

# 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 (10)

*Gabriel Rodriguez*

### Inside This Issue:

How Israel Fell From Glory (8)

*Shepherd's Corner:*  
God Intends that We Hear!

As God encouraged Gideon to possess courage and be the leader of Israel to free his countrymen from the tyranny of the Midianites, that night God required Gideon to begin his campaign against Midian by first removing and destroying idolatry at his home and replacing it with the true worship of God (6:25-26). God wanted Gideon, to first, stand up against his father's household, and second, to correct the entire nation of Israel by showing them what God desired. Gideon did as God commanded and took ten servants to assist him in this endeavor. But we're told that he "*feared his father's household and the men of the city, that he could not do it by day, that he did it by night*" (6:27c). This verse expressed the trepidation that Gideon still possessed, but nonetheless, Gideon encouraged himself and did as God commanded.

In the morning when the men of the city where his father dwelt found that the altar of Baal had been destroyed, they searched out for the one who was responsible. It was found that Gideon, the son of Joash, had done this thing (6:29). The men of the city quickly wanted Joash to hand over Gideon in order that he might be put to death (6:30). While Joash was intimately involved in idolatry, he argued that "*...if he be a god (Baal), let him plead for*

*himself, because one had cast down his altar*" (6:30-31). This is an interesting statement made by Joash. Two questions come to mind: Did Joash truly believe in the power of Baal and was confident that Baal would deal with his son's actions, or did Joash become convinced of Baal's impotence as Gideon's destruction showed? It's hard to tell which it was, but the men of the city listened to Joash and changed Gideon's name to Jeruabbel, meaning, "*let Baal plead against him, because he has thrown down his altar*" (6:32). But despite the plea of Joash, the Midianites, Amalekites, and the children of the east decided to take matters into their own hands and waged war against Gideon. How did Gideon respond?

The Bible says that the "*spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon and he blew a trumpet*" to summon all of his countrymen (Manasseh, Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali) to war (6:34-35). But despite the apparent eagerness and readiness for the battle, it seems as if Gideon still had some reservations; therefore, he asked God to reveal to him two signs to prove to him that God would save Israel by his hand. The Lord appeased him as before, and Gideon was now ready for battle (6:36-40). May God be praised!

# How Israel Fell From Glory (8)

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 men's dinner will be on September 27. A sign up sheet are in the foyer.

The Ladies' Bible class and Men's training class will be on today 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 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

Now that we have the background for chapter 7, it is here that God encourages Ahaz, that Syria and Israel would not prevail against him. God told Isaiah to meet Ahaz to tell him: *"Take heed, and be quiet; fear not, neither be fainthearted for the two tails of these smoking firebrands..."* (7:4). God promised Ahaz that there plans to utterly destroy Syria and Israel from the head down (7:6-9).

In order to placate the anxiousness of Ahaz, God told him to ask Him a sign to prove his promise (7:10-11). But Ahaz would not tempt the Lord (7:12). But Isaiah responded to Ahaz, *"Hear ye now, O house of David; is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will ye weary God also? Therefore, the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. Butter and honey shall he eat, that he may know to refuse the evil, and choose the good. For before this child shall know to refuse the evil, and choose the good, the land that you ashore shall be forsaken of both her kings..."* (7:13-17).

God took the initiative and gave Ahaz a sign proving His promise. But what did this sign have to do with the promise of salvation? As we took a look last week, we noticed that the while Syria and Israel had been allowed to war against Judah for her improprieties, Israel, her brother, had taken the punishment to the extreme by showing hatred and contempt to Judah, which led to Israel's abuse of their brethren.

Since God disdained the way Israel had treated her brother Judah, God intervened and would teach both Syria and Israel, that not because of their righteousness were they allowed to war against Judah, but because of Judah's disobedience to God. But more importantly, God wanted to impress upon Syria and Israel that this also had nothing to do with them being right with God. Hence, the sign given was one that was consistent with God's expectations from his people, both Israel and Judah - one of purity and obedience unto God. Hence, the prophecy of a virgin who would bear a son and call his name Immanuel, meaning *"God with us"* (Matt. 1:19-22). But it wasn't the name per se that was the import. It was the actions of this son, who would use his power of mind and choice to choose the good and refuse the evil. Beginning from a child, he would be trained and taught to focus on righteousness and reject wickedness. This is what God had wanted and anticipated from both Israel and Judah, but each one had let Him down, and now Israel, after their deplorable actions toward Judah, would be shown that their behavior was unacceptable and their punishment was coming in the form of the great national power Assyria, who would come to destroy both Syria and Israel (7:18-25). 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 Ezek. 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



## September 25

### AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Opening Prayer: *R. Trevino*  
 Song Leader: *E. Hipp*  
 Lord's Supper: *E. Castillo; J. Mora; R. Baltierra; T. Mayces*

Scripture: *Isa. 53:10-12*  
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Benediction: *Z. Watkins*

### PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Opening Prayer: *J. Mokry*  
 Song Leader: *Cong. Singing*  
 Lord's Supper: *E. Hipp; N. Esenowo*  
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Benediction: *S. Amos*

After Greeter: *J. Guillen*  
 Greeter/Usher: *T. Mayces*  
 AV Duty: *M. de la Garza*  
 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 family over the loss of their grandmother  
 Lori Main's father passed away Friday a week ago  
 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 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 72*

### PM Sermon:

*Congregational Singing*

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

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

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

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

## FOR THE RECORD

### SEPTEMBER 18/21

#### Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study      41  
 Sunday AM Worship      54  
 Sunday PM Worship      34  
 Wednesday Bible Study      44  
 Budget/Offering:      **\$2,140.02/ \$11,534.74**

Weekly Bible Readers: 6/25 (Adult Bible class)

### SHENANDOAH CHURCH OF CHRIST

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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