

Sunday Night Message

April 21, 2019

*Ichabod - The Glory is Departed*

Topics – Samuel; Eli; Hophni and Phineas; Philistines; Ark

Series – *1 Samuel*

Text – *1 Samuel 4*

## Introduction

The first phrase of chapter 4 is transitional from the last phrase in chapter 3. The calling and ministry of Samuel was the focus of the last chapter, but here in this chapter we will see the demise of the previous leadership.

Notice that the word of the Lord (3:21) is equivalent with the Word of Samuel (4:1).

The word, “before,” in v. 1, means in the presence of Eli. In other words, while Eli was still alive, he was in charge, but God was developing Samuel, and He was using Samuel in front of Eli. It must have been somewhat discouraging for Eli to know that God was not using his sons, but was all over this young man who was “lent to the Lord” by Hannah and Elkanah.

Note – In the ministry, if we do not do what God wants us to do, He will raise up somebody else.

- I. Israel Fetches “It” as a Last Hope (vs. 1 – 4)
- II. The Philistines Prepare to Fight Valiantly Against “God” (vs. 5 – 9)
- III. Israel Fails (vs. 10 – 22)
  - A. The Ark was Captured (vs. 10 – 11)
  - B. Hophni and Phineas were Killed (v. 11)
  - C. The News is Communicated (vs. 12 – 17)
    - 1. Eli breaks his neck and dies.
    - 2. Ichabod is born.

## Conclusion

The Glory in Israel was gone long before the ark was taken. They considered the ark an “it,” while the Philistines had enough sense to know that the ark represented God. The ark was taken because the Glory had already departed. The ark was just the last straw. Israel had hit bottom now, but Samuel was now in place to help the nation rebuild. Samuel would boldly take God’s message throughout Israel, and would be the spiritual leader for King Saul, and would later be used of God to anoint David.

Illustrate – In every town there are church buildings; some of which are very large and beautiful. On the outside, it looks as if everything is good. However, the Glory has departed from these places long ago.

Revelation 1:20; 2:1 – 4 – the Church at Ephesus was warned that it might lose its candlestick, which represented the Holy Spirit's anointing upon the church.

How to keep the Glory (the Candlestick) in our church.

1. Exalt the Lord Jesus Christ

*"And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence."* (Colossians 1:18)

2. Elevate the Word of God

*"I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name."* (Psalm 138:2)

*"But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."* (1 Timothy 3:15)

3. Expand the Gospel Outreach

*"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."*  
(Mark 16:15)

