

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 (31)

*Gabriel Rodriguez*

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How Israel Fell From Glory (29)

*Shepherd's Corner:*

There Will Be Some Surprises At The Punishment Of The Wicked

As one delves into the subject of idolatry, as was the case in chapter 19, we are introduced to “*certain sons of Belial*” who were bent on committing the sexual egregious act of *sodomy* (i.e., **male homosexuality connected with cultic prostitution**) (v. 22, cf. 1 Kgs. 14:24; 15:12; 22:46). In response to this abomination (Lev. 18:22, cf. Gen. 19), the old man and the Levite offered their daughter and concubine to assuage the uncontrolled sexual passions of these men. This is similar to what happens in Genesis 19:7-8 when Lot offered his daughters to the sexually inflamed male citizens of Sodom and Gomorrah, who were clamoring to sleep with Lot’s two male (i.e., angelic) visitors. What seems troubling about these two situations is, the invitation to give their women to these mobs. But is this what is happening? Consider the situation carefully. In both instances, you have the uncontrolled and unnatural sexual desires of males desiring the abominable action of sodomy. So the natural response in view toward their abominable homosexuality is to invite them to have sexual relations with women. In other words, the invitation is shedding light to their unnatural abomination. With that being said, did these men intend to give their precious daughters and concubine to both mobs?

Certainly not. As I noted, it was to juxtapose the unnatural desires of men, who were clamoring to sleep with other men. But how did the situations in both instances turn out?

In Genesis 19, the uncontrolled homosexual mob **rejected** Lot’s request, became sexually aggressive, and the angels blinded them to prevent them from accomplishing their unfettered sexual desires, while in Judges 19, the homosexual mob rejected the invitation as well, but when the concubine was given to them in their sexual aggression, the men’s unfettered sexual desire resulted in the gang rape of the concubine (vss. 25-26). The point being, the **uncontrolled desire of homosexual men** resulted in the death of the concubine woman. Disgusted by the sexually aggressive mob’s actions, the Levite then took his concubine, cut her into twelve pieces, and sent her remains to all twelve tribes of Israel to demonstrate the vile and filth that Israel had become (v.29). After seeing and hearing what had happened, it was concluded that “*there was no such deed done nor seen from the day that the children of Israel came up out of the land of Egypt unto this day*” (v.30), meaning Israel had progressed into a state not seen since the days they lived in idolatrous Egypt. May God be praised!

# How Israel Fell From Glory (29)

A Study in the Book of Isaiah

## Church News and Announcements

### CONGREGATION

The Ladies Bible Class and Men's Training Class is today at 4:00 pm. The ladies will be studying lesson 6 and the men will continue their singing class.

### YOUTH

Our next youth devotional, hosted by sister Harris, will be on March 10 at Car-Vel Skateland at 6807 Bandera Rd. at 7:00 pm. We look forward to seeing all of our young people at this event.

Our young people are invited to the Southeast congregation (5860 US Highway 87 E, 78222) on Saturday, April 8, from 10 am - 3 pm for their Science or Science Fiction discussion. Let's make plans to attend.

### YOUNG ADULT

Our next young adult devotional, hosted by the Maldonados, will be on March 24. More details to follow later.

### AREA NEWS

See the bulletin board in the foyer for events in our area.

The achilles heel for Israel, and for that matter, all ancient nations was **idolatry**. Now since this was the case, God constantly reminded Israel in her punishment, at the hands of pagan nations, that she was not to "illogical conclude" that these nations, driven by their idols, were not the ones responsible for their demise. Rather the One true God allowed these nations to punish His people. This is why in 45:20 - 47:15, God reminded His people that the gods of Babylon (i.e., wooden graven images) could not save them, nor counsel them, rather "*there is no God beside me; a just God and a Savior; there is none beside me*" (45:21). God reminded Israel to look upon Him and no one else for guidance, and that in the future "*all the seed of Israel shall be justified and glorified*" (45:25).

In chapter 46, God described the fleeting nature of idols that they and other nations had worshipped. God identified that their idols were subject to being carried away in captivity by beasts, showing their inferiority (vss. 1-2). He also demonstrated that the gold and silver people fashioned into an idol, which is then carried by them, when prayed to, could never answer, nor save them from their troubles (vss. 6-7). Once again, God

reasoned with Israel that "*He was God, and there is none else: I am God, and there is none like me*" (v.9). And although God would allow a "*ravenous bird from the east*" (v. 10), Babylon, to do his bidding in punishing Israel, Israel was not to place their confidence in Babylon, because Babylon would only be used as an instrument of destruction, but didn't have the true power and wisdom of the One true God.

God demonstrated this in chapter 47 as He spoke to Babylon in her pomp and pride. God said to Babylon that she was allowed to punish and conquer Israel because "*I was wroth with my people, I have polluted mine inheritance, and given them into thine hand*" (v. 6a). But Babylon took advantage of the situation and was cruel and fierce with Israel (vss. 6b-8). But God reminded Babylon that her turn was coming to be conquered and desolate, even though she found her strength and comfort in her "*enchantments, sorceries, astrologers, stargazing, and monthly prognostications*" (vss. 12-13). God prophesied that Babylon would become as stubble and that no one would be there to deliver them from the power of the flame, their destruction (vss. 15-15). 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) and given the hope of eternal life (Acts 2:38).

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

### There Will Be Some Surprises At The Punishment Of The Wicked

Once again, many will be surprised at who the wicked are. Jesus will say, "Depart from me, ye cursed, into eternal fire which is prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry, and ye did not feed me; I was thirsty, and you gave me no drink..." (Matt. 25:41-42). These are not immoral people, who rob and steal and lie and kill and commit adultery. These are condemned for doing nothing. That will surprise many people, that you don't have to be bad to be eternally lost. Even some religious people will be lost, as Jesus said in Matt. 7:21-23, "Not every one that saith unto me Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say unto me in that day, Lord, Lord did we not prophesy in thy name, and by thy name cast out demons, and by thy name do many mighty woks? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." Very simply, those who are lost are those without Christ.

Many will be surprised at what the punishment of the wicked is. The rich man in torment said, "I am in anguish in this flame" (Lk. 16:23). Is it possible to imagine such pain that there is a constant crying and grinding of the teeth? That is what the Lord picture's in Matt. 13:41-42. The anguish and pain is described in Rev. 14:11, "The smoke of their torment goeth up for ever and ever." The "smoke" is from the "lake of fire and brimstone" (Rev. 20:10), which Jesus calls hell, "Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched" (Mk. 9:48). Many people protest, "You don't really believe in an actual place of eternal fire, do you?" The answer is YES! The Bible says it, over and over. "The furnace of fire" (Matt. 13:41), "Depart from me ye cursed into the eternal fire" (Matt. 25:41), "In flaming fire, rendering vengeance to them that know not God and to them that obey not the gospel" (2 Thes. 1:7-8), etc. Yes, hell is a place of punishment in fire, reserved for "the devil and his angels" (Matt. 25:41), and for those who choose to serve the devil.

There shall be surprise at how long punishment of the wicked will last. From passages already noted: "Tormented day and night for ever and ever...Into the eternal fire...Smoke of their torment goeth up for ever and ever...These shall go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life...Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched" (Rev. 20:10; Matt. 25:41; Rev. 14:11; Matt 25:46; MK. 9:48). Actually, if God had not intended to present the idea of punishment in fire for ever, why did He?

**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

## DEACONS

(Acts 6: 1-5; 1 Tim. 3: 7-12)

*Brother Raul Baltierra*

(210) 843-9730

*Brother Bill Dorries*

(210) 253-0173

## GOSPEL PREACHER

(1 Cor. 9:1-16; 2 Tim. 4: 2-5)

*Brother Gabriel Rodriguez*

(210) 315-4453



## FEBRUARY 26

### AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *D. Mathis*  
 Opening Prayer: *J. Guillen*  
 Song Leader: *E. Castillo*  
 Lord's Supper: *A. Jacob; B. Dorries; R. Baltierra; R. Trevino*

Scripture: *Matt. 27:27-35*  
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Benediction: *N. Esenowo*

### PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *D. Mathis*  
 Opening Prayer: *W. Holmes*  
 Song Leader: *Cong. Singing*  
 Lord's Supper: *Z. Watkins; A. Maldonado*

Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Benediction: *E. Castillo*

After Greeter: *P. White*  
 Greeter/Usher: *T. Mayces*  
 AV Duty: *M. de la Garza*  
 Elder in charge: *G. Rodriguez*

### REMEMBERING OUR BELOVED

(by writing, calling, and praying)

Wayne Holmes  
 Joe Guillen  
 Ina Dial  
 David and Elijah Sudhoff  
 Caral O'Banon  
 Helen Gross (aunt of sister Sarah)  
 Sam Amos (awaiting surgery)  
 Parents of David Lyssy  
 Sandra Welch (sister-in-law of Billie Dorries)  
 Lavender Nelson  
 Tita Cortez (sister of Sam Ramirez)  
 Dolly Gribble (hurt back)

### BATTLING CANCER:

Johna Dorries      Abigail Reyes  
 Graciola Anderson      Sonny Cary  
 Arturo Hernandez  
 Renalto (brother-in-law of Joe Guillen)

### SHUT-INS:

Dazel Ball  
 Mildred Geest  
 Sarah Cannon

### TRAVELING:

A. Jacob; Courtney Cobb (Japan)

### SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES MARCH

Organizing Monthly Luncheon:  
*Holmes*  
 Preparing Lord's Supper:  
*White*  
 Auditorium Service Duties:  
*White*  
 Wash baptismal garments; clean cry room  
*White*  
 Brother in charge of services:  
*T. Mayces*

AM Theme:

**The Hall of Fame:**

*A Study of Hebrews 11*

PM Theme:

**God's Love For His Church:**

*A Study of the Song of Solomon*

**AM Sermon:**

*The Account of Joseph (4)*

**PM Sermon:**

*Congregational Singing*

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

**March 1:** *B. Dorries*

**March 8:** *S. Amos*

**March 15:** *D. Mathis*

## FOR THE RECORD

### FEBRUARY 19/22

#### Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study      31  
 Sunday AM Worship      56  
 Sunday PM Worship      16  
 Wednesday Bible Study      26  
 Budget/Offering:      **\$2,140.02/ \$1,465.00**

Weekly Bible Readers: 6 (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