

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 (7)

Gabriel Rodriguez

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Chapter 4, verse 1, reveals (once again) the vicious cycle of Israel's demise. Israel “*did evil in the sight of the Lord, when Ehud was dead.*” What this shows is, Israel went back to sinful conduct after the death of their strong leader, Ehud. Hence, the next generation “*sold themselves*” into sin (v.2a). As we've discussed before, when God's path (i.e., godliness, righteous, morality) is no longer followed, then the ramifications of sin, motivated by selfishness, becomes what oppresses us. In other words, “*...the way of the transgressor is hard*” (Pr. 13:15). Therefore, the lifestyle of sin made Israel's life hard as Jabin, the king of Canaan, took them captive and enslaved them, putting Sisera, the captain of his host over them. Verse 3 tells us that the “*children of Israel cried unto the Lord because Jabin had 900 chariots of iron and oppressed them for 20 years.*” What this tells us, as before, Israel did not strengthen herself to lift herself out of the problem they created. They were too afraid of the weaponry of the enemy. What is even more depressing is, there was no male among Israel courageous enough to stand up against Jabin; hence, we are introduced to a female by the name of Deborah, a prophetess (v.5), that would spawn a revolt.

DEBORAH:

The name “*Deborah*” means bee. In the insect world a queen bee is responsible in sustaining and growing the hive through reproduction. Hence, in the same manner, Deborah, would be instrumental in sustaining and growing the nation of Israel. While a queen bee has male bees to help her in this endeavor, likewise,

Deborah was given the help of Barak, son of Abinoam (vss. 5-6). The name “*Barak*” meant lightning, flash, or a storm. Through the words of Deborah, she encouraged Barak to strengthen himself and fight against the enemy with ten thousand men of the children of Naphtali (“*wrestling*”) and Zebulun (“*exalted*”) for the sustainment of the nation of Israel. So the writing was on the wall. God would defeat Jabin and Sisera through the use of nature and combat, and Israel would (once again) be exalted in the end.

At Mount Tabor, Sisera gathered all his chariots of iron and waged war with Deborah, Barak, and 10,000 men from Naphtali and Zebulun (vss. 13-14). As they met, the Bible says, “*The Lord discomfited Sisera and all his chariots and hosts with the edge of the sword*” (v.15a). But how did the Lord accomplish this? We learn in 1 Samuel 7:10 that on that occasion the Lord discomfited the Philistines with great thunder, and possibly lightning, as the name Barak suggested. Through the use of nature, God squelched the power of the chariots, and by dislodging their advantage, this emboldened the men of Israel to take the fight to the enemy and pursue them with the sword. As Israel conquered the enemy, Sisera fled, but was later killed by a female by the name of *Jael*, whose name meant “to gain, profit, avail.” In the end, the enemy was destroyed by the motivating power of dedicated females to the cause of the Lord. These women, namely Deborah, spurred on Barak and other men to take charge and do what she knew they were capable of doing. May God be praised!

How Israel Fell From Glory (5)

Church News and Announcements

CONGREGATION

The fellowship luncheon hosted by Sister White will be next Sunday, September 11. The menu is sandwiches and salads. Chips and dips will be provided.

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

YOUTH

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

Our youth have been invited to a Youth Rally on Oct. 22-23 at Camp Bandina, hosted by the Weber Rd. congregation. Cost is \$20, which will cover food and a place to sleep. See Gabriel if you are interested in attending.

The Weber Rd. church of Christ will be hosting their Bible Bowl on November 5. They will be studying Acts 15-28. If you are interested, please see 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.

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

AREA NEWS

See Bulletin Board

The prophet Isaiah in chapter 5, verses 1-7, gives a parable of a vineyard describing what the nation of Israel, namely Judah and Jerusalem, had become. Although God (the vinedresser) had planted His people in a fruitful vineyard and prepared it well to sustain them and have success, as He looked upon vineyard, instead of the bounty of grapes, which he expected, he saw the growth of wild grapes (vss. 1-2). The "*wild grapes*" symbolized a reckless and debauched life. God (the vinedresser) then asked himself, "*What could have been done more to my vineyard?*" (v. 4). The answer would be, nothing. God had done everything possible to make sure the vineyard was successful. The fault resided in the people who had rejected the blessings of procurement and success. Hence, God pronounced cursing on the vineyard and prophesied that His people would be "*taken away, eaten up, and broken and trodden down*" (v.6).

Isaiah then warned Judah and Jerusalem of impending doom (vss. 8-13a). And what led to their demise? God said, "*... because they have no knowledge*" (v. 13b). Willful and abject ignorance of God's word resulted in being stripped of their honor and blessings (v. 13c). Judah had become satisfied in leading her own

way through pleasure and selfishness, which resulted in people calling evil good and good evil, putting bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter (v. 20). Furthermore, Judah had become "*wise in their own eyes and spent their days drinking alcohol, distorting judgment, and justifying the actions of the wicked*" (vss. 20-23). Therefore, their actions enflamed the Lord and He prophesied to consume them with fire (vss. 24-25) in the form of the pagan nation, Babylon. Israel's destruction would result in God ultimately be "*...exalted in judgment and in holiness shall be sanctified in righteousness*" (v. 16).

Judah's demise was her sinful conduct, which resulted in God summoning Babylon to destroy his people - "*Whose arrows are sharp, bows bent, horses' hoofs counted like flint, and their wheels like a whirlwind. Their roaring shall be like a lion, they shall roar like young lions: yea, they shall roar, and lay hold of the prey, and shall carry it away safe, and none shall deliver it. And in that day they shall roar against them like the roaring of the sea: and if one look unto the land, behold darkness and sorrow, and the light is darkened in the heavens thereof*" (vss. 28-30). Judah would be punished for her sins and Babylon would not spare her. May God be praised!

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 Believe, We Must Hear

The apostle Paul was invited to speak once in the city of Athens. These were educated people, philosophers and teachers, who "Spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell or to hear some new thing" (Acts 17:21). Paul preached the same gospel there he had preached in dozens of cities where he planted the church of the Lord. But in Athens not many believed. To listen only from the motive of curiosity will be to hear without personal profit. Sometimes we are guilty of going to hear a certain man preach - not for the message he brings, but because of who the man is. Such a motive is not conducive to acceptable hearing.

To hear acceptably, we must try to put aside all prejudice (which is very difficult to do). The Jews were certainly prejudiced against Jesus: "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" (John 1:46). They had their minds made up as to the background of "the Messiah" (Christ) for which they had long waited. They argued, "When Christ cometh, no man knoweth whence he is" (John 7:27). Yet all the Jewish leaders had known that the Christ would come forth from Bethlehem (Matt. 2:5-6). To hear acceptably, we must hear with an open mind, ready to accept the word preached: to believe. Just as the Bereans, "Received the word with all readiness of mind (Acts 17:11), so must we. We must not have the attitude, "I have my mind made up, please don't confuse me with the facts."

In hearing to believe, we must listen to the message, not just the messenger. Paul wrote, "And I, brethren, when I come to you, come not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ and him crucified" (1 Cor. 2:1-2). He then showed why, "That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God" (v. 5). As he continued to speak of the importance of preaching, he said, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God Gave the increase. So, then neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase" (1 Cor. 3:6-7). The poorest teacher one earth will do more good with the truth than will the most skillful instructor who teaches something else! "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 4

AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *W. Holmes*
 Opening Prayer: *T. Mayces*
 Song Leader: *E. Castillo*
 Lord's Supper: *G. Rodriguez; N. Esenowo; R. Baltierra; A. Maldonado*

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

PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *W. Holmes*
 Opening Prayer: *E. Hipp*
 Song Leader: *A. Maldonado*
 Lord's Supper: *J. Guillen; B. Dorries*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *R. Baltierra Jr.*

After Greeter: *S. Amos*
 Greeter/Usher: *J. Guillen*
 AV Duty: *R. Baltierra Jr.*
 Elder in charge: *E. Hipp*

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
 Sam Amos

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 68

PM Sermon:

Be Blameless

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

Sept. 4: E. Hipp

Sept. 14: B. Dorries

Sept. 21: R. Trevino

FOR THE RECORD

AUGUST 28/31

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study 50
 Sunday AM Worship 67
 Sunday PM Worship 46
 Wednesday Bible Study 44
 Budget/Offering: **\$2,140.02/ \$2,586.00**

Weekly Bible Readers: 9/24 (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