

1 Samuel 4

The Glory is Departed

1. 4:1-2 - The Philistines

- a. *"The word of Sameul"* was the word of the LORD - 1 Sam 3:20-21, Acts 3:24
- b. *"came to all Israel"* - They knew about his prophecy before these events.
- c. Philistines - Gen 10:14, Isaac (Abimelech), Josh 13:1-2, Jer 47:1, Roman province
 - i. Cities were Gaza, Ashdod, Ekron, Ziklag also called Palestine - Joel 3:4
 - ii. From the river to the sea in Josh 15:5,12 defines the territory given to Judah.
- d. Philistines 152x in 1 Samuel - they prove Israel, reflect God's help - Jdg 3:1-4
- e. Ebenezer named in 7:12, this history written for people who knew its name already.
- f. 2 - Philistines slew 4000 of Israel's army when they "joined battle"

2. 4:3-9 - The Ark of God

- a. 3 - *"Wherefore hath the LORD smitten"* - b/c they were cursed - Jo 7:6-12, De 28:15-25
- b. *"Let us fetch the ark"* - They needed to obey God, not take his box - Num 14:40-45
 - i. Inside the ark was a witness, provision, power - Deu 31:25-26, Heb 9:4
 - ii. *"it may save us"* - no repentance, crying to Jehovah, only religion.
- c. 4 - *"Hophni and Phinehas were there"* not caring to consult the prophet of the LORD.
- d. 5 - *"all Israel shouted with a great shout"* - Like in Joshua 6:10, 16, but less obedience.
- e. 6-7 - The Philistines feared *"God is come into the camp"* - he wasn't before, or now.
- f. 8 - *"Woe unto us!... these are the Gods"* - They feared Exodus 20:2-3 more than Israel.

3. 4:9-11 - A Great Slaughter

- a. 9 - *"quit"* as in *"finish the job"* - Fetching the ark forced them to fight harder!
- b. *"that ye be not servants unto the Hebrews"* - i.e. fight for your freedom!
- c. 10 - *"a very great slaughter"* - even by today's standards (Iran >30,000)
 - i. *"30,000 footmen"* out of ~300,000 possible full army size (Jdg 20:2)
- d. *"ark of God was taken... and..."* - The sign in 2:34 was fulfilled before all.

4. 4:12-18 - Eli's Fall

- a. 12 - *"with his clothes rent..."* - humbled due to the loss of the men and the ark.
- b. 13 - *"Eli sat upon a seat"* - He knew they took the ark, he feared for ~~his sons~~ the ark
- c. 15 - Eli, an old fat blind man, represented Israel before God. He failed before he fell.
 - i. He made himself fat with the offerings, the fat avenges - 1 Sam 2:29
- d. 17-18 - *"when he made mention of the ark of God"* is when he fell and broke his neck.
 - i. The ark was where the glory of the LORD dwelt in the tabernacle, his seat.
 - ii. The fall of the house of Eli was God's purpose - Psa 78:60-64

5. **4:19-22 - "The Glory is Departed"**
- a. 19 - Phinehas' widow went into literal labor pains during this time of tribulation.
 - b. 20 - *"thou hast born a son!"* - Joy was gone, hope was gone, the glory was gone.
 - c. 21 - *"Ichabod"* - Another Biblical name known popularly to fairy tales.
 - d. Ichabod = "the glory is departed", the ark of the covenant of the LORD
 - e. The disobedience of the house of Eli had brought forth this national condition.
 - f. 22 - *"because the ark of God is taken"* - No more place for God in Israel.
 - g. This juxtaposes 1 Sam 3:21 where the LORD appeared by words to Samuel.
6. Ch 1-4 review:
- a. Israel's leaders are blind and faithless. A remnant exists.
 - b. A prophet is born whom the leaders do not heed, but ministers to the LORD.
 - c. The vessel of God's covenant mercy is lost by unfaithful leaders, Israel falls.
 - d. The LORD appears to a promised son by the word of the Lord.
 - e. The glory of the LORD departs from Israel to the Gentiles.
 - f. Want to guess who receives the ark of the covenant with power in ch. 7?
 - g. Wicked priests lose the covenant in Matthew 21:43-Acts 7:51 as well.
 - h. What follows is a slaughter and a departure of God's glory (Acts 8, 9:1)
 - i. *"Samuel ... foretold of these days"* - Acts 3:24