

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 (8)

Gabriel Rodriguez

Inside This Issue:

How Israel Fell From Glory (6)

Shepherd's Corner:

In Order to Respond to God's Word, We Must Hear God's will!

The jubilant song of Deborah and Barak after their conquest of Sisera is recorded in chapter 5. It is here we gain further insight into the victory Israel gained over her enemies. Although Israel had embroiled herself in the problem of sin and her forthcoming consequences (5:6-8), there arose Deborah and Barak as saviors of the nation against Sisera and his host. While the Lord helped Israel by manipulating portions of nature to defeat Sizer's host (5:4,21-22, cf. 4:15), Israel had some skin in the fight as twice we're told that the people of Israel "*willingly offered themselves*" (5:2,9). Israel took charge and fought against the enemy. Therefore, along with the great leadership of Deborah and Barak, these two spawned a national rebellion from the tribes of Ephraim, Benjamin, Zebulun, Issachar, Reuben, Asher, and Naphtali, and waged war against Sisera and his army. Verse 18 tells us that these "*jeopardized their lives unto death,*" meaning, despite the possibility of the loss of life in battle, these fought hard against the enemy.

As we've mentioned before, the responsibility of "total salvation" solely rested upon Israel. Although God helped, the majority of the battle had to be fought by Israel. Why? Since Israel got herself into this problem, she now she had to free herself from this problem. This is why honor and esteem is shown to Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, for taking matters into her own hands and killing the evil leader Sisera. Too many times we seek the favor and help of God in leu of strengthening ourselves and fighting our own battles. The reality is, God has

provided us with everything needed to overcome this life. As Deborah suggested in verse 8, Israel "*had chosen new gods,*" which resulted in grave problems of life. Now, Israel had to fight through these problems and free herself from the tyranny of sin.

So this is the point, we have to fight our own battles of life. While God intervenes, his only intervention is what lies dormant in his people, which He has already provided, the potential to defeat the enemy with strength and wisdom. I think of a video I saw a while ago when a child was crying and seeking for someone to desperately help him as he hung from a rope in a swimming pool. As his guardians came, they told him to stand up. As he attempted to place his feet on the ground, he found that the water was only ankle deep. The child was crying for nothing. This is the same with God's people today. We get ourselves into trouble, and when we face trials and pain, we begin to panic and cry for help. But little do we know as the child in the swimming pool, the problem is nothing we can't handle. Just put our feet down and we'll realize the problem isn't too big to handle. If we can create the problem, then certainly we can find a way to untangle ourselves.

This is what we are learning from the nation of Israel. While they put themselves into the predicament of sin and destruction, instead of finding a solution, they often cried unto the Lord for help. But God wants us to roll up our sleeves and go to work - "*Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling*" (Phil. 2:12). May God be praised!

How Israel Fell From Glory (6)

A Study in the Book of Isaiah

Church News and Announcements

CONGREGATION

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

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.

The Hernandez's new address is 2810 Dewitt Ave., Alexandria, VA, 22301.

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.

The Young Adult devotional will be on September 23. More details forthcoming.

AREA NEWS

See Bulletin Board

In view of sin and its dreadful consequences (chs. 1-5), chapter 6 gives us a stark contrast. Isaiah viewed and received a description of God - *"I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. Above it stood a seraphim: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face...and one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory"* (1-3).

The reason why sin is despicable to God is because it doesn't stand against the great holiness of God. While the nation of Israel had chosen to sin and engage in wicked acts, God wanted Isaiah to see and know that their behavior wasn't in line with God's character of holiness. Instead of Israel reverencing and respecting the Lord through their actions, they were disgracing Him. When Isaiah finished witnessing the greatness and holiness of God, Isaiah said, *"Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts"* (5).

Isaiah had recognized what Judah and Jerusalem failed to see, their uncleanness before a Holy God. While Isaiah was referencing his "common human state" in view of God's

spiritual state, his declaration symbolized the debased spiritual state that Judah found herself in, which resulted in a state of disfellowship and removal from the presence of God.

Isaiah then saw *"one of the seraphim having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar and he laid it upon my mouth and said, Lo, this hath touched your lips and your sin is taken away and purged"* (6-7). In symbolic fashion, Isaiah was chosen to be the voice piece for God and through the use of God's words, attempted to spark a national repentance. This is why God asked, *"Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me"* (8). Through the words of Isaiah, he attempted to persuade Judah of her evil ways, repent, and be saved (9-10).

How long would Isaiah preach this message? The Lord said, *"Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant..."* (11-12). In other words, preach until Judah meets her doom. Similar to our command of evangelism today. We preach until the Day of Judgment. But not all would be lost as Isaiah was told that his message would not be vain, but would be responsible in saving some (i.e., *tenth*), called *"the holy seed"* (13). 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 Respond, We Must Hear God's Will

Jesus asked the question that needs to be answered today, "Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46). Discipleship is based on **DOING** what is learned, not just learning it. We are plainly told that Jesus Christ is "author of eternal salvation unto all that obey him" (Heb. 5:9). It is true that Jesus said, "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32). But in the previous verse, He said, "If ye abide in my word, then are ye truly my disciples."

It would do little good to look into a mirror and see a dirty face, if we did nothing about it. That is the picture God paints for us: "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deluding your own selves. For if any one is a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a mirror: for he beholdeth himself, and goeth away, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But he that looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and so continueth, being not a hearer that forgetteth, but a doer that worketh, this man shall be blessed in his doing" (James 1:22-25).

Check out the great "heroes of faith" in Heb. 11. "By faith Abel offered a sacrifice...By faith Enoch walked with God...By faith Noah prepared an ark...By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed" (Heb 11:4-8). Not only these, but all those named throughout the rest of the chapter heard God, believed and did what He told them. This is the pattern of life God will bless today. We must hear in order to learn and do what God says. "Take heed how ye hear."

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 11

AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *E. Hipp*
 Opening Prayer: *G. Rodriguez*
 Song Leader: *R. Trevino*
 Lord's Supper: *M. de la Garza; S. Amos; J. Mokry; J. Guillen*

Scripture: *Lk. 23:33-38*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *R. Baltierra*

PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *E. Hipp*
 Opening Prayer: *J. Guillen*
 Song Leader: *G. Rodriguez*
 Lord's Supper: *J. Mora; Z. Watkins*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *B. Dorries*

After Greeter: *G & D Gribble*
 Greeter/Usher: *B. Dorries*
 AV Duty: *T. Mayces*
 Elder in charge: *W. Holmes*

REMEMBERING OUR BELOVED

(by writing, calling, and praying)

Wayne Holmes
 Rina White
 Joe Guillen
 Ina Dial
 David and Elijah Sudhoff
 Roy Guajardo (battling Parkinsons)
 Rose Scott (grandmother of Clay and Wes Bond)
 Caral O'Banon
 Lisa Bond (daughter of sister Pauline)
 Sam Amos
 Helen Gross (aunt of sister Sarah)

BATTLING CANCER:

Barbara Oakes Johna Dorries
 Abigail Reyes Graciola Anderson
 Briana Nieves Sonny Cary
 Lori Main's father (hospice)

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 69

PM Sermon:

Your Reputation is on the Line

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

Sept. 4: E. Hipp

Sept. 14: B. Dorries

Sept. 21: R. Trevino

FOR THE RECORD

SEPTEMBER 4/7

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study 45
 Sunday AM Worship 73
 Sunday PM Worship 40
 Wednesday Bible Study 37
 Budget/Offering: **\$2,140.02/ \$1,450.00**

Weekly Bible Readers: 5/24 (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

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