

# 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)

### A Study in Philemon (1)

*Gabriel Rodriguez*

## Inside This Issue:

**How Israel Fell From Glory (39)**

*Shepherd's Corner:*  
**God Is Able To Change People!**

The book of *Philemon* isn't an epistle that is well-known. Others shy away from this book due to its content matter - a *master/servant relationship*. Many automatically assume that the terms "*servant*" and "*slavery*" are synonymous, but much to their chagrin, there is a huge difference. Throughout the Ancient Near East there was a distinction made between a servant and slave as seen in the example of Abraham's house as he possessed a house servant (Gen. 24:2), and then as seen in Exodus 1:8-12; 2:23-24, when the nation of Israel was enslaved, subjugated and treated harshly by a new king.



This distinction is important to note because when dealing with Jesus', Paul's, and Peter's exhortations to servants being faithful to their masters (Matt. 24:45-47; Eph. 6:5-9; Col. 3:22-25; 1 Pet. 3: 18-20), people must understand that Biblical writers weren't authorizing the cruel treatment of others (i.e., slavery), rather they were emphasizing a good working relationship between people (i.e., master and servant relationships).

The master/servant relationships in ancient times, especially under the direction of a moral God, was different in scope and nature. For example, within the purview of the Old Testament the master and servant

relationship was convivial and respectful. In other words, there was mutual respect demonstrated to each other, in which the servant would say about his master: "*I love him*" (Ex. 21:5). Now, this doesn't mean that everything was always kosher between a master and servant (Ex. 21:20-21), but it does (at least) give some indication that the master and servant relationship wasn't a terrible thing. And if you think about this as it relates to anthropology, the master and servant relationship was inevitable. In the beginning of time people were nomadic, and as a certain few gained power and control over land and animals, owners and rulers understood that they couldn't maintain the land and animals by themselves; therefore, servants (or hirelings) were brought in to take care of their master's possessions (cf. Gen. 13: 1-13).

If we look at this carefully, this was a type of occupation that people possessed during these days. And as they helped their owners, they in turn would receive shelter, food, and wages for their labor. What this shows is the fact the master and servant relationship was indeed a working relationship between people, and God never frowned upon this type of relationship. What he frowned upon was mistreating people in any capacity. This is clear in Deuteronomy 15:7ff, where God said that men were not to mistreat their servants. May God be praised!

# How Israel Fell From Glory (39)

A Study in the Book of Isaiah

## Church News and Announcements

### CONGREGATION

We thank everyone who had a part in our Gospel Meeting last week. It was a success.

The fellowship luncheon, hosted by the men (in honor of **Mother's Day**), will be next Sunday, May 14, after morning services. The menu is *healthy potluck*.

The Sunny Glen children's home will be here June 18-21 to pick up requested supplies: **Pastas/Noodles and Floor Cleaners**. As before, you can either buy these items yourself and place them in the library or give a check to one of our elders so they can purchase these items in bulk. Thank you.

There will be a teacher's meeting on May 12 at 6:30 pm to plan curriculum. No meal is planned.

Volunteers are needed in June to host fellowship luncheon, prepare communion, and host youth devotional. See one of the elders is you can serve in this capacity.

### YOUTH

We are needing a host family for our June Devotional. If you can help, please see Gabriel.

### YOUNG ADULT

Sister Harris will be hosting the young adult devotional on May 26th. More details to follow.

### AREA NEWS

See the bulletin board in the foyer for events in our area.

The purpose for the Sabbath Day was a day of rest from all their labors in order to meditate and think upon God and their responsibilities toward Him (58:13, cf. Ex. 20:8-11). This was a way to honor God and their relationship with Him and in so doing, God promised them *"to ride upon the high places of the earth and be fed with the heritage of Jacob thy father"* (58:14).

But the problem was, Israel was infested with idolatry (57:1-13), which resulted in their spiritual identity crisis. God (once again) cried out unto His people saying, *"The Lord's hand is not short that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear"* (59:1-2).

God rebuked Israel for their spiritual infidelity indicting them with murder, lies, wicked speech, injustice, and vanity (59:3-4). God likened Israel's condition to *"hatching adder's eggs and weaving a spider's web,"* indicating that their treacherous ways harm humanity at all levels (59:5-6). God recognized their wickedness as being entrenched: *"...their feet run to evil, make haste to shed innocent blood, their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity, and waste and destruction are their paths"* (59:7). Hence, God likened them as blind people leading the blind (59:8-10).

Instead of prospering, Israel's penchant for idolatry and sin would result in their utter and complete destruction (59:11-12). As God stood amazed at the level of wickedness and sin in the streets of His people, where truth became obsolete, injustice ran rampant, and not one person was righteous and could intercede (59:13-16a), God prophesied about dispatching a savior to His people and all mankind - *"his arm of salvation and his righteousness sustaining him"* (59:16b). He then described this

person as possessing the full panoply of God - *"For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation upon his head; and he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloak"* (59:17). And what would this described warrior/soldier do? *"According to their deeds, accordingly he will repay, fury to his adversaries, recompense to his enemies...So shall they fear the name of the Lord..."* (59:18-19a).

Now before we think in physical terms, let's consider what is under review. God pleaded with Israel to come back to Him spiritually. Their groping toward idolatry had led them to utter dissonance with God. And since there was no one in Israel that could and would re-establish their ways with Him, God had to send someone with the credentials he was needing. But the credentials were of a spiritual nature, meaning, the spirituality of this unnamed soldier of God would come to defeat the enemies of God. And here is the clincher -

*"when the enemy shall come in like a flood, the spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against Him"* (59:19b). In other words, the standard lifted up would be the name of God. And the name of God refers to His righteous conduct and character. And since conduct and character are products of mind and reason, then the prophecy becomes clear. The person sent would possess the mind of God, and in possessing His mind, He would please God and defeat the evildoers. This is referring to none other than Jesus Christ (Jn. 5:19). Jesus was the spiritual warrior that would be sent to quell the righteous indignation of God and stop the force of sin. Christ demonstrated with the ability of mind what man could accomplish if he used his mind for the honor and glory of God. 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



### God Is Able To Change People

*"Or do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God"* (1 Cor. 6:9-11). Paul warns about the dangers of sin. But then finishes by telling the Corinthians that God had changed them. These believers had been sinners. In our minds some of their sins are the worst imaginable, such as homosexuality, adultery, swindling and so on. But God had changed them. Our world needs to hear that God can change people. Some have made poor choices and lived terrible lives of sin. Like Saul of Tarsus some have killed and destroyed what is good and holy. Still, God forgave Saul and used him powerfully to change the world. Some have sinned wickedly by committing sexual sin. But, God forgave David and allowed him to keep his throne, even though he deserved to die for his transgressions (2 Sam. 12). God forgave Saul, forgave David, forgave the Corinthians and used them all for his purposes. No matter how terrible the sin, God can forgive and change people.

Others haven't chosen a terrible life, it was thrust upon them. They were abused as children, or beaten as wives. They were cheated, robbed and used by others in cruel and unspeakable ways. God can change these people as well, enabling them to escape their past and stand up clean, whole and redeemed. God can change any life that has been marred by sin. No one is beyond God's help.

**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



# MAY 7

## AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *T. Mayces*  
 Opening Prayer: *D. Mathis*  
 Song Leader: *E. Castillo*  
 Communion Leader: *A. Maldonado*  
 Lord's Supper Servers: *R. Baltierra Jr.; G. Rodriguez; B. Dorries*

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

## PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *T. Mayces*  
 Opening Prayer: *Z. Watkins*  
 Song Leader: *A. Maldonado*  
 Lord's Supper: *E. Castillo; J. Watkins*

Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Benediction: *R. Baltierra Jr.*

After Greeter: *E. Creek*  
 Greeter/Usher: *J. Guillen*  
 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  
 Joshua White *(dealing with blood clots)*  
 Caral O'Banon  
 Sam Amos *(awaiting surgery)*  
 Parents of David Lyssy  
 Sandra Welch  
 Lavender Nelson (PAM Hospital)  
 Tita Cortez *(sister of Sam Ramirez)*  
 Dolly Gribble  
 Elwyn Hipp *(recovering from knee surg.)*

### 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

## SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES MAY

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

*AM Theme:*

### The Hall of Fame:

*Crown of Glory: The King of My Life*

*PM Theme:*

### God's Love For His Church:

*A Study of the Song of Solomon*

### AM Sermon:

*Introduction (2)*

### PM Sermon:

*Fifth Song (2)*

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

**May 3:** *R. Baltierra Jr.*

**May 10:** *T. Mayces*

**May 17:** *E. Castillo*

## FOR THE RECORD

### APRIL 30/MAY 3

#### Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study      41  
 Sunday AM Worship      56  
 Sunday PM Worship      34  
 Wednesday Bible Study      NA  
 Budget/Offering:      **\$2,140.02/ \$1,502.50**

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