

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 (32)

Gabriel Rodriguez

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The final chapters (20-21) end with this ominous verse: “*In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes*” (21:25). This, once again, should give you an indication that what we read and see in these chapters was not of God.

In response to the deplorable actions of the men of Benjamin in Gibeah, the children of Israel “*gathered together as one man, from Dan to Beersheba...unto the Lord in Mizpeh*” (20:1). There they discussed with the Levite what he had experienced in Gibeah (20:3-6). The children of Israel then decided to take some men of war, gather themselves against the city of Gibeah - the tribe of Benjamin, and ask for the “*children of Belial*” among them “*to put them to death*” so that they could “*put away their evil from Israel*” (20:12-13). But the children of Benjamin refused the voice of Israel and responded by arraying themselves for battle, around 26,000 men of war, of which 700 were skilled left-handed sling throwers (20:14-16). The children of Israel then gathered 400,000 men to fight against the children of Benjamin.

Instead of humbling themselves and taking care of the evil that plagued them, the children of Benjamin rebuffed the request of doing what was right and

decided instead to wage war against her brothers.

Now what is interesting about this situation is, the children of Israel asked counsel of God, saying, “*Which one of us shall go up first to the battle against the children of Benjamin?*” To which God responded, “*Judah shall go first*” (20:18). The children of Israel followed these directions, but the children of Benjamin outmatched and defeated Israel by killing 22,000 men (20:19-21). Defeated and rejected, they came before God again asking Him whether they should continue in the battle, and the Lord said, “*Go up against him*” (20:22-23). Israel went again a second time, and again the same results were experienced; Benjamin defeated Israel, but this time killing 18,000 men (20:24-26). So, once again, the children of Israel, in their defeat, came before the Lord, wept, fasted, and offered Him offerings through hands of Phinehas, asking Him whether they were to continue to war against Benjamin; of which God said, “*Go up; for tomorrow I will deliver them into thine hand*” (20:28). But this third time, Israel played a different strategy that would eventually give them the victory they desired. Here is the lesson learned. Go, didn't mean to push ahead without any planning, and that God will do the work for you. May God be praised!

How Israel Fell From Glory (30)

A Study in the Book of Isaiah

Church News and Announcements

CONGREGATION

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

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.

YOUTH

Our next youth devotional, hosted by sister Harris, will be on March 10 at Car-Vel Skateland at 6807 Bandera Rd. at 7:00 pm. We look forward to seeing all of our young people at this event.

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.

The beauty of chapter 48 speaks of God's distinction between false idols, of which Israel and Babylon adorned and worshiped. God spoke first of the high expectations He had for Israel, who were called by His name, but had failed Him in performing and committing to "*truth and righteousness*" (v.1). As a result of their rejection of Him, God, through His prophets, declared "*the former things from the beginning...and showed them* (what was to come - punishment)...*Because He knew they were obstinate, their neck was made of an iron sinew, and thy brow brass*" (vss. 2-4). Once the prophecies of destruction came to fruition, God wanted Israel to know and understand a couple of things: (1) this had nothing to do with their idols they served, rather (2) this had everything to do with the knowledge and power of the that God, the true God, possessed. God possessed the power of omniscience and knew what would become of Israel as they rebelled against His holy name and law (vss. 5-8).

Second, God spoke of His eternal plan (v.9). That although He was angry with Israel's state of disobedience, God merely punished Israel, so that she could be refined through the furnace of

affliction (v. 10). God was unwilling to allow pagan nations to usurp the plan of God (the scheme of redemption), but wanted Israel to learn and grow from her mistakes (vss. 11-13). Therefore, this is the reason God allowed Babylon to punish His people, but only for the sole purpose of helping to teach them a greater lesson - of their dependence upon God and His path (vss. 14-17). God wanted them to see the ugly side of sin and wickedness, as seen in their destruction and captivity. What the accountant of Babylon destruction and captivity would eventually instruct them was, we should have listened to the commandments of God, then we would have had "*peace as a river and righteousness as the waves of the sea*" (vs. 18).

Third, God encouraged Israel of her eventual return and growth (vss. 19-22). Although Babylon would have her time of victory, God recognized the future of Israel as bright. The Lord would one day redeem Israel and she would, once again, be the beloved of God, and Israel would seek God in all that she did. God reminded Israel that eventually all wickedness is defeated and there is no peace for them. 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 The Finality Of The Judgment

The rich man in Luke 16 was in "torment," and asked for relief from the "anguish in this flame" (Lk. 16:23-24). God's answer was, "There is a great gulf fixed, that they that would pass from hence to you may not be able, and that none may cross over from thence to us" (v. 26). Jesus explained about the finality of the judgment in Matt. 25:46, "These (the wicked) shall go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." How long will heaven last? That is exactly how long hell will last.

There is no room for a second chance, the judgment is final. While some wishfully dream of some kind of second chance when this life is over, the Bible clearly shows that we shall then receive "The things done in the body, whether it be good or bad" (2 Cor. 5:10). As we read, "It is appointed unto men once to die, and after this the judgment" (Heb. 9:27). We will die only once, and then we face God in judgment. Don't count on a second chance, for it isn't going to happen. God gives us this life to prepare for eternity. If we squander it, we will surely be unprepared when we face God in judgment.

In the long ago, the prophet wrote, "Prepare to meet thy God" (Amos 4:12). God gives us opportunity now, in this life, to repent of our sins and turn to Christ: "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great a salvation?" (Heb. 2:3). God wants us to be saved (1 Tim. 2:3-4), that is why He sent Christ into this world to die for our sins (Jno. 3:16; 1 Jno. 4:9-10). He exhorts, "Behold, now is the acceptable time, behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Cor. 6:2). God offers us salvation, but He will not force it on us. The choice is ours. Live for Christ now; don't be surprised at the judgment.

The question we need to ask is, "If Christ comes back today, am I ready for the Judgment Day?"

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 5

AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *W. Holmes*
 Opening Prayer: *R. Baltieraa*
 Song Leader: *A. Maldonado*
 Lord's Supper: *E. Castillo; M. de la Garza; R. Trevino; G. Rodriguez*

Scripture: *Isa. 53:6-9*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *B. Dorries*

PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *W. Holmes*
 Opening Prayer: *N. Esenowo*
 Song Leader: *E. Castillo*
 Lord's Supper: *R. Baltierra; A. Maldonado*

Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *D. Mathis*

After Greeter: *J. Guillen*
 Greeter/Usher: *Z. Watkins*
 AV Duty: *R. Baltierra Jr.*
 In Charge of Invitation: *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
 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 (1)

PM Sermon:

Third Song (4)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

March 1: *B. Dorries*

March 8: *S. Amos*

March 15: *D. Mathis*

FOR THE RECORD

FEBRUARY 26/MARCH 1

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study 35
 Sunday AM Worship 59
 Sunday PM Worship 26
 Wednesday Bible Study 40
 Budget/Offering: **\$2,140.02/ \$1,759.48**

Weekly Bible Readers: 6/14 (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

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