

# **RISE OF THE KING AND THE NEED FOR A GREATER KING**

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***1 & 2 SAMUEL***

# **LESSON 8: THE GLORY HAS DEPARTED**

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***1 SAMUEL 4:12-22***

# REVIEW

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***GOD WON'T BE USED***

# THE SETTING

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- Israel in spiritual decline
- Word of the LORD had returned through Samuel
- Yet no obedience followed revelation
- God is no longer silent—but Israel is still unchanged

# THE REAL PROBLEM

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- The issue was not the Philistines
- The issue was Israel's sin
- God was using enemies as instruments of judgment
- External pressure revealed internal corruption

# THE FIRST DEFEAT (4:1-2)

- Israel goes to battle without seeking God
- No prayer, no repentance, no dependence
- About 4,000 men killed
- Not bad luck—Divine discipline

# THE WRONG RESPONSE

- They asked the right question: “Why did the LORD defeat us?”
- But chose the wrong solution
- Instead of repentance → they chose manipulation
- They turned from God to a method

# MISUSING THE ARK

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- “Let it save us” → reduced God to an object
- Treated the ark like a tool or weapon
- Wanted God’s power without God’s authority
- Religion replaced relationship

# THE COLLAPSE (4:9-11)

- False confidence led to greater defeat
- 30,000 soldiers killed
- Ark captured
- Hophni & Phinehas killed (Prophecy)
- Lesson: God will not be used—He must be obeyed

# **LESSON 8: THE GLORY HAS DEPARTED**

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***1 SAMUEL 4:12-22***

# 1 SAMUEL 4:12-22

<sup>12</sup> “That same day, a Benjaminite man ran from the battle and came to Shiloh. His clothes were torn, and there was dirt on his head. <sup>13</sup> When he arrived, there was Eli sitting on his chair beside the road waiting, because he was anxious about the ark of God.

# 1 SAMUEL 4:12-22

<sup>13c</sup> “When the man entered the city to give a report, the entire city cried out.

<sup>14</sup> Eli heard the outcry and asked, ‘Why this commotion?’ The man quickly came and reported to Eli.

# 1 SAMUEL 4:12-22

<sup>15</sup> “At that time Eli was ninety-eight years old, and his eyes didn’t move because he couldn’t see.

<sup>16</sup> The man said to Eli, ‘I’m the one who came from the battle. I fled from there today.’ ‘What happened, my son?’ Eli asked.

# 1 SAMUEL 4:12-22

<sup>17</sup> “The messenger answered, ‘Israel has fled from the Philistines, and also there was a great slaughter among the people. Your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, are both dead, and the ark of God has been captured.’”

# 1 SAMUEL 4:12-22

<sup>18</sup> “When he mentioned the ark of God, Eli fell backward off the chair by the city gate, and since he was old and heavy, his neck broke and he died. Eli had judged Israel forty years.

# 1 SAMUEL 4:12-22

<sup>19</sup> “Eli’s daughter-in-law, the wife of Phinehas, was pregnant and about to give birth. When she heard the news about the capture of God’s ark and the deaths of her father-in-law and her husband, she collapsed and gave birth because her labor pains came on her. 16

# 1 SAMUEL 4:12-22

<sup>20</sup> “As she was dying, the women taking care of her said, ‘Don’t be afraid. You’ve given birth to a son!’ But she did not respond or pay attention.

# 1 SAMUEL 4:12-22

<sup>21</sup> “She named the boy Ichabod, saying, ‘The glory has departed from Israel,’ referring to the capture of the ark of God and to the deaths of her father-in-law and her husband.

# 1 SAMUEL 4:12-22

2 “ ‘The glory has departed from Israel,’ she said, ‘because the ark of God has been captured.’”

**LESSON 8:**  
**THE GLORY HAS DEPARTED**

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***THE MESSAGE & RESPONSE***

# THE MESSENGER ARRIVES

- Benjamite runs from battlefield to SHILOH<sup>(1)</sup>
- Looks of distress/grief – Clothes torn, dust on head
- Image: this is devastating news
- Future: 2 Samuel 1 (David & Saul)

# THE REPORT

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- Report to the CITY <sup>(2)</sup> first – Uproar
- Eli – Sitting near the Tabernacle
- Picture: Nothing has changed – Same place he was when Hannah prayed
- Watching & waiting – fearful for the Ark

# THE QUESTION

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- “What happened?”
- Does Eli really want the answer?
- God’s judgment in real life consequences – Not abstract ideas

# THE ANSWER

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- Israel fled the Philistines
- A great slaughter
- Hophni & Phinehas – Dead
- Worst News:  
“The ARK<sup>(3)</sup> of God has been captured.”

# THE ANSWER

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- Greatest loss is not in the circumstances (death, defeat, retreat)
- The greatest loss = loss of God's **PRESENCE**<sup>(4)</sup>

# REALITY

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- Ark – God's presence & throne
- Capture – Spiritual catastrophe
- Israel & Philistines cannot control God
- God will not be manipulated
- God in your plans → Submit to God

# ELI'S CONDITION

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- Age 98 – Blind – Physically weak
- Trembling in fear – ark > not Israel
- He “sees” the reality & judgement
- What we fear losing the **MOST**<sup>(5)</sup> –  
We value the most
- What was most important to Eli?

# ELI'S DEATH

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- Son's **DEATH** <sup>(6)</sup> does not shake him
- Possibility: He had surrendered them to God's judgement
- Falls backwards → breaks neck & dies
- Army fell – Eli falls

# ELI'S DEATH

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- Chapters 2-3 now fulfilled
- Delayed judgement → Completed
- Marks of Elis life:
  - Moments of great faithfulness
  - Failure to restrain sin
- End of leadership – 40 Years

# **PROPHECY FULFILLED**

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- Everything God said – has happened
- Priest is dead
- Ark is gone
- Israel is shattered

# QUESTIONS REMAIN

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- What does this mean for God's glory?
- What happens when God's presence is treated lightly?
- Glory **DEPARTS** (7)

# **LESSON 8: THE GLORY HAS DEPARTED**

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***ICHABOD***

# TRAGEDY CONTINUES

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- Eli's death not the end
- Phinehas's WIFE (8) hears the news:
  - Husband is dead
  - Ark is captured
- Premature labor
- Sin has a ripple effect

# TRAGEDY CONTINUES

- Eli's death not the end
- Phinehas's wife hears the news:
  - Husband is dead
  - Ark is captured
- Premature labor
- Sin has a **RIPPLE** <sup>(9)</sup> effect

# HER RESPONSE

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- Not concerning her husband
- She reacts to the departure of God's presence
- Israel is spiritually blind – She see clearly

# ATTENDANTS RESPONSE

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- Everything's ok – You gave birth to a **SON** <sup>(10)</sup>.
- Focus: life, hope, normal expectation
- Purely horizontal (human) perspective
- Spiritual > Physical

# ICHABOD

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- She doesn't respond to her maids
- Names the child "Ichabod" – No **GLORY** <sup>(11)</sup>
- Her focus ≠ survival, motherhood, death
- Perspective = Vertical (God focused)

# ICHABOD

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- Surface level comfort does not satisfy spiritual loss.
- No response because of misplaced **FOCUS** <sup>(12)</sup>
- Son is a blessing – but irrelevant when compared to God's glory

# GLORY OF GOD

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- God promised His glory would fill the tabernacle.
- Ark represents His throne/presence
- Greater judgement is not the defeat – it is God removing His presence

# OUR APPLICATION

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- “At least ATTENDANCE <sup>(13)</sup> is up...”
- “Things are going ok...”
- “The people seemed to be happy...”
- But
  - Prayer is lacking
  - Obedience is absent

# OUR APPLICATION

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- Do we still have the presence of God?
- Are we comfortable with programs, people, and emotions?

“They were celebrating the birth of a son... while she was grieving the loss of God.”

# REVELATION 2:1-5

<sup>1</sup> “Write to the angel of the church in Ephesus: Thus says the one who holds the seven stars in his right hand and who walks among the seven golden lampstands:

# REVELATION 2:1-5

<sup>2</sup> “I know your works, your labor, and your endurance, and that you cannot tolerate evil people. You have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and you have found them to be liars.

# REVELATION 2:1-5

<sup>3</sup> “I know that you have persevered and endured hardships for the sake of my name, and you have not grown weary.

# REVELATION 2:1-5

<sup>4</sup> “But I have this against you: You have abandoned the love you had at first. <sup>5</sup> Remember then how far you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. Otherwise, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.”

# OUR APPLICATION

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- 1 Samuel - the glory departed because of open sin...
- Revelation - the glory was about to depart because of cold hearts.
- Danger: losing love for Christ with everything else is still intact.

# OVERCOME BY THE MOMENT

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- Grief and Labor pains = overwhelmed
- Physical/Emotional anguish collide
- She dies in **CHILDBIRTH** (14)

# FINAL TRUTH

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- The glory has departed...
- Because God was treated lightly
- Because SIN <sup>(15)</sup> was tolerated
- Because obedience was ignored

# FINAL TRUTH

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We must honor His presence –  
because when we treat Him  
casually, we risk losing what  
matters most.

**WHAT'S NEXT**

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***GOD AMONG THE PHILISTINES***

# WHAT'S NEXT

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- The ark in enemy territory
  - Temple of Dagon
- Looks of Israel's defeat – becomes a display of God's supremacy
- False God's fall before the true God

# WHAT'S NEXT

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- Israel couldn't control God
- The world can't control God
- God's power is on display even in enemy territory.