

# Glory Departed

6/22/2025



## Ichabod, the glory is gone

- ▶ Ever heard the term?
- ▶ Talked about it a lot in the 1980's
- ▶ More so of describing churches.
- ▶ It comes from this text:



## Here in 1 Samuel 4

- ▶ There are some terrible, tragic circumstances, and indeed they are.
- ▶ But there is an even greater tragedy that becomes clear:
- ▶ THE ABSENCE OF GOD!
- ▶ In spite of the circumstantial tragedies of the passage; the worst is the **presence of God**, (symbolized by the ark), **is gone!**
- ▶ People, *you*, can go through all sorts of problems, in your lives...and we all do!
- ▶ But the BIGGEST tragedy is to go through them on your own.
- ▶ Without the LORD!?
- ▶ Why would anyone do that?
- ▶ Have they bought into the thinking...?
- ▶ This passage shows us the severity of God being shut out of a life (nation).
- ▶ The ark is gone. God is gone!
- ▶ Israel does not cry out to the Lord.
- ▶ So, God is absent...
- ▶ One of the most frightening judgments from God is for Him to accept the reality that He is no longer welcome in your life!

🔊 OVER 🔊

Even when the women try to encourage Eli's daughter-in-law with excitement...

- ▶ "You're going to have a son!"
  - ▶ There was no happiness
  - ▶ There was no joy
  - ▶ There was no satisfaction
  - ▶ There was no peace
  - ▶ There was no comfort
- ▶ Because outside of God there is none...

So, what happens in the middle of all this tragedy?

*My outline is simple, sad and morbid! But so is the text!*

WHAT HAPPENS IN THE MIDDLE OF ALL THIS TRAGEDY?

### I. The death of Eli's sons

- A. Their wickedness
- B. Their judgment – that was promised – they must have known it was coming.

### II. The death of Eli

- A. Which finishes the Eli family priesthood
- B. The news to Eli (*v.16*)

Told in **4 parts** in climatic fashion:

*1<sup>st</sup>: Israel army fled before Philistines*

*2<sup>nd</sup>: Heavy casualties*

*3<sup>rd</sup>: Your sons are dead*

*4<sup>th</sup>: The ark's been captured*

- C. Eli's response ***It gets worse!***

### III. The death of Eli's daughter in law

- A. A time that should be happy
- B. She would not be comforted (*v.19-20*)
- C. Her emphasis in death – name "*Ichabod*" - negative particle *not* and *glory* – meaning - *where is the glory?*, *nothing of glory*. **What's happened to Israel?**

### CONCLUSION:

- What tragedy and sadness.
- But the greatest tragedy...
  - Is when people reject God
  - Christians no longer repent
  - No longer sensitive to sin
  - No longer sensitive to the leading of the Lord
- So then is God an ever present help in trouble?
- **Is He with you?**



Where is God?  
God is gone!