

# 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 (24)

*Gabriel Rodriguez*

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After Samson's slaughter of 30 men of Philistine, his dissolution of his marriage, and burning of Philistine crops, which ended in the murder of his wife and father-in-law and further violence against the people of Philistine by Samson, the people of Philistine pitched themselves against Judah and requested the arrest of Samson for his actions (15:8-10). Under the tyranny of the Philistines and afraid of war, three thousand men of Judah went to the top of rock Etam, bound Samson with two new cords, and then released him to the Philistines (15:11-13). Once Samson was brought into the midst of the Philistines, the people of Philistine shouted against him, but Samson used his might and courage, broke free from the ropes, retrieved a new jawbone of a donkey, and killed a thousand men (15:11-19). This showed Samson's dominance over the people of Philistine, and through his might and courage, he ruled Israel for 20 years (15:20). But during Samson's rule, his penchant for lust and sex continued to be his downfall. We learn in chapter 16:1-3 that Samson went into Gaza, a Philistine city, encountered a prostitute and slept with her. Afterwards, Samson fell in love with a woman from Philistine (in the valley of Sorek), and her name was Delilah, which means feeble; a harbinger of what was to become of Samson (16:4). Utilizing Delilah (his lover) as a ploy, the lords of Philistine convinced her to find out the source of Samson's strength in order that they might prevail against him and she would be rewarded with a bounty (16:5). Delilah agreed with the plot and attempted to

discover Samson's source of strength. As Delilah inquired about his source of strength, three times Samson revealed lies to Delilah as the men of Philistine attempted to defeat him with his revelations (16:6-15). But "*it came to pass, when she pressed him daily with her words, and urged him, so that his soul was vexed unto death; that he told her all his heart*" and revealed that the taking of the Nazarite vow, namely his long hair (as a result of no razor coming upon his head) was the result of his strength (6:16-17). After Delilah saw that Samson had revealed the truth, the lords of the Philistines paid her, and Delilah concocted a plan to cut Samson's hair. After his hair had been cut, Samson's strength left him (*made him feeble*) and the Philistines captured him, put out his eyes, brought him to Gaza, bound him with fetters of brass, and made him work like a slave in prison (16:18-21).

Samson's weakness for women caused his demise and led to his capture and enslavement by the Philistines. But what this be the last hoorah for Samson? The Bible tells us that his hair grew back while in prison and after some time had passed, Samson, the enemy of Philistine, was made sport at one of their idolatrous parties (16:22-25). Samson, because of his blindness, asked to be led to the pillars of the house. Once at the pillars, Samson prayed to God and asked for strength one last time, and then Samson took hold of the two middle pillars, pushed them apart, and the house came tumbling down on him and everyone inside the dwelling (16:16-31). Everyone perished. May God be praised!

# How Israel Fell From Glory (22)

A Study in the Book of Isaiah

## Church News and Announcements

### CONGREGATION

The fellowship luncheon, hosted by Blanca Garcia, will be next Sunday, January 8, after our morning service. The menu is healthy potluck.

The privilege sheets for the year 2017 are in the foyer. Please indicate where and when you are willing to serve.

### 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

If you haven't noticed by now, the discussion has been a back and forth concerning Israel's sin and wickedness, their punishment in the form of conquering pagan nations, and God's ultimate judgment upon all men. God's real purpose was to use this time and its events to give rise to a remnant in which spiritual progress could be made, eventually leading to the coming Christ and His Kingdom. Now we come to chapters 36-39, which speaks of a time during the days of king Hezekiah, king of Judah. As was predicted by God, the nation of Assyria had become a world-wide threat to all nations, and had destroyed and enslaved the nation of Israel. But Assyria had become arrogant and bold, and decided to war against Judah to take her as well. Hence, in the 14th year of King Hezekiah, the king of Assyria (Sennacherib) sent his general Rabshakeh to warn Hezekiah of his threat of destruction. Rabshakeh told Hezekiah's inner counsel not to listen to Hezekiah's meaningless words of safety, because Hezekiah would not be able, even by the power of his God, to save them from their warpath. The Assyria's had mentioned that they had defeated multiple nations and gods to get them where they were, at the verge of conquering and destroying Judah.

As Hezekiah heard these words and threat, Hezekiah (along with his men) trembled in fear, mourned, and began to complain about their impending doom. To which, Isaiah said to Hezekiah, "*Be not afraid of the words you have heard, the ones in which they king of Assyria blasphemed me*" (37:6). Isaiah then proceeded to tell Hezekiah what would occur, that Assyria would leave them to fight another war with the people of Libnah (37:7-8). As they left though, once again the king of Assyria reiterated his previous message, to which Isaiah (once again) noted that these were empty words and that Judah would not be harmed, rather the nation of Assyria would be destroyed. To make good on this promise, verses 36-38 tell us of an angel of the Lord going into the camp of the Assyrians and killing 185,000 men. The king of Assyria then fled, returned to his kingdom Nineveh, and it is here that his two sons, Adrammelech and Sharezer, killed their father, and his son Esar-haddon reigned in his stead (37:38). The threat of Assyria became a non-threat, as God had other plans for Judah. Judah, though, was not out of danger as we will see. Instead of using this time for reflection and repentance, the nation of Judah continued in their path of sin. 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) 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

### Jesus Spoke Of The (His) Church

Notice the Lord's promise in Matt. 16, "I will build my church...and I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom." The church is repeatedly identified later as the kingdom." The general assembly and church of the firstborn...A kingdom which cannot be shaken" (Heb. 12:23,28). Those who were "translated into the kingdom" (Col. 1:13) were members of "the body, the church" (Col. 1:18). The Jews were looking for an earthly kingdom, one that would cast off the military and political yoke of the Roman Empire. But Jesus plainly said, "My kingdom is not of this world, else would my servants fight" (John 18:36). Whereas a physical birth made people citizens of the kingdom of Israel, Jesus told Nicodemus, "Except one be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God...Except one be born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of heaven" (John 3:3-5). This kingdom, this house, this church, was to be completely different from that of Israel.

When was this church, or kingdom, to begin? Jesus told the apostles, in plain words, "There be some of them that stand here which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power" (Mark 9:1). After His death and His resurrection, Jesus told them that they should begin their preaching in Jerusalem, and: "Behold, I send forth the promise of my Father upon you; but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem until ye be clothed with power from on high" (Luke 24:49). Notice that kingdom was to come during their lifetime, it was to come with power, they were to wait in Jerusalem until Jesus sent the power upon them.

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 1

## AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *B. Dorries*  
 Opening Prayer: *E. Castillo*  
 Song Leader: *R. Trevino*  
 Lord's Supper: *N. Esenowo; E. Hipp;*  
*A. Maldonado; M. de la Garza*

Scripture: *Isa. 53:10-12*  
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Benediction: *R. Baltierra*

## PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *B. Dorries*  
 Opening Prayer: *T. Mayces*  
 Song Leader: *E. Hipp*  
 Lord's Supper: *E. Castillo; R. Trevino*  
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Benediction: *M. de la Garza*

After Greeter: *E & K Hipp*  
 Greeter/Usher: *G. Gribble*  
 AV Duty: *J. Guillen*  
 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)  
 Eloise Creek - recovering from a fall.  
 She is at home now.

### BATTLING CANCER:

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

### 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 Abraham (5)*  
**PM Sermon:**  
*The Second Song (1)*

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

**December 28:** *G. Rodriguez*  
**January 4:** *M. de la Garza*  
**January 11:** *E. Hipp*

## FOR THE RECORD

### DECEMBER 25/28

#### Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study      32  
 Sunday AM Worship      45  
 Sunday PM Worship      30  
 Wednesday Bible Study      46  
 Budget/Offering:      **\$2,140.02/ \$1,442.00**

Weekly Bible Readers: NA (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