

# 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 (12)

*Gabriel Rodriguez*

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Chapter 7:9-8:21 is the description of the battle between Gideon and his 300 warriors against Midian's 135,000 warriors (cf. 8:10). Some interesting information is revealed in this section. After God had dwindled the number of Israelite warriors to 300, choosing the best of the best to wage war, God now commanded Gideon to attack the Midianites during that same night (7:9). But we are informed that after all that God had done to show Gideon he would win the battle, Gideon continued to have some reservations (7:10). God then told Gideon that he would hear something from one of his warriors that would galvanize him to fight (7:11). The fear, no doubt, resided in the fact that Midian's host was great in number, likened to as the sand of the sea (7:12). But as was predicted, when Gideon approached his army, a warrior rose up and encouraged the host through a dream he had, citing he witnessed the downfall of Midian through the sword of Gideon and of God (7:13-14). This word of encouragement spawned a resiliency and boldness from Gideon and the others to press forward despite the odds.

But brute force alone wasn't going to win the battle for them, rather strategy would prevail. During the night, under the auspices of darkness, Gideon broke

his army into three units (100 each). Every man was commanded to have a trumpet and lamp (7:16). Gideon commanded his three units to surround the camp of Midian and on his mark and example, when Gideon blew his trumpet, all the warriors would blow their trumpets. This certainly would discombobulate the Midianites as they were sound asleep. Hence, Gideon struck a surprise attack, and the disoriented Midianites fled as the army of Gideon pursued them and slew them (7:17-23). The children of Ephraim eventually entered the battle and killed two princes of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb (7:23-25).

Gideon and his 300 warriors continued to pursue the kings of Midian, Zebah and Zalmunna, and eventually killed them and those that helped them, namely the princes of Succoth and the men of Penuel (8:4-21).

After Gideon and the 300 brought peace and rest to the land, the people of Israel asked Gideon to rule over them, to which Gideon nobly replied, “I will not rule over you, neither my son: the Lord shall rule over you” (8:22-23). Gideon wanted Israel to know that they were a theocracy, not a monarchy. But as we will note next week, the good intentions of Gideon turned into disaster for the nation. May God be praised!

# How Israel Fell From Glory (10)

A Study in the Book of Isaiah

## Church News and Announcements

### CONGREGATION

Today, after our morning services, is our congregational luncheon. Everyone, especially our visitors, are invited to eat and fellowship with us.

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

Israel and Judah (i.e., the children of God) were getting what they deserved, anguish and pain, because of their choice to sin against God (9:1). But despite their unfortunate demise from Assyrian and Babylonian armies (i.e, the discipline of God), God prophesied that in the "latter times" (9:2c, cf. 2:1-4) He would make a "glorious way of the sea" through "Galilee," and this in reference to Jesus Christ (cf. Lk. 2:39).

Likening the world to the status of Israel's and Judah's present deplorable sinful condition, a "people walking in darkness," a "great light would shine" (9:2) and "increase" the people's "joy, gladness, and blessings" (9:3) This great light referenced Jesus Christ (Jn. 8:12), who would increase the people's happiness by providing them a way out of darkness. But Isaiah described the escape as a great battle in which Jesus would conquer the foe (9:4-5, cf. Gen. 3:15). This, no doubt, is in reference to the spiritual battle of life (cf. Eph. 6:12; 2 Cor. 10:4-5). Jesus, (the son of God), through righteous conduct, would conquer and defeat sin and temptation, something Israel, the children of God, choose not to do. This is why Isaiah makes reference to Christ's coming: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given..." (9:6a). Christ, the son of God, would come to re-establish what God had expected from his children - complete obedience and righteousness (Ex. 19:4-5). Based on what Christ accomplished, as Isaiah had already prophesied about in 2 :1-4, Christ would be given a kingdom (i.e.,

"government") based on his *name* (i.e., character, Acts 4:12). Christ made a name for himself through righteous choices of life. Hence, Christ would be known and called (9:6c) "Wonderful," meaning surpassing expectations, or to show oneself extraordinary and marvelous through a difficult thing (i.e., life's temptations). Based on his extraordinary life, Christ would become the "Counselor," meaning the person who is able to give us counsel/wisdom in conquering this life. What he ultimately revealed was, life could be dominated and conquered in the appellation "the Mighty God," meaning a valiant and strong warrior for God against sin. In other words, sin is impotent when someone possess a strong mindset for God. And when he overcame sin and temptation through a strong and willing mind (Lk. 2:40,52), he than became the "Everlasting Father," meaning the eternal leader of men. In other words, based on his impeccable life of righteousness, Christ was given eternal life and was ranked above all men (Col. 1:15). Finally, because Christ accomplished what he did, he was then noted to be the "Prince of Peace." The meaning of "prince" means a head person or chief. He became the chief of "peace" meaning he possessed a complete and sound relationship with God. Through this relationship, He then re-established ties between God and man (Lk. 2:52), showing that man is capable of so much more than man believes. 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

### Assembling Together For Worship

Many people of strong convictions fail to realize how important the church is. Many others fail to see the importance of assembling with others, who, together, assemble to worship God.

Why is it good for you and me to gather with other believers to honor God in a corporate assembly? God provides the reasons for corporate worship in Hebrews 10:19-15. In this epistle the author is explaining why Christians should not return to their Jewish faith, but remain faithful to the Lord. Throughout the letter the emphasis has been on the advantages of being a Christian over Judaism. In this passage gathering together is explained as it applies to the great salvation Christians enjoy.

"Since therefore, brethren, we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water" (Heb. 10:19-22).

The life and sacrifice of Jesus Christ have opened a new and intimate access into the presence of God. This access is given to us by His death, once we are forgiven and cleansed by His blood. So, we are told, that having this access into fellowship with God, we should have confidence, or boldness, to enter into His presence because of the death of Jesus.

**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 9

## AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Opening Prayer: *B. Dorries*  
 Song Leader: *E. Castillo*  
 Lord's Supper: *J. Guillen, Open; N. Esenowo; R. Baltierra*

Scripture: *Mrk. 15:33-39*  
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Benediction: *S. Amos*

## PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Opening Prayer: *R. Trevino*  
 Song Leader: *E. Castillo*  
 Lord's Supper: *Z. Watkins; B. Dorries*

Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Benediction: *S. Amos*

After Greeter: *E. Creek*  
 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  
 Eloise Creek (improving)  
 Helen Gross (aunt of sister Sarah)

### BATTLING CANCER:

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 (2)*

### PM Sermon:

*Titus 3:3-6: Remembering the Cost (2)*

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

**Sept. 28:** *W. Holmes*

**Oct. 5:** *G. Rodriguez*

**Oct. 12:** *M. de la Garza*

## FOR THE RECORD

### OCTOBER 2/5

#### Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study 35  
 Sunday AM Worship 57  
 Sunday PM Worship 33  
 Wednesday Bible Study 41  
 Budget/Offering: **\$2,140.02/ \$1,547.25**

Weekly Bible Readers: 6/19 (Adult Bible class)

## SHENANDOAH CHURCH OF CHRIST

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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