

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 (9)

Gabriel Rodriguez

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In Order to Tell Others, We Must Hear!

Chapters 6 through 8 deal with the account of the judge Gideon. We're told (once again) that the children of Israel after years of prosperity and peace “*did evil in the sight of the Lord*” (6:1), and because of their wicked ways, their improper behavior solicited painful consequences, namely their subjugation and destruction of goods from the Midianites, Amalekites, and children of the East (6:2-5). After their destruction, “*Israel was greatly impoverished and the children of Israel cried unto the Lord*” (6:6-7). Before God assisted, He sent a prophet to the nation of Israel to rebuke her for incurring this problem upon themselves - by not obeying the voice of the Lord (6:8-10).

It is in verse 11 that we're told that an angel of the Lord approached a man by the name of Gideon, as he sat under an oak tree threshing wheat by a winepress. This initial meeting was highly symbolic. The oak tree symbolized **strength**. The name Gideon meant a **hewer - one who chop's down**; hence, his cutting down wheat by a winepress symbolized o God's judgment and wrath to come upon His enemies (Isa. 63:2; Lam. 1:15; Joel 3:13). The angel spoke unto Gideon his mission - to deliver Israel from the hands of the Midianites (6:13c). Although the Lord saw Gideon's potential for victory over the enemies of

God, Gideon had reservations. The Lord then encouraged him by saying, “*The Lord is with thee, thou mighty man of valor*” (6:12). As God had done before with others, He uplifted Gideon by encouraging him to believe in himself, as He (God) would be with him. Still unconvinced of his potential, Gideon pleads that God perform miracles to save them (6:13a). But God rebuffed this notion and said unto Gideon: “*Go in this thy might, and you will save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have I not sent you?*” (6:14). The point was, God wasn't going to intervene in something that they, the nation of Israel, could take care of. God knew the potential in Gideon and Israel in rising above their problems and overcoming them. And instead of taking God at His word, Gideon cited the excuse of his living poverty conditions (6:15). The Lord quickly retorted: “*Surely I will be with thee, and you shall smite the Midianites as one man*” (6:16). Gideon then wanted confirmation through a miraculous sign that God was going to be with him. God appeased Gideon's request by consuming an offering upon a rock with fire (6:17-21). This validated to Gideon God's promise of salvation, and Gideon responded to the call of God. May God be praised!

How Israel Fell From Glory (7)

A Study in the Book of Isaiah

Church News and Announcements

CONGREGATION

Members, teachers are needed for the fourth quarter, October through December. A sign-up sheet is in the foyer.

The ladies get together will be on September 22, while the men's dinner will be on September 27. Sign up sheets are in the foyer.

The Ladies' Bible class and Men's training class will be on September 25 at 4:00 pm. The ladies will be studying Lesson 3 and the men will be studying the book of Zechariah.

YOUTH

Our next youth devotional is scheduled for September 16 at 7:00 pm at the annex building. The Dorries' will host the 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.

AREA NEWS

See Bulletin Board for area wide meetings

What we've looked at thus far has been Judah's spiritual digression from the holiness of God (chps. 1-6). And when wickedness overcomes a people, consequences are sure to follow, namely, during this era, solicitation of negative consequences from other wicked nations. In other words, God expected Israel to have been the moral and spiritual light to all nations, but when Israel decided to engage and mimic the same sinful practices of her neighbors, the maxim of Solomon became true: "... *the way of the transgressor becomes hard*" (Pr. 13:15). Hence, Israel's life became complicated as she entered the way of sin and brought upon herself the stiff consequences of her actions. The consequences of her actions was, she had left herself open to destruction as it invited others of the same stripe to accompany her (5:26-29). And as such, evil men are only bent in destroying each other (Pr. 4:14-17). And this is what we have here in chapter 7.

King Ahaz, king of Judah, was being attacked by King Rezin, king of Syria, and King Pekah, king of Israel (7:1). Pekah and Rezin had made an alliance to destroy Judah. In 2 Chronicles 28 we're told that God had allowed this to occur (at the behest of God), because of Ahaz's and Judah's sinful actions. Hence, many people of Judah were killed and taken captive by Syria and Israel. But something happened in the conquering of Judah that displeased God with King Pekah, king of Israel. We learn in verses 8-11 that God was displeased with Israel's motive in

the war. A prophet by the name of Oded went and met with the armies of Israel and said, "*Behold, because the Lord was angry with Judah, he gave them into your hand, but you have killed them in a rage that has reached up to heaven...and now you intend to subjugate the people of Judah as your slaves.*" The prophet put into perspective their flawed motive by saying, "*Have you not sins of your own against the Lord?*" In other words, Israel wasn't innocent themselves, so why were they mistreating and acting righteous in their destruction of Judah?

The point is clear. While people entangle themselves with sin and solicit problems, we who are called to exact punishment must make sure our motive is not one of self-righteousness, rather one of helping others, looking unto ourselves, lest we also be tempted (Gal. 6:1). Although God was using Israel and Syria to exact the punishment, God wanted Israel to learn from this, or else they would face the same consequence, which incidentally occurred as they were punished and destroyed by the Assyrians.

In chapter 7, we now have the background for God's intervention to save Judah from the ruthless and heartless punishment from Israel. God, although despised Ahaz, for the sake of proper motivation and lesson would turn the tables on Syria and Israel. What this shows is, "*All our righteousness are a filthy rags*" (Isa. 64:6). 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

In Order To Tell Others, We Must Hear

Christianity is a teaching life. We become Christians because we receive His Teaching. We live the Christian life by continuing in what is taught. Read it, "Make disciples of all nations, baptizing them...teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you" (Matt 28:19-20). People who are taught are told to do what others did in bringing the gospel into our lives. In other words, we are to teach: "When by the reason of time ye ought to be teachers..." (Heb. 5:12). Jesus showed that "They shall be taught of God" (John 6:45). But the responsibility to teach is given to Christians, those who compose the church: "Might be made known through the church the manifold wisdom of God, according to his eternal purpose" (Eph. 3:10-11).

It is inconceivable that one could be saved from sin by Jesus Christ and not want to share the good news with others! If one is saved, he certainly ought to want to show others how they could also be saved. The early Christians felt that way: "They continued steadfastly in the apostles' teaching" (Acts 2:42). Arrested for preaching the gospel of Christ, and threatened if they continued doing it, the Apostles replied, "We cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20). And they went right back to preaching it, constantly: "Daily in the temple and in every house, they ceased not to preach and teach Jesus as the Christ" (Acts 5:42).

Let's ask ourselves this question, "How much time do I spend teaching/preaching to others"? If our answer is "Not Any", then why am I not?

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



September 18

AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *W. Holmes*
 Opening Prayer: *M. de la Garza*
 Song Leader: *A. Maldonado*
 Lord's Supper: *R. Trevino; G. Rodriguez; R. Baltierra Jr., T. Mayces*

Scripture: *Rom. 5:6-11*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *E. Castillo*

PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *W. Holmes*
 Opening Prayer: *N. Esenowo*
 Song Leader: *R. Trevino*
 Lord's Supper: *J. Mora; J. Mokry*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *R. Baltierra*

After Greeter: *W & K Holmes*
 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)

BATTLING CANCER:

Barbara Oakes Johna Dorries
 Abigail Reyes Graciola Anderson
 Sonny Cary Lori Main's father

SHUT-INS:

Dorothy Harper
 Dazel Ball
 Mildred Geest
 Sarah Cannon

TRAVELING:

A. Jacob; Courtney Cobb (Japan)

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES September

Organizing Monthly Luncheon:

P. White

Preparing Lord's Supper:

P. White

Auditorium Service Duties:

P. White

Wash baptismal garments; clean cry room

P. White

Brother in charge of services:

NA

AM Theme:

"Praising God" - A Study in the book of Psalms

PM Theme:

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

AM Sermon:

Psalm 70-71

PM Sermon:

Put Them in Remembrance

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

Sept. 4: E. Hipp

Sept. 14: B. Dorries

Sept. 21: R. Trevino

FOR THE RECORD

SEPTEMBER 11/14

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study 46
 Sunday AM Worship 63
 Sunday PM Worship 33
 Wednesday Bible Study 40
 Budget/Offering: **\$2,140.02/ \$1,527.00**

Weekly Bible Readers: 4/20 (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