

# 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 (15)

*Gabriel Rodriguez*

### Inside This Issue:

**How Israel Fell From Glory (13)**

*Shepherd's Corner:*

**Nothing Can Help Us Stay Faithful As Well As Worship Assembly**

Because of poor choices and a lack of full repentance, the peace that Gideon afforded the Israelites was short-lived as Gideon's son Abimelech caused much distress by usurping the Israelite throne of his father through deception, avarice, and violence. By setting forth this precedence, evil ran amok as Abimelech and the men of Shechem, his once staunch supporters, turned on him and “*dealt treacherously*” with him (9:23). The idea that “*God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the men of Shechem*” is correctly interpreted as God allowing the evil fruits of Abimelech's conduct and decisions to come back and haunt him. Because of the violence initiated by Abimelech, the men of Shechem, namely Gaal the son of Ebed, sought his life and the life of his people Israel (9:25). Gaal incited a rebellion by telling the men of Shechem, “*Who is Abimelech, and who is Shechem, that we should serve him?...for why should we serve him?*” (9:28). Gaal then challenged Abimelech and Israel to war, which resulted in much bloodshed and Abimelech's death, as a certain woman threw down upon Abimelech's head a piece of millstone which broke his skull (9:30-53). And when the people of Israel saw that Abimelech was dead, they departed to their place of residence (9:55). Because of Abimelech's poor

choices, evil perpetuated his reign, which ended in his own demise (9:56-57). In other words, we reap what we sow (Gal. 6:7).

After Abimelech reigned in Israel, Tola, a man of Issachar, who dwelt in Shamir in mount Ephraim, judged Israel 23 years and died and was buried in Shamir (10:1-2). The name Tola meant “*worm*” or “*maggot*,” possibly signifying the continued deplorable state of Israel. Tola resided in Shamir, which means “*thorn*”; highly symbolic of the years of toils and turmoil they experienced.

After Tola, arose Jair, and he judged Israel for 22 years (10:3). The name Jair meant “*he enlightens*”, which seems to suggest through its context that he enlightened himself above all others, further progressing the life of sin and wickedness in Israel. Jair had 30 sons, who possessed 30 cities, which indicated that his sons continued in their father's path and spread evil throughout the land after their father had died (10:4-6). Inevitable, the Lord became angry with His people and allowed them to be taken captive by the Philistines, who eventually abused and vexed them. May God be praised!

# How Israel Fell From Glory (13)

A Study in the Book of Isaiah

## Church News and Announcements

### CONGREGATION

On November 13, brother Andy Burns from New Mexico Children's Home will be here to speak during our evening service. We encourage everyone to be here.

Don't forget that Daylight Savings Time ends next Sunday. Move clocks back one hour.

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.

### YOUTH

Our next youth devotional is still pending for the month of November. We are still needing a host family. If you can help, please see brother Gabriel.

### 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 will be hosted by Carolyn Harris on November 18. More details to follow.

### AREA NEWS

See Bulletin Board for area wide meetings

Despite Israel's failures and weaknesses, Isaiah prophesied of the coming Christ, who would eventually restore the order of mankind; hence, a hymn of thanksgiving was apropos. In chapter 12, we read of such hymn of thanksgiving. Because of Christ and his body of work (his life), the Lord's anger was placated and hope was given - *"And in that day thou shalt say, O Lord, I will praise thee: though thou was angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and you comfort me"* (1). Hence, *"God is my salvation; I will trust, and be not afraid: for the Lord Jehovah is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation. Therefore with joy shall we draw water out of the wells of salvation"* (vss. 2-3).

Interesting that the talk of salvation is in connection with drawing water out of the wells. The symbolic nature of water is cleansing, and it is no coincidence, but rather in God's eternal plan, to incorporate the use of water in salvation to show its significance in the coming age (cf. Matt. 3:7-8; Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21). Baptism was referred to by Jesus and the Apostles as the means by which to be saved; hence, we see Jesus practicing the act of baptism in order to fulfill all righteousness in Matthew 3:15-17, and would declare that in order to be saved one had to

be baptized (Mrk. 16:16). But why baptism? Baptism by definition means "submerged" into water (a burial if you will), which according to 1 Peter 3:21 represented a cleansing of the mind from sin (Rom. 6:3-4; 12:2, cf. Eph. 4:17-23); not a removal of filth from our physical bodies. Baptism cleanses us spiritually, by removing past sins from our lives (Acts 2:38), actions of sins that we no longer are responsible for, but have committed ourselves to "walk in a new quality of life" (Rom. 6:4b). Hence, as Isaiah noted, our responsibility is to, *"Praise the Lord, call upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted"* (v.4).

Baptism is an act of obedience that imprints upon our minds what is required of us to live effectively for God, namely the putting away of sinful habits and conduct (Gal. 5:25-26). After one is committed to doing this, then can we call upon the name of Lord, signifying a commitment to holiness and righteousness. And through our lives (example), we then can point others to the character of God and salvation. 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

### Nothing Can Help Us Stay Faithful As Well As A Worship Assembly

Nothing can help us stay faithful as much as coming together in a worship assembly. In coming together with other believers we are reminded again and again of our promises to God, as well as His promises to us. When others sing to us of God, or when we are taught from God's Word, we are repeatedly called to rest on God's great promises. In turn, we are called to commit ourselves to God's way of life.

This is why it is not a surprise that people who give up on God often give up on worship first. It is not a coincidence that faith is weakened when Christians fail to assemble. It is also no coincidence that faith is strengthened when Christians do assemble. God recognizes that we need regular encouragement. So we eat the Lord's supper on the first day of the week. We assemble to pray and study so that we can be encouraged for the coming days. All of this is to help us persevere in our commitment to serve God.

**Bro. Wayne Holmes**

#### WHY MEN SURVIVE

I do not believe the greatest threat to our future is from bombs or guided missiles. I don't think our civilization will die that way. I think it will die when we no longer care - when the spiritual forces that make us wish to do the right thing and noble die in the hearts of men. Arnold Toynbee has pointed out that 19 of 21 notable civilizations have died from within and not by conquest from without. There were no bands playing and no flags waving when these civilizations decayed; it happened slowly, in quiet and the dark when no one was awake.

If America is to grow great, we must stop resisting the word "spiritual." Our task is to discover and re-assert our faith in the spiritual values on which American life has really rested from its beginning.

**Selected**

# 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 30

## AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *W. Holmes*  
 Opening Prayer: *Open*  
 Song Leader: *A. Maldonado*  
 Lord's Supper: *B. Dorries; R. Trevino; R. Baltierra Jr.; R. Baltierra*

Scripture: *Isa. 53:1-5*  
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Benediction: *M. de la Garza*

## PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *W. Holmes*  
 Opening Prayer: *B. Dorries*  
 Song Leader: *Men of the Cong.*  
 Lord's Supper: *A. Maldonado; T. Mayces*

Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Benediction: *N. Esenowo*

After Greeter: *T & G Mayces*  
 Greeter/Usher: *S. Amos*  
 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  
 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)  
 Tomas Guillen (brother of Joe and Celia)  
 Renalto (brother-in-law of Joe Guillen)

### SHUT-INS:

Dorothy Harper  
 Dazel Ball  
 Mildred Geest  
 Sarah Cannon

### TRAVELING:

## 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:

**God's Love For His Church:**  
*A Study of the Song of Solomon*

**AM Sermon:**

*Introduction to Series (5)*

**PM Sermon:**

*Congregational Singing*

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

**November 2:** *R. Baltierra Jr.*  
**November 9:** *T. Mayces*  
**November 16:** *A. Maldonado*

## FOR THE RECORD

### OCTOBER 23/26

#### Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study    47  
 Sunday AM Worship    55  
 Sunday PM Worship    31  
 Wednesday Bible Study    31  
 Budget/Offering:    **\$2,140.02/ \$1,239.00**

Weekly Bible Readers: 8/24 (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](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