

## WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

**TEXT: 1 Samuel 4:21: And she named the child Ichabod, saying, The Glory is departed from Israel: because the Ark of God was taken, and because of her father in law and her husband.**

It has been tested, tried, and proven that **All Scripture is given by inspiration of God (2 Timothy 3:16a)**, and is necessary and important. There are certain portions of truth which God wants emphasized at the time when it is most needed. God wants messengers who understand Him and who will preach the preaching He bids them.

There are those God is raising up who will not shun to declare the whole counsel of God. In this fast-moving, glamour-loving generation, so much of its joy is artificial, and its beauty only paint deep. It seems every one is looking for a man — a mystery man, a super man — to solve and untangle all the mess our churches are in and the whole dilemma the world is in.

When Christians get taken up with “a man”, they are endangered of bypassing, overlooking or losing sight of the God-man, Christ Jesus.

**1 Timothy 2:5: For there is one God, and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus;**

Many are too dazzled by manmade lights, manmade sparks, and a cheap, second-rate light, that many do not see the Light of the Word — the Son of God — as seen by John in **Revelation 1**.



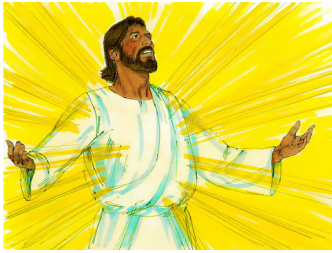
**Isaiah 50:11: Behold, all ye that kindle a fire, that compass yourselves about with sparks: walk in the light of your fire, and in the sparks that ye have kindled. This shall ye have of Mine hand; ye shall lie down in sorrow.**

If the devil has his way, he will try to keep you from longing the experiencing of the Glory of the Lord.

Moses cried out: “*Show me Thy Glory*”, and he saw it! Its radiance saturated him until the Children of Israel could not straightway behold [look upon] him.

The Glory of the Lord shone around the humble shepherds the eve of Christ’s birth

because of Him. This Glory spoils you and me for everything earthly. The things seen are temporal.



Jesus' Glory that shone forth from the Mount of Transfiguration was not to be forgotten. Years later, Peter records this experience — this meeting — in his epistle to the saints. And in **Acts**, Peter says,

***Acts 3:13b: The God of our fathers, hath Glorified His Son Jesus;***

Jesus' Glory still shines unspent and shall — in that Day — light the City of God eternally.

If you want to stand in His Glory eternally, you must have His Glory now. This is the Glory that appeared to Moses on another occasion at the burning bush, and to Joshua who had to take his shoes off. It was the pillar of Cloud and Fire to the journeying Israelites, the fire hovering over the Tabernacle at all times. It rested there, for the Ark of the Lord was there.

When the Glory is gone, all is lost. People are defeated and go into the hands of their oppressors. It is significant today to see the demon-like Hittites, Jebusites, Philistines, Perizites, and Amorites oppressing where the Glory is departing.

Thru the disgraceful sins of Eli's sons, the Ark was taken.

***1 Samuel 2:12-17:***

***12 Now the sons of Eli were sons of Belial; they knew not the LORD.***

***13 And the priests' custom with the people was, that, when any man offered sacrifice, the priest's servant came, while the flesh was in seething, with a fleshhook of three teeth in his hand;***

***14 And he struck it into the pan, or kettle, or caldron, or pot; all that the fleshhook brought up the priest took for himself. So they did in Shiloh unto all the Israelites that came thither.***

***15 Also before they burnt the fat, the priest's servant came, and said to the man that sacrificed, Give flesh to roast for the priest; for he will not have sodden flesh of thee, but raw.***

***16 And if any man said unto him, Let them not fail to burn the fat presently, and then take as much as thy soul desireth; then he would answer him, Nay; but thou shalt give it me now: and if not, I will take it by force.***



**17 Wherefore the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD: for men abhorred the offering of the LORD.**

**1 Samuel 2:22: Now Eli was very old, and heard all that his sons did unto all Israel; and how they lay with the women that assembled at the door of the Tabernacle of the congregation.**

Eli had incurred God's displeasure along with a curse because he did not restrain his sons from evil. He had been promised a perpetual priesthood for his sons to come, but God withdrew His promises when Eli failed to live in the place where God's promises are made good.

Eli met a dishonorable end. So did his sons.

**1 Samuel 4:10-18:**

**10 And the Philistines fought, and Israel was smitten, and they fled every man into his tent: and there was a very great slaughter; for there fell of Israel thirty thousand footmen.**

**11 And the Ark of God was taken; and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were slain.**

**12 And there ran a man of Benjamin out of the army, and came to Shiloh the same day with his clothes rent, and with earth upon his head.**



**13 And when he came, lo, Eli sat upon a seat by the wayside watching: for his heart trembled for the Ark of God. And when the man came into the city, and told it, all the city cried out.**

**14 And when Eli heard the noise of the crying, he said, What meaneth the noise of this tumult? And the man came in hastily, and told Eli.**

**15 Now Eli was ninety and eight years old; and his eyes were dim, that he could not see.**

**16 And the man said unto Eli, I am he that came out of the army, and I fled to day out of the army. And he said, What is there done, my son?**

**17 And the messenger answered and said, Israel is fled before the Philistines, and there hath been also a great slaughter among the people, and thy two sons also, Hophni and Phinehas, are dead, and the Ark of God is taken.**

**18 And it came to pass, when he made mention of the Ark of God, that he fell from off the seat backward by the side of the gate, and his neck brake, and he died: for he was an old man, and heavy. And he had judged Israel forty years.**

At that time, the woman who was married to Eli's son, Phinehas, brought forth a son. She lost her father-in-law, Eli, her husband, and the Ark of God's Glory. As she was dying, she named the child Ichabod, saying:

**1 Samuel 4:22b: *The Glory is departed from Israel.***

Although little is recorded of this lovely Israelite mother, what is given is eloquent in its application. We see from the record that this woman was deeply spiritual.

As the scene opens, she is great with child, and quite ill. Her mind and heart are miles away from herself, however, but are focused on where her husband was with the king's troops on the battlefield.



Israel had suffered an awful defeat and setback. The elders of Israel, to boost the morale of the defeated armies, had sent to Shiloh for the Ark of God's Presence. They knew that in times past it had spelled full victory for their forefathers. They'd had this Ark for over 300 years, from the Tabernacle in the wilderness.

Eli, the high priest, reluctantly let it go when his sons' lives and his nationalistic pride were at stake. So Eli sat and watched for its return with a trembling spirit.

The tidings came at last, brought by a man running from the battlefield. The battle was lost! Eli's two sons had been killed! The Ark had been taken by the Philistines! Eli dropped dead from the shocking news.

When the evil tidings reach this mother, its shocking report greatly affected her condition. Shortly afterward she went into labor, and as the nurse broke the news that she had given birth to a son, she neither regarded it nor answered. She then came out with these words:

**1 Samuel 4:22: *The Glory is departed from Israel: for the Ark of God was taken.***

Then she died.

These suggestive words of a dying mother in Israel bring us a message with great spiritual application today. All her concern and life was enveloped in the Presence of the Lord. **Most mothers would have been thrilled with a child — especially a man child — as in those days it was so. Yet, this real mother in Israel is chiefly concerned with God's Presence amongst His people, Israel.**

These words are very applicable to the condition of the backslider. There are many types of them in the Bible. The first is **one in heart**, as we see in:

**Proverbs 14:14: The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways: and a good man shall be satisfied from himself.**

**ICHABOD!**

This kind of backslider is **self-willed, proud, and self-righteous, and only has a form of Godliness**. He has little interest in prayer. *All backsliding begins here. This is as dangerous for the preacher as for the congregation. We can quickly lose sight of Jesus when we get caught up with relatives and friends when we attend Services, quickly forgetting we are there for Him. The further we get away from Him, the longer it takes to retract those backsliding steps.*

Another sign of backsliding is **protracted spiritual coldness of heart toward spiritual things**. The heart is to be the abiding place of the Comforter — the Holy Spirit — Who makes our heart fervent, warm, tender, and overflowing with joy and peace. When we miss His touch, coldness begins to set in; and it is so gradual that we hardly realize we are cooling off.

Another danger symptom is a **critical spirit**. We become uncharitable in attitudes toward other Christians, especially those who are over us in the Lord. We are ready to pick flaws and find fault with the Services, and the virtues or good traits of others seem to be a real source of irritation.

This dear lady — Phinehas' wife — spoke a different language to us, even as did one of the gifted sons of Methodism, which we quote; *“And what if we possess cathedrals, stained glass windows, rolling organs, scholarly ministry and wealthy membership if salvation is not rolling like a river of life, and light, in our midst? The church cannot save if the Saviour is gone.”*

Ordinances, brotherhoods, and sisterhoods cannot change one's character and redeem the soul. What if the Redeemer — the only One Who can transform and save — is gone? What have we left if we no longer have the One Who is worth speaking about? What is the scabbard with the sword dropped out, the body with the spirit fled, or the ship without sail, oars, or steam?



What is to become of us if we have lost the Presence and power of the Spirit of God from the Church? What do the candlesticks amount to if the Son of God is not walking in our midst? What if the ministers are called stars, but they are not in His hand and shining? What is the Word and the Spirit are not there to fall upon? What is the Blood itself if there is no Divine Agent to apply it? What are all the signs and trappings of Redemption if the Redeemer comes not up to the feast? What if the Redeemer refuses to walk into the temple and shuts Himself up in Heaven?

**Ichabod should be written today over every church, every home, and every Christian where the Glory of the Lord has departed.** Worldliness and not

restraining one's children from doing wrong are among the conditions of the Laodicean Church. Ichabod is still being written today over every life where the Presence of the Lord has been withdrawn and has departed.

The Holy Spirit falls wherever a person wholly turns to the Lord. When a person cries in agony unto the Lord by reason of his bondage, God's rivers will flow again to that heart.

When preaching goes out calling men to repentance, it is God moving upon His ministers in order to show His people that He wants to return the Glory to a cleansed, renovated temple. That is the reason preaching about the Cross and Sanctification of the Spirit is going forth.

**If the preaching is of a cross without Christ, that is Romanism.**

**If it is of a Christ without a cross, that is Unitarianism.**

**If it is not about our need to be crucified with Christ, that is formalism.**

We need more than the box that was called the Ark. We need the Glory that makes the Ark what it is. [We need His Presence!](#)

There is much that takes places in a prayer meeting when the Presence of God is there. Samson was able to loose himself from his enemies' chains when he was under the power of God. However, when he tried to shake himself loose after the Glory had departed from him, he quickly found that all that was left was himself.



***Judges 16:20: And she said, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the LORD was departed from him.***

People may try to testify, but it is just empty-sounding words. They try to pray about things, but their prayers only hit the ceiling. They know not that the Lord is departed from them.

**Are you conscious of the Glory? Are you carrying a form of religion, not knowing He is gone?**

When He is there, there is always love. If there is one thing sadly lacking today, it is Divine love. [Where love is, so is God.](#)

**If a Christian has no zeal to win souls to Christ, the word "Ichabod" will have to be written. For those who care little about prayer and Bible study, the word "Ichabod"**

is already written.

If the next new baby coming to your home is named after the spiritual condition of your own heart, parents, what will its name be? If it is named by the spiritual condition of the church, what will its name be? Will it be Ichabod — the Glory is gone — or be will it Emmanuel — God with us?

We cannot afford to press a dying pillow without the Glory!

God made certain these examples were recorded in His Word that we might learn from them. Let me update this experience of God's chosen in full recognition:

***1 Corinthians 10:11: Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.***

***Romans 15:4: For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.***

There are Christians — even Pentecostal or Holiness folk — that profess so much, yet have no faith for healing or deliverance from manifold temptations and tests. It is hard for them to get their deliverance, although they believe and know the Power of Christ to do the work. Why?

Let's consider David. He was just a young man when his father asked him to bring some bread and provisions to his brothers who were at war. David soon saw that all the men of Israel were afraid of the Philistine champion, Goliath, even though they had seen the mighty Power of God. David asked, *Is there not a cause?*

***1 Samuel 17:26-29:***

***26 And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the Living God?***



***27 And the people answered him after this manner, saying, So shall it be done to the man that killeth him.***

***28 And Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why camest thou down hither? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and***

***the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle.***

***29 And David said, What have I now done? Is there not a cause?***

David had been rebuked by his older brothers. Likewise, older Christians are likely to be vexed when younger ones take steps of faith they are afraid to take.

The cause of all the trouble Christians face is due to misplaced faith: faith in their holiness, faith in their past experiences, faith in their consecration, faith in self-denial — but not faith in the Lord! For others, their faith is weak because they have not used it. Still others have had their faith disappear because of unconfessed sin in their lives.

Finally, the Glory came again when Jesus came down and shone more brightly to His inner circle on the Day of Pentecost where the Saints got into one mind and one accord. Preaching this Word, Peter declared:

***Acts 3:13b: The God of our fathers, hath glorified His Son Jesus; Whom ye delivered up,***

There is so much Glory that is spilling down over us here. When we get back to God, the same Glory from the same Risen Lord will fall again.

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