

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)

A Study in Philemon (3)

Gabriel Rodriguez

Inside This Issue:

How Israel Fell From Glory (41)

Shepherd's Corner:
Will You Be Convinced?

As we studied last week, there was a clear distinction between *servanthood* and *slavery*. As was concluded, there was nothing *sinful* about possessing servants due to the sociality of the day when wealthy land and animal owners hired servants and poor people, who in turn were able to provide a living for their families and themselves. Just like we see today in our current workplace.

Now questions have arisen concerning the treatment of these servants with passages such as Exodus 21:4,7-11 and 20-21. Let's take a closer look at these verses.

In verse 4, we're told that if a servant was given a wife by his master and he had children with her, at the end of the seventh year in which he had the option to be set free, the wife and children could not go out with him because they had been given to him by his master. Many cry foul at this injunction, but upon closer review, according to Deuteronomy 15:12-16, woman also sold themselves to serve, and if a woman, as a hired servant and property of the master, was given as wife to a male servant, then certainly we can see the dilemma. What if the woman servant had not finished her six years of service (under contract); she couldn't leave as per the contract. This prevented couples from creating a loop hole in the system and hurting the owner and his work. But as we learned last week, the male servant could decide to



stay with his master and family because he loved them both. And certainly this wasn't coercion or forced upon him, rather the relationship he had with them compelled him to stay and continue to work. But don't forget about Leviticus 25 in the midst of all of this, in which in the year of Jubilee all men would be able to be set free and go about their business.

So what this boils down to is the system of labor in the Ancient Near East. As was noted, people were nomadic in the beginning and lived off the land. And as people gained wealth and possessions, then naturally they needed others to help maintain their possessions. So the owner would hire people and those afflicted in poverty would sell themselves in order to survive and help out their own families. Once sold, these people became the property of the owner, just like

today. In jobs we hold, we become the property of the company, meaning we are responsible to the company - its management and rules and laws, meaning we can't do what we want, but we must abide by them. Now, this in no way suggests that owners and CEOs can do what they would like to us, rather the moral and ethical code is always in play. Just because we have people that work for us doesn't mean we can mistreat them as human beings. And this is exactly what some did, but the wisdom of God intervened, as we will shall see next week. May God be praised!

How Israel Fell From Glory (41)

A Study in the Book of Isaiah

Church News and Announcements

CONGREGATION

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.

The ladies get-together will be on May 25, and the men's breakfast will be on May 27. Sign-up sheets are in the foyer.

Teachers are still needed for the 3rd quarter (July-September). A sign-up sheet is in the foyer.

**The monthly elders, deacons, and preacher will be one May 28th at 4:00 pm.

The Ladies Bible Class and the Men's Training Class will meet at 4:00 pm on May 28th. The ladies will be studying lesson 8 in their book, and the men will be studying lesson 1, a Godly Man, brought by Brother Bill.

Volunteers are needed in June to host fellowship luncheon and prepare communion. See one of the elders if you can help.

YOUTH

There will be no June devotional because of our June 10th Youth Day.

YOUNG ADULT

The young adult devotional has been changed to May 19th at 7:00 pm. They'll be meeting at the pool at Carolyn Harris's apartment complex. The menu is sandwiches, salads, chips, and drinks.

AREA NEWS

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

In chapter 62, God describes the beauty and faithfulness of "spiritual" Israel (v.1, "righteousness and salvation"), which would come through Christ and His kingdom (cf. 2:2-4; 7:14; 9:6-7). God was looking beyond the brief establishment of physical Israel (cf. Ezra and Nehemiah), rather He anticipated the day when spiritual Israel (i.e., the church of Christ) would rule the world and "...the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and you shall be called by a new name, which the mouth of the Lord shall name" (62:2, cf. Acts 11:26, "Christians"; 13:47). Recall, that although physical Israel was prophesied to be re-established, the prophecies within Isaiah point to God's ultimate plan of establishing His one and final kingdom, which would dominate the whole world (Dan. 2:44-45; 7:13-14). This kingdom would be led by His son (initially) and in turn, after the son's departure into heaven (Acts 1:7-11), to the saints of God (cf. Dan. 7:27; Acts 2:38,41,47).

This new kingdom (the church, Christians) would serve to be a "crown of glory and royal diadem in the hand of the Lord" (v. 3). They would no longer be called "forsaken or desolate, but my delight is in her and married" (v. 4). This new kingdom would also be "protected and have peace, day and night, till Jerusalem be a praise in the earth" (vs. 5-7). In other words, the church of Christ would serve to do what Israel had failed God, to draw people to Him, into the courts of his holiness by lifting up a standard of righteousness among the people (vs. 8-10). Hence, through their efforts "salvation and reward would come" (v.11) as these would show the world righteous and holy living, and the people of God would be identified as "holy people, the redeemed of the Lord, a city not forsaken" (v. 12).

Why was being not forsaken important? Because God said in chapter 63: 1-6 concerning His vengeance and anger, (which He described as a great warrior

coming from Edom with a red garment), that those who rejected the way of righteousness and salvation; hence, "I will tread down the people in mine anger, and make them drunk in my fury, and I will bring down their strength to the earth" (v. 6).

But unto God's people, those who chose to follow Him, would God demonstrate "lovingkindness, praises and mercies" (v. 7). And although physical Israel began with great promise (v.8) and God cared for them throughout her days (v. 9), ultimately physical Israel "rebelled and annoyed God's expectations of possessing a holy mind: therefore he was turned to be their enemy, and he fought against them" (v. 10). But then God remembered the work of Moses, who "brought them up out of the sea with the shepherd of his flock and put God's holy mind within them, who led them through the depths of life and they did not stumble, and made Israel to be glorious in name" (vs. 11-14). This no doubt referenced the work of another leader, who would come and



continue to the work of

Moses, the man Jesus Christ, who was likened unto Moses (Deut. 18:15-17, cf. Acts 3:22-23); he would lead God's new people (the church/kingdom) and make God's name glorious again.

In the final verses of chapter 63, vs. 15-19, the prophet Isaiah petitions God to restore physical Israel from their destruction and captivity, and while God would grant them their desire, ultimately this restoration was in view of the greater plan, the inception and creation of Christ's kingdom, who would come to fulfill God's ultimate desire that men live righteous and faithful, led by their faithful leader, Jesus Christ. 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

Will You Be Convinced?

Too many believers act as if they might be lost. They think they might be saved, but there is no real assurance. No wonder the world turns away from us. If we have the powerful word of God and it offers no more confidence than that, why come to God? The world doesn't want our doubts; only our FAITH will reach out and convince them. If living at our best and in faith before God still doesn't assure us we are saved, then why pay the price to served God? Instead, we are to live knowing that we are sinners (1 John 1:8-10), but are forgiven moment by moment by the precious blood of Jesus (1 John 1:7). God has arranged for us to be clean at all times. That gives us confidence at all times that we are right with God.

Paul looked ahead to an uncertain future when he spoke of his confidence. He didn't know if he would leave prison and continue to served God or if he would die. But he wasn't worried about what man could do to him. Paul was confident because he knew what God had promised.

The church today needs to turn back to the God who promised, and away from men who fail. We need to take our stand on the unchanging word of God which can still save, not on the whims and opinions of men who change constantly. We need to live as if we are victorious over sin, not losers to Satan's power. We need to know and live as if we are constantly forgiven, for that is what God promised. Accept the promises of God and you too can be convinced.

"For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless, I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day" (2 Tim. 1:12).

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 21

AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *D. Mathis*
 Opening Prayer: *T. Mayces*
 Song Leader: *E. Hipp*
 Communion Leader: *E. Castillo*
 Lord's Supper Servers: *C. Burnett; N. Esenowo; S. Amos; B. Dorries*

Scripture: *Jn. 19:17-22*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *Z. Watkins*

PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *D. Mathis*
 Opening Prayer: *W. Holmes*
 Song Leader: *G. Rodriguez*
 Lord's Supper: *R. Baltierra Jr.; M. de la Garza*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *B. Dorries*

After Greeter: *J. Guillen*
 Greeter/Usher: *G. Gribble*
 AV Duty: *M. de la Garza*
 In Charge of Invitation: *G. Rodriguez*

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)*

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:

Anointed King

PM Sermon:

Fifth Song (4)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

May 3: *R. Baltierra Jr.*

May 10: *T. Mayces*

May 17: *E. Castillo*

FOR THE RECORD

MAY 14/17

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study 46
 Sunday AM Worship 71
 Sunday PM Worship 29
 Wednesday Bible Study 37
 Budget/Offering: **\$2,140.02/ \$2,210.00**
 Special Contribution: **\$818.00**

Weekly Bible Readers: NA (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