

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 (27)

Gabriel Rodriguez

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Continued moral and spiritual decadence persisted after the death of Samson. After Samson did not serve as the complete, godly role model God desired for His nation, the people continued in staunch paganism as evinced in chapters 17-18. In these two chapters we learn of a man from the land of Ephraim, whose name was Micah, which means “*who is like God*”, and who through the commission of egregious idolatrous acts, perpetrating foolishness and impiety before the Lord, did not live up to the meaning of his name. Twice in these chapters we are told, “*In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes*” (17:6; 18:1a). This showed that man rejected God’s way and established his own rule.

While we first learn of Micah’s repentance and restoration of 1100 pieces silver he had stolen from his mother (17:2), the mother honored God for her son’s change, but subsequently did something foolish. The mother in her delight of her son’s repentance, took two hundred pieces of silver and honored God by making a craved and metal image of Him (17:3-4, cf. Ex. 20:1-4). Micah then took these images and placed them in his house (along with other idols), making a shrine, an ephod, and ordained one his sons to become

their priest (17:5). We see several violations here: (1) A lack of godly parental guidance (Deut. 6:7), (2) The worship of idols (Ex. 20:2-4, and (3) The improper worship and service unto God (Ex. 29; Lev. 21).

Furthermore, the immoral path continues as a young man from the family of Judah, a Levite, sojourned into the land of Ephraim to find a place to dwell, and came to the house of Micah (17:7-9). Micah, after discovering who he was, asked the young Levite to make his abode with him and become his priest, and he (Micah) would support him financially (17:10-12). After the Levite agreed, Micah made this statement: “*Now know I that the Lord will do me good, seeing I have a Levite as my priest*” (17:13). Several things to parse here: (1) Just because the young man was a Levite didn’t automatically mean he was able to serve as priest, (2) Micah tacitly implicates himself of error by noting that possessing a Levite as a priest, instead of his son, he would be blessed by God, and (3) Micah had deluded himself that his actions were approved by God.

Sadly, the next chapter reveals continued allegiance to idolatry, selfishness, and pride, which eventually would lead to their demise. May God be praised!

How Israel Fell From Glory (25)

A Study in the Book of Isaiah

Church News and Announcements

CONGREGATION

The Ladies' Bible class and Men's Training Class will meet at 4:00 pm on January 22. The ladies will be studying lesson 5.

The Men's Dinner will be on January 24th and the ladies' get-together will be on January 26th. Sign up sheets are located in the foyer.

YOUTH

Our next youth devotional will be on January 20th at 7:00 pm in the annex building. The Dorries will be hosting this event.

YOUNG ADULT

Our next scheduled young adult devotional is for January 27th, but we are still needing a host family. Please see Gabriel if you can help.

AREA NEWS

See Bulletin Board for area wide meetings

What Israel had failed in and corrupted, God prophesied of one to come to set in order the moral decay. In chapter 42, God speaks of "*His servant in whom my soul delights*" (v.1a). Why would He delight in Him? Because this servant would possess His "*spirit*" (i.e., mind/character) and be responsible for final judgment (v.1b, cf. 2 Cor. 5:10). The life of the servant would serve as a standard for judgment, and His life consisted of being unassuming, but mentally and physically strong, in order to reveal God's truth (vss. 2-3). And although His journey would be difficult, this servant would "*not fail, nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment and his law upon the earth*" (v.4).

But here is an interesting thought Isaiah gives next: *Thus saith the Lord, he that created the heavens and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which comes out of it...*" (v.5a). The ideas of "*stretching them out*" (natah) and "*spread forth*" (raqa) are the keys. Both phrases speak of bending and beating out something in the sense of manipulating (i.e., influencing) the shape of; therefore, just as God shapes the earth, He "*gives breath unto the people, and spirit to them that walk*" (v. 5b). The figurative language is quite clear. Through the mind of God

revealed in communication (breath), God's thoughts and ideas (spirit) shapes and forms us. In what direction? "*I the Lord have called thee in righteousness...*" (v.6a). Through God's mind leading to godly character, only then can God "*hold your hand, keep thee, and give thee a covenant, so that he/we can become a light to the entire world*" (v.6b). And when we become the light of the world (Matt. 5:16), then are we able to "*open the blind eyes, bring out prisoners from prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house*" (v.7), namely through righteous conduct, we are able to free those taken captive my sinful habits. And who did God want to accomplish this? His people who lived by his name and glory, rejecting idolatry (v. 8).

But Isaiah forewarned Israel of their continued sinful conduct and its stern consequences: "*The Lord shall go forth as a mighty man, he shall stir up jealousy like a man of war...he shall prevail against his enemies*" (v.13). But discipline and destruction has positives. As God revealed through their tough times, people would learn from their mistakes, reject what they had initially practiced, and seek God once again (vss. 15-17). 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

The Church Is Found In The New Testament Epistles

In the writing of the apostles (Romans through Jude), the church that Jesus built is pictured for us. The apostle Paul wrote of Jesus, "He is the head of the body, the church...God gave him to be head over all things to the church, which is his body...There is one body...He is Savior of the body" (Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:22-23; 4:4; 5:23). The church that Jesus built is the "body of Christ." Surely no man-made church can make that claim! That church is also the bride of Christ: "I espoused you to one husband, that I might present you as a pure virgin to Christ...The husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is head of the church, being himself the savior of the body...Husbands love your wives, as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself up for it...For this cause shall man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh. This mystery is great; but I speak in regard of Christ and the church" (2 Cor.11:2; Eph. 5:23-32).

Probably the most meaningful description of the church of the Bible is that of "the family of God." Paul wrote to those in the church in Ephesus, "Ye are fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God" (Eph. 2:19-20). The same apostle said, "For ye are all sons of God, through faith, in Christ. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ did put on Christ" (Gal. 3:26-27). When those on Pentecost were baptized, the Lord saved them and added them to His church (Acts 2:47). In other words, because they were "born of water and the Spirit" they were now in the kingdom (John 3:5). which is the church. That well defines the family of God: those, who, through faith, are baptized into Christ (Gal. 3:26-27). Thus, all of God's children are in His family, which is the church of the Bible. If one has been "born again" he is in God's family, which is the church.

Friends, any church which began at some of the time or place or in another way, or is composed of different people than what we have just read from God's word is not the church of the Bible. Jesus taught clearly about the source of the church, the kingdom, "The seed is the word of God" (Luke 8:11). The apostle Peter wrote later, "Having been begotten again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, through the word of God, which liveth and abideth...and this is the word of the gospel which was preached unto you" (1 Pet. 1:23,25). If you will receive the same seed, the word of God, and obey it the same way those people did some 1900 years ago, the Lord will add you to that same church. That will not make you a member of any denomination. But it will make you a member of the church that Jesus built.

Bro. Wayne 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



JANUARY 22

AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *W. Holmes*
 Opening Prayer: *D. Mathis*
 Song Leader: *A. Maldonado*
 Lord's Supper: *T. Mayces; R. Baltierra Jr.; J. Guillen; M. de la Garza*

Scripture: *Matt. 26:26-29*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *B. Dorries*

PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *W. Holmes*
 Opening Prayer: *R. Baltierra Jr.*
 Song Leader: *E. Castillo*
 Lord's Supper: *S. Amos; R. Baltierra*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *R. Trevino*

After Greeter: *W & K Holmes*
 Greeter/Usher: *S. Amos*
 AV Duty: *M. de la Garza*
 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)

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 JANUARY

Organizing Monthly Luncheon:
B. Garcia
 Preparing Lord's Supper:
Neaves
 Auditorium Service Duties:
Baltierra
 Wash baptismal garments; clean cry
 room
Baltierra
 Brother in charge of services:
R. Baltierra Sr.

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 Jacob and Esau
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 15/18

Attendance:
 Sunday Bible Study 38
 Sunday AM Worship 50
 Sunday PM Worship 39
 Wednesday Bible Study 47
 Budget/Offering: **\$2,140.02/ \$1,493.40**

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