

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 (11)

Gabriel Rodriguez

Inside This Issue:

How Israel Fell From Glory (9)

Shepherd's Corner:
God Intends that We Hear!

After confirmation of God's help (6:33-39), Jerubbaal, who is Gideon, prepared to wage war against the Midianites (7:1). But as Gideon gathered his warriors to fight, an interesting thing had happened - God said that the people with him were too many, “*lest Israel vaunt themselves against (God), saying, Mine hand have saved me*” (7:2). Now remember that the Midianites numbered in the 135,000 range while Israel numbered in the 30,000 range; a 4 to 1 ratio. Hence, there is no doubt that Gideon was perplexed that God wanted to trim their numbers when they were outnumbered to begin with. This seemed counterintuitive; so what's going on here? I believe the key to understanding this command is found in the phrase “*vaunting themselves.*” This phrase is the Hebrew word *pa'er* and is defined in a variety of ways - to gleam, embellish, boast, to explain to clear oneself, and to shake a tree. I believe the definition of shaking a tree fits the context here. This sense was used in Deuteronomy 24:20 when Israel was accustomed in shaking olive trees and receiving its fruit, but God used this sense in shaking unfit people from the earth and judging them (cf. Isa. 13:13). This seems to make sense because as God trims the number, he does so by excluding two types of people: those afraid to wage war and

those not vigilant. Hence, is it possible that God didn't want those, unfit for battle, to glorify themselves at the expense of real warriors/workers doing the job.

Hence, God allowed 22,000 fearful souls to leave prior to the war, leaving only 10,000 to fight (7:3). And then God put forth a test to determine his true warriors out of the 10,000 left. The test consisted of drinking water. As Gideon led the 10,000 to a river, God told him that those who lapped the water with their tongue, like a dog, would be chosen versus those who bowed down on their knees, cupped their hand, and drank water (7:4-6). It seems to indicate that those who lapped water like a dog remained vigilant as they dropped to one knee always considering their surroundings versus those who completely fell to his knees, dropping all of their war gear, and lost concentration on his surroundings. The number of God's true warriors was dwindled to 300 (7:7).

Hence, Gideon and the chosen mighty warriors took their victuals and trumpets, and prepared for battle (7:8). These would do the real work of getting rid of the enemies, while the pretenders were rejected. And so it is in the spiritual world, God is looking for the best of the best. May God be praised!

How Israel Fell From Glory (9)

A Study in the Book of Isaiah

Church News and Announcements

CONGREGATION

The fellowship luncheon hosted by Blanca Garcia, will be next Sunday, October 9, after the morning service. The menu is healthy potluck.

The family home devotional, hosted by the Hipps, will be on October 21 at 6:30. The menu is potluck.

YOUTH

Our next youth devotional is scheduled for sometime in October. We are awaiting a host family for this event.

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

As God predicted, the Assyrians were coming to dispose of Israel and Syria. This was validated by the birth of Isaiah's son, who was named Maher-shalal-hash-baz, meaning "*For before the child shall have knowledge to cry, My father and my mother, the riches of Damascus and the spoil of Samaria shall be taken away before the king of Assyria*" (8:4).

In verses 5-15, God gave the reasons why Israel would be destroyed and by whom - "*Because this people have refused the waters of Shiloh that flow gently, and rejoice over Rezin and the son Remaliah, therefore, behold, the Lord is bringing ip against them the waters of the River, mighty and many, the king of Assyria and all his glory. And it will rise over all it channels and god over all its banks, and it will sweep on into Judah, it will overflow and pass on, reaching even to the neck, and it outspread wings will fill the breadth of your land, O Immanuel*" (5-8). Since Israel, and eventually Judah, rejected the living waters of God (Jer. 2:13), He was sending a violent flood (irony), namely Assyria, to destroy His son, who should have rejected the evil and choose the good (7:13-15).

Although Israel and Judah would attempt to fight back against their destroyers and captors, their efforts would fail miserably (9-10). And God warned the remnant of faithful followers (1:9) not to be convinced of the majority who would commented saying that the words of Isaiah were merely

conspiracy and that Assyrian would not conquer them. Instead, God encouraged his faithful followers to fear the Lord and His word, because His word would become a "*stone of offense and a rock of stumbling to the hoses of Israel, a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem*" (v. 14). God continued to proclaim: "*many will stumble on it. They shall fall and be broken; they shall be snared and taken*" (15).

God through the prophet Isaiah ends with an encouragement and warning. First, seek the true testimony and teaching of God (16), and hope in God and in his true signs and portents (17). Secondly, reject the majority who will seek after mediums and necromancers who chirp and mutter (19a). In other words, flee feign prophets who possessed no truth and real insight. Hence, Isaiah rhetorically asked, "*Should God's people inquire of him, the God of the living, and not inquire of the dead for the living?*" (19b). Therefore, seek God's true law and testimony, and reject the false prophet who has no light in them (20). It is these feign proclaimers who will then, after all the true signs and actions of God come to pass - be hungry, fret themselves, and curse their king and God, and look upward in astonishment (21). Because they did not seek God's true will and word, then these will experience the trouble and darkness of the land, being filled with anguish (22). 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

God Intends That We Hear

As had been threatened, persecution came upon the followers of Jesus as a result of their preaching. Disciples had to flee Jerusalem for their lives, but: "They therefore that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word" (Acts 8:4). When these people were saved, they told others about it.

A dire warning is found in Ezekiel 33:8-9: "When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thy hand." That this same principle is at work today under the New Covenant is proved by Paul's statement in Acts 20:26-27, "I am free from the blood of all men, for I shrank not from declaring unto you the whole counsel of God." If we have been freed from sin by hearing and accepting the gospel of Christ, we must share that news with those who are still in sin. Jesus said, "The Son of man came to seek and save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). He used teaching to do it. If we would follow his steps, we will do the same.

Yes, God intends that we hear. But we must "take heed how we hear." We must hear the right thing, investigating to make sure it is from God. When we find that it is indeed the word of God. When we find that it is, indeed, the word of God, we must be willing to believe it. Through faith, we must then do what the Lord says. And then we must teach others the story of salvation. "Take heed how ye hear."

As you consider these things, we encourage you to study your Bible much, much more.

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



October 2

AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *T. Mayces*
 Opening Prayer: *R. Baltierra*
 Song Leader: *A. Maldonado*
 Lord's Supper: *E. Castillo; R. Trevino; B. Dorries; M. de la Garza*

Scripture: *Lk. 23:44-49*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *Z. Watkins*

PM WORSHIP

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

After Greeter: *W & K Holmes*
 Greeter/Usher: *G. Gribble*
 AV Duty: *J. Guillen*
 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
 Sam Amos
 Eloise Creek (battling lung issues)
 Helen Gross (aunt of sister Sarah)

BATTLING CANCER:

Barbara Oakes Johna Dorries
 Abigail Reyes Graciola Anderson
 Sonny Cary

SHUT-INS:

Dorothy Harper
 Dazel Ball
 Mildred Geest
 Sarah Cannon

TRAVELING:

A. Jacob; Courtney Cobb (Japan)

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

PM Sermon:

Titus 3:3-6: Remembering the Cost

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

Sept. 28: *W. Holmes*

Oct. 5: *G. Rodriguez*

Oct. 12: *M. de la Garza*

FOR THE RECORD

SEPTEMBER 25/28

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study 52
 Sunday AM Worship 69
 Sunday PM Worship 31
 Wednesday Bible Study 38
 Budget/Offering: **\$2,140.02/ \$1,528.50**

Weekly Bible Readers: 9/21 (Adult Bible class)

SHENANDOAH CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Church email Address:

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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