

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 (29)

Gabriel Rodriguez

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The final chapters in the book of Judges (19-21) deal with a time when “*there was no king in Israel*”, nor judge (deliverer), and “*every man did that which was right in his own eyes*” (19:1a; 21:25). When people begin to digress from the Lord and His law, being led by their own wants and desires, wickedness and destruction loom closely. These chapters deal with a situation where a Levite (*supposedly a man of God*) took a concubine and made her his wife. First thing first, the Levite violated the law of marriage (Gen. 2:24) by making this woman his “*secondary*” wife. (*This shows an uncontrolled lustful passion from the Levite*). Second, we learn that the concubine “*committed adultery*” against him, left him, and returned to her father’s house in Bethlehem-Judah (v.2). Instead of being infuriated concerning the act of adultery and meting out its consequence of death (Lev. 18:20; Deut. 22:22), the Levite “*went after her, to speak friendly unto her, and to bring her again*” unto him (v.3a). The Levite arrived at the father’s home with his servant and a couple of donkeys (v.3b). Once the father saw him, “*he rejoiced to meet him*” (v. 3c). The father-in-law then enticed the Levite to stay with him for five days at his home (vss. 4-9). (*Is it possible that the father of the concubine did not want the Levite to take his*

daughter because he was afraid of his plans with her?) After the fifth day, the Levite made up his mind to go and left with his concubine, his servant, and his two donkeys, and headed back toward Mt. Ephraim (v. 10). In their journey, the Levite decided to stay in Gibeah (vss. 13-14), avoiding Jerusalem (vss. 11-12), because he felt he would be more welcomed there, seeing that Jerusalem was occupied by strangers and foreigners. This was confirmed as no one from the city “*took them in for lodging*” (vss. 14-15). But as he made his way into their streets of Gibeah, an old man, also from Mt. Ephraim, had just finished working in a field and saw the Levite and his family in the street of the city. He quickly inquired who they were and what they were needing (vss. 16-17). The Levite then responded that he and his family were traveling through toward Mt. Ephraim to go to the house of the Lord (v.18). The Levite then said that they just needed a place to stay, because their physical needs were already met (v. 19). The old man then gave them a place to lodge, but his reasons were far more disturbing that anyone would have expected. The city during the night turned into a frenzied, malevolent place that would frightening any traveler. May God be praised!

How Israel Fell From Glory (27)

A Study in the Book of Isaiah

Church News and Announcements

CONGREGATION

The fellowship luncheon, hosted by the Hipps, will be next Sunday, February 12, after the morning service. The menu is healthy potluck.

The family home devotional hosted by the Baltierras, will be February 17. The menu will be healthy potluck. More details to follow

YOUTH

Our next youth devotional will be a lock-in, February 10th and 11th, starting at 8:00 pm and ending at 9:00 am. Brother Gabriel and Sister Billie Dorries will be chaperones for this event. Food will be provided. The only thing we ask is, kids are to bring snacks for themselves and a little extra to share.

YOUNG ADULT

Our next young adult devotional is scheduled for February 24th. The Rodriguez family will be hosting this event. Festivities will begin at 7:00. The menu is healthy potluck.

AREA NEWS

See Bulletin Board for area wide meetings

Chapter 44 gives a wonderful description of God (as a mighty and forgiving God), pleading with His nation (Israel) to think about their current state of mind. As God communicated, Israel was to be His servant, chosen from all the families of the earth, to represent Him in all things (vss. 1-2, cf. Amos 3:2). God had not left His people satiated, rather He had provided for all their needs, physically, but most importantly, spiritually (vss. 3-4). God desired that His people be united under Him, as the only true and living God (vss. 5-8).

God then reasoned with His people examining and explaining the inconsistencies of idolatry. Idols are items made by men using properties of nature, all of which are weak and susceptible to change and destruction (vss. 9-17). What God's problem was, His people, and all people of the world, who had given themselves over to idol worship hadn't reasoned correctly. Nature, which they worshiped, had no real power, but only the true and living God, maker of all things (vss. 18-20).

God pleaded with Israel to rid herself of the illegitimacy and illogical use of idolatry and begin to represent the Lord of Lords that made and formed them (vss. 21-24). This is the God that "*frustrates liars, makes diviners mad, turns wise*

men backwards, and makes their knowledge foolish" (v. 25). He then "*confirms the word of his servants and performs the counsel of his messengers*" (v. 26). This showed that God alone is the one who is true and all the idols and their wicked and false prophets were vain.

Even after Israel's punishment for Her wicked and idolatrous ways, God would forgive her through repentance, and use a pagan nation to help rebuild the temple and wall of Jerusalem (cf. Ezra and Nehemiah). God commissioned Cyrus of Persia to re-establish Israel, to show the world that God rules and is powerful than any nation of the world (v. 28-45:1). But how did all of this happen? Indirectly. Through God's plan of maintaining righteous character despite their captivity, Israel would be put in a position to help herself regain her illustrious status in the world. We this happening in the book of Daniel, Ezra, and Nehemiah. By remaining under the obedience of their rulers and being good citizens, which God ultimately wanted from His people, they set themselves up to gain favor, and by gaining favor, were allowed to rebuild Jerusalem once again. 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

At The Basis Of The Judgment There Will Be Surprises!

The basis for God's judgment is not going to be what many expect. Position in this life will not even be a factor. Wealth cannot buy you any special consideration. Your family, popularity, prestige or power will gain you nothing in that court. Not even your conscience will save, for Paul wrote "I know nothing against myself, yet am I not hereby justified" (1 Cor. 4:4). This man had so persecuted Christ and His church that he referred to himself as "the chief of sinners" (1 Tim. 1:15). Yet, he said, "I have lived before God in all good conscience until this day" (Acts. 23:1). Then what will be the basis of judgment be?

As shocking as it may be to many people, even good religious people, the basis of the judgment is going to be works. That's right, works! "God will bring every work into judgment..The dead were judged according to their works...According to what he hath done, whether it be good or bad" (Eccle. 12:14; Rev. 20:12; 2 Cor. 5:10). We hear many religious leaders say that works have nothing to do with salvation, but the truth is the final judgment is based on our works. That is why God said, "Ye see that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only" (Jas. 2:24). At the judgment we will answer for our works.

The Scriptures show that we are not saved by our works (Eph. 2:8-9), nor can we be saved by the works of the law (Gal. 2:21; Rom. 3:20). But there are works that God will reward "Your work of faith...in our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thes.1:3). Salvation is only "in Christ" (Acts 4:12; 2 Tim. 2:10), and the works which God will recognize as His righteousness are works that are done (by faith) in Christ. It is "in Christ" that we are to walk (Col. 2:6), and it is "in Christ" that our works are blessed (Rev. 14:13). That surprises the moralist, who trusts his own goodness and argues that he is "just as good as any Christian." That we are justified by works in Christ surprises those religious people who teach "faith only" and argue that baptism "into Christ Jesus" (Rom. 6:3-4) is not important. But we "become the righteousness of God in Him" (2 Cor. 5:21), and nowhere else. It will surprise many people, but the basis of the judgment will be our works, and only those works done "in Christ" can justify.

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 5

AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *T. Mayces*
 Opening Prayer: *B. Dorries*
 Song Leader: *E. Castillo*
 Lord's Supper: *R. Baltierra; A. Maldonado; R. Trevino; M. de la Garza*

Scripture: *Isa. 53:1-5*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *W. Holmes*

PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *T. Mayces*
 Opening Prayer: *N. Esenowo*
 Song Leader: *R. Trevino*
 Lord's Supper: *D. Mathis; B. Dorries*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *S. Amos*

After Greeter: *B & B Dorries*
 Greeter/Usher: *G. Gribble*
 AV Duty: *R. Baltierra Jr*
 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
 Helen Gross (aunt of sister Sarah)
 Sam Amos (awaiting surgery)
 Parents of David Lyssy
 Sandra Welch (sister-in-law of Billie Dorries)
 Lavender Nelson
 Lisa Bond (daughter of Pauline)
 Tita Cortez (sister of Sam Ramirez)
 Eloise Creek (battling various issues)
 Dolly Gribble (hurt back)

BATTLING CANCER:

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

SHUT-INS:

Dazel Ball
 Mildred Geest
 Sarah Cannon

TRAVELING:

A. Jacob; Courtney Cobb (Japan)

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES FEBRUARY

Organizing Monthly Luncheon:
Hipp
 Preparing Lord's Supper:
Hipp
 Auditorium Service Duties:
Hipp
 Wash baptismal garments; clean cry
 room
Hipp
 Brother in charge of services:
E. Hipp

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 (2)

PM Sermon:

Third song (2)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

January 25: *R. Baltierra Jr.*

February 1: *T. Mayces*

February 8: *E. Castillo*

FOR THE RECORD

JANUARY 29/ FEBRUARY 1

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study 43
 Sunday AM Worship 53
 Sunday PM Worship 34
 Wednesday Bible Study 49
 Budget/Offering: **\$2,140.02/ \$1,414.00**

Weekly Bible Readers: NA (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