

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 (28)

Gabriel Rodriguez

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In chapter 18, the tribe of Dan sought more land to inherit and sent out five men of valor on this expedition (vss. 1-2). They eventually came to the house of Micah in their journey (cf. 17:1) and learned that the young Levite, whom they knew, lived there. The men asked the Levite why he was there, and he told them that Micah had hired him as his priest (v.3). The five men then asked the Levite whether God would prosper their journey, to which he said, “*Go in peace: before the Lord is your way wherein ye go*” (vss. 5-6). But this propitious blessing belied God’s true favor upon them as we will annotate (cf. 18:1a).

Believing this “blessing,” the men of Dan came upon a city by the name of *Laish* (meaning “lion”) and witnessed a secure, hardworking, and self-sufficient people, **who minded their own business** (v.7). The men of Dan then came back to their brethren and reported their findings, to which the men emboldened the people by saying, “*God has given it into our hands, let us go and possess it*” (v. 10). Hence, 600 Danite men, appointed with weapons of war, assembled and marched toward Laish to take the city (vss.11-12). But before they arrived, the men stopped at the house of Micah and took Micah’s idols and made an offer to the Levite to be a priest over them, to which the Levite agreed (vss. 13-21). After Micah

heard what had happened, Micah and others from his house approached the Danites and the Levite, asking them what and why they had done this thing (vss. 22-24). But the children of Dan threatened Micah saying, “*Let not your voice be heard among us, lest we become angry and run upon you, and you lose your life and your household*” (v. 25). Micah acknowledged their resolve and physical strength, and he let them go (v. 26).

The children of Dan then came upon the city of Laish in war, settled therein, and renamed the city Dan. Afterwards, they established idolatry and cultic practices within the city (vss. 29-31).

What do we learn from all of this? God’s people continued in idolatry; therefore, their actions were not authorized by God, even though they had convinced themselves otherwise. Micah, the young Levite, and the Danites were all deluded, thinking that God had prospered their way. But in reality, they did and practiced things of their own accord, and by doing so, their actions were horrid in the eyes of God. This certainly continues to happen today, when God’s people who don’t check themselves (2 Cor. 13:5), begin to believe in things that God hasn’t authorized or approved, thinking that God has given His approval. May God be praised!

How Israel Fell From Glory (26)

A Study in the Book of Isaiah

Church News and Announcements

CONGREGATION

No news at this time.

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. We are needing a host family for this event. Please see Gabriel if you can assist.

AREA NEWS

See Bulletin Board for area wide meetings

Before destruction ever fell upon Israel for her wickedness, God attempted to reason with her (Isa. 1:18). At the latter part of chapter 42, beginning at verse 18 into chapter 44, God describes Israel's mental state as "*deaf and blind*" (42:18-19). In other words, they chose not to understand and change their ways. God attempted to show them what He wanted from them - to magnify "*righteousness and His law*" (42:21). God then asked His people: "*Who among you will give ear to this? who will hearken and hear for the time to come?*" (42:23).

God then reasons with Israel concerning His nature and their expectations. God reminded Israel that He was the One that created and formed them, He was the one that redeemed and called them; hence, if they do what He says then they would be blessed by Him (43:1-2). God wanted Israel to look back at her history and ask themselves whether He had ever failed them when they chose to do what was right (43:3-10). What God wanted Israel to ultimately understand in all of this was, idolatry isn't the answer. This had been the plague that prevented Israel from becoming great. Through the practices of idolatry, Israel had fallen away from God and righteousness; therefore, God

reminded them, "*...before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. I, even I, am the Lord; and beside me there is no savior*" (43:10-11). God wanted to impress upon Israel that He alone possessed the power and wisdom needed to safely guide them and to bring down mighty nations (43:12-21), and not idols that had grown accustomed to worshipping.

But God was displeased with Israel, because instead of acknowledging God and His greatness, they had wearied Him with vain worship and sinful lives (43:23-24). But if they were willing to change, God told them that He would blot out their transgressions and remember them no more (43:25).

God makes a final plea to Israel to remember Him. He pleads with them to do right in order to be justified (43:26). He wanted them to acknowledge the deep cycle of sin they were involved in, which had corrupted them (43:27-28).

In chapter 44, as we will see next week, God continues His strong reasoning with Israel, helping them to avoid destruction. God is merciful and patient, but this will only last if we accept His reasoning, and obey. 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 Judgment

The apostle John describes the scene of the judgment shown to him in a vision: "The devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where also the beast and the false prophet; and they shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever...The dead were judged out of the things written in the books, according to their works...And Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death, even the lake of fire" (Rev. 20:10-14).

There are many surprises in this life, some good and some bad. A bonus, a tax notice, a bill we hadn't expected, a gift from a neighbor, some criticism or compliment - these are a part of life. But when life is over, there will still be some surprises for many people. These are surprises at the judgment. Many people don't believe there will even be a judgment. The atheist, who does not believe in God, obviously does not believe he will face God in judgment. The universalist, who believes that everyone will be saved, surely doesn't believe there will be judgment. People who are living for his life are saying by their lifestyle, "This life is all there is."

The final judgment is one of the most basic teachings of both the Old Testament and the New. Solomon wrote, "God will bring every work into judgment, with very secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil" (Eccle. 12:14). Jesus pictured the judgment in Matt. 25:31-46, when He will "separate them one from another." The apostle Paul wrote, "So then each one of us shall give account of himself to God...For we must all be manifest before the judgment seat of Christ; that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he hath done, whether it be good or bad" (Rom. 14:12; 2 Cor. 5:10). The conclusion is inescapable: "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Heb. 9:27). When that time comes there will be many surprises for many people.

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 29

AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *G. Rodriguez*
 Opening Prayer: *J. Guillen*
 Song Leader: *A. Maldonado*
 Lord's Supper: *B. Dorries; N. Esenowo; E. Hipp; A. Maldonado*

Scripture: *Ps. 23*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *W. Holmes*

PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *G. Rodriguez*
 Opening Prayer: *J. Mokry*
 Song Leader: *Cong. Singing*
 Lord's Supper: *G. Rodriguez; T. Mayces*

Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *N. Esenowo*

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

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 last week)

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 (1)

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 22/25

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study 38
 Sunday AM Worship 65
 Sunday PM Worship 44
 Wednesday Bible Study 45
 Budget/Offering: **\$2,140.02/ \$1,644.00**

Weekly Bible Readers: 5 (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