

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 (33)

*Gabriel Rodriguez*

### Inside This Issue:

How Israel Fell From Glory (31)

*Shepherd's Corner:*  
Hot, Cold, or Lukewarm? (1)

After a third time, the nation of Israel “planned” their attack (at the behest of God) with a great deflection and ambush, and were then able to secure victory over the men of Benjamin, which resulted in the killing over 25,000 men (20:29-48).

Now the concern for Israel was, after defeating the wicked men of Benjamin, “*there shall be today one tribe lacking in Israel?*” (21:3). Israel, prior to the battle had sworn in Mizpeh, saying, “*There shall not any of us give his daughters unto Benjamin to wife*” (21:1). What all of this implies is, the casualties of war also included women (i.e., wives) among Benjamin. So the people came to the house of God for counsel as they lifted up their voices and wept (21:2). But no where do we see that God guided them in their planning, rather “*every man did that which was right in his own eyes*” (21:25).

The children of Israel dealt with this dilemma by asking: “*Who is there among all the tribes of Israel that came not up with the congregation unto the Lord? (For they had made a great oath concerning him that came not up to the Lord to Mizpeh, saying, He shall surely be put to death)*” (21:5). They concluded that “*... there came none to the camp from Jabesh-gilead to the assembly*” (21:8-9). The Israelites then sent 12,000 men of

valor to smite the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead, including women and children (21:10). Among the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead that survived were 400 young virgins, which were brought unto the camp at Shiloh (21:12). The Israelites then called the residue of men from Benjamin and the 400 virgins were given to them to continue their lineage (21:14). But this was not enough to suffice the remaining men (21:16-18). The Israelites then suggested to the men of Benjamin, that at the feast of the Lord in Shiloh, which took place every year, that the women which came out to dance in the feast, they were to lie in wait in the vineyards and capture them to be their future wife. Israel then told Benjamin, that if and when the fathers and brothers of those women complained about this, they would tell them that it was their fault that Benjamin didn’t have enough women to continue their lineage. The children of Benjamin did as they were commanded, took them wives, and rebuilt their city. Judges ends with “*the children of Israel parted at that time, every man to his tribe and to his family, and they went out from thence every man to his inheritance*” (21:24). What a mess in the land of Israel. With no obedience to God and direction from Him, Israel was in a social decline. May God be praised!

# How Israel Fell From Glory (31)

A Study in the Book of Isaiah

## Church News and Announcements

### CONGREGATION

The fellowship luncheon is today after our morning service. All visitors are invited to stay and enjoy a meal with us.

Volunteers are needed for the month of April: a man to be in charge of services and a host for the family home devotional. See one of the elders if you can serve in one of these areas.

Teachers are needed for the second quarter. A sign-up sheet is in the foyer. If you need teaching material, see Raul Baltierra.

Our congregational meeting is scheduled for 4:00 pm on March 26.

The Ladies' Get-together will be on March 23 at 7:00 pm, while the men's breakfast will be on March 25 at 9:00 am. Sign-up sheets are in the foyer.

An elder's deacons, and preacher meeting is scheduled for March 19 at 4:00 pm.

### YOUTH

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.

Despite the grim reality of Israel's punishment and captivity, God had bigger and better plans for Israel. In chapter 49, Isaiah recognized the specialness of Israel, saying, "*The Lord called me from the womb; from the bowels of my mother hath he made mention of my name*" (49:1). Israel was set apart to be used as God's instrument of righteousness (49:2-3). But because of Israel's failures, the thought of Israel was, "*I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for naught...*" (49:4). But this wasn't what God envisioned for Israel. God noted that Israel was formed to be His servant, and through their service He would become honored and their strength (49:5). God foresaw a future where a "new Israel" would arise from the ashes of despair to "*give light to the Gentiles...a salvation unto the end of the earth*" (49:6). This is certainly referencing the coming Savior and His kingdom (i.e., the church of Christ, Isa. 2:1-2), which would eventually replace the defunct nation of Israel.

God spoke to this saying, "*In an acceptable time have I heard thee, and in a day of salvation have I helped thee: and I will preserve thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, to establish the earth, to cause to inherit the desolate*

*heritages*" (49:8). The church of Christ would be responsible for the freedom of prisoners (under the tyranny of sin) and would "*feed in the ways, and their pastures shall be in all high places. They shall not hunger or thirst; neither shall the heat nor sun smite them: for he that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of water shall he guide them*" (49:8-10).

And although the destruction and subjugation of Israel was imminent (49:12), God reminded his people that these tremendous obstacles would be dealt with, and Israel would at last sing for joy (49:13). And even if Israel concluded during their peril, saying God has forgotten us, God made it clear that He had "*engraved them on on the palms of his hands and that their walls were continually before him*" (49:16). Israel would not be forgotten and the prophecy of the coming church would come to fruition. God then tells his people to "*lift up their eyes and see*" that those that would eventually destroy them, would themselves be destroyed and "*all flesh would know that the Lord is the Savior, the Redeemer, and Mighty One of Jacob*" (49:26). 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

### Hot, Cold, Or Lukewarm? (1)

In a study of Revelation 3:14-22, we find an example of the Lukewarm, Self Satisfied church, Laodicea. This was the seventh and last church, of the seven churches of Asia that are described in the Revelation, as it was revealed to the Apostle John on the Isle of Patmos by the Lord Jesus Christ. Luke warmness, or indifference in religion is the worst state in the world. If religion be the real thing, it is the most excellent thing, and therefore we should be serious about it - if it be not the real thing - we should be opposed to it. If religion be worth anything, it is worth everything, and being indifferent in the matter is entirely inexcusable. Here is no room for neutrality. Christ expects that men should declare themselves in earnest either for Him, or against Him. This is indicated by the fact that He said He would "Spew (Vomit) them out of His mouth" (Rev. 3:16), because they were lukewarm, and neither cold or hot. They thought highly of themselves, and indicated they had of nothing, not recognizing they were wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked. So from all indications it is plain to see, they had missed the mark. Jesus was of course, able to detect those faults, and He admonished them to drop their vain and false opinion they had of themselves, and endeavor to be that which they could be. He encouraged them to be zealous, and repent (Rev. 3:19). This church was not living in a manner that was pleasing to the Lord. What should they done to have been right in the Lord's eyes?

**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



## MARCH 12

### AM WORSHIP

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

Scripture: *1 Cor. 11:23-29*  
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Benediction: *R. Baltierra Jr.*

### PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Opening Prayer: *J. Guillen*  
 Song Leader: *A. Maldonado*  
 Lord's Supper: *J. Watkins; R. Trevino*  
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Benediction: *A. Jacob*

After Greeter: *G & I Rodriguez*  
 Greeter/Usher: *S. Amos*  
 AV Duty: *M. de la Garza*  
 In Charge of Invitation: *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  
 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 Moses (2)*

**PM Sermon:**

*Third Song (5)*

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

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

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

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

## FOR THE RECORD

### MARCH 5/8

#### Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study      42  
 Sunday AM Worship      53  
 Sunday PM Worship      39  
 Wednesday Bible Study      37  
 Budget/Offering:      **\$2,140.02/ \$2,137.00**

Weekly Bible Readers: 5/21 (Adult Bible class)

### SHENANDOAH CHURCH OF CHRIST

11026 Wurzbach Rd.  
 San Antonio, TX 78230  
 (210) 696-5532

Fax: (210) 696-5181

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