
 Greeter/Usher: *J. Guillen*
 AV Duty: *T. Mayces*
 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)
 Eugenia Trevino (mother of Ray)
 Parents of David Lyssy
 Sandra Welch (sister-in-law of Billie Dorries)

BATTLING CANCER:

Johna Dorries Abigail Reyes
 Graciola Anderson Sonny Cary
Arturo Hernandez (Stephen's dad is battling Lymphoma)

SHUT-INS:

Dorothy Harper
 Dazel Ball
 Mildred Geest
 Sarah Cannon

TRAVELING:

A. Jacob; Courtney Cobb (Japan);
 Mayces

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES October

Organizing Monthly Luncheon:
B. Garcia
 Preparing Lord's Supper:
Hipp
 Auditorium Service Duties:
Hipp
 Wash baptismal garments; clean cry room
Hipp
 Brother in charge of services:
E. Hipp

AM Theme:

The Hall of Fame:

A Study of Hebrews 11

PM Theme:

Setting the Church in Order - A Study in the books of 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus

AM Sermon:

Introduction to Series (4)

PM Sermon:

"be careful to maintain"

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

Oct. 12: M. de la Garza

Oct. 19: E. Castillo

Oct. 26: J. Guillen

FOR THE RECORD

OCTOBER 16/19

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study 32
 Sunday AM Worship 54
 Sunday PM Worship 34
 Wednesday Bible Study 39
 Budget/Offering: **\$2,140.02/ \$1,262.25**

Weekly Bible Readers: 8/10 (Adult Bible class)

SHENANDOAH CHURCH OF CHRIST

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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