

1 Samuel 4

- This chapter describes the end of an era through judgment, but also gives a ray of hope in the rise of Samuel as prophet.
- Ch. 4-6 tell us what happened with the Ark of the Covenant.
- The Philistines were a people most likely from the island of Crete (Caphtor). They ended up in the area that's called the Gaza Strip today. Unrelated to "Palestinians".

Vs. 3-4 - Oblivious to the connection b/w disobedience to God and their defeat.

- Oblivious to who God really is; superstition.

Vs. 5-11 - The Philistines had more awareness of the fear of the God of Israel than the Israelites themselves

- Terrible testimony for God towards the Gentiles.

Vs. 12-18 - Eli, though a believer himself, was a spineless weak leader. Historically, the road to departure from God and His word starts with leaders who might be saved, but fail to stand for God's word and try to please people instead.

Vs. 15 - His eyes were dim physically and spiritually.

Vs. 18 - The last thing Eli experienced was hearing about the loss of the Ark, the symbol of God's presence among His people.

Good leadership: Conviction, courage, care, commitment, consecration, consistency, compassion, contrition (humility).

Vs. 19-22 - Eli's daughter-in-law seemed to have had better understanding of the importance of losing the Ark. She was more upset about that, than losing her husband.

Read Ps. 78:60-61; Jr. 7:12-14

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- The Ark of the Covenant and the Shekinah glory.
 - The presence of God among His people was one of the most important aspects of God's relationship with Israel and is also with us.
 - The Lord's glory in the cloud went before the people (Ex. 13)
 - His glory filled the tabernacle in Ex. 40. It remained in the tabernacle for over 300 years.
 - Exodus 15 first mentions God's dwelling among His people, His reign and the Redemption of His people. These three concepts go together through the whole Bible. (Ex. 15:13, 16-18)
For example: Redemption (Rv. 5:9), God's reign (Rv. 5:13), God's dwelling (Rv. 21:3)
- The glory of God in visible manifestation didn't come back till Solomon built the temple (1 Ki. 8).
- 2 Samuel ends with David finding the place where that temple was to be built.
- While the majority of Israel seemed unconcerned about God's dwelling among Israel, David had a desire to build a temple and find the place for it.
 - + 2 Sm. 7:1-2 - When everything went well for David.
 - + 2 Sm. 15:24-25 - When circumstances were bad for David.
- The Lord Jesus is the embodiment of God's Shekinah glory (Jn. 1:14). The Jews in rejecting Him also lost the temple and the glory of God (Mt. 23:37-39)
→ Are we concerned about God's glory? His Presence?

1 Samuel 4 - Departure of the Glory of God

The journey of the Glory of God dwelling among His people:

- The glory of the Lord led the Israelites out of Egypt through the wilderness into the Promised Land (Exodus 13:21-22; Numbers 9:15-23; 10:33-36).
- The cloud of the glory of the Lord dwelt in the Tabernacle (Exodus 40:34-38).
- God's glory left the Tabernacle in the days of Eli (1 Samuel 4; Psalm 78:60-61).
- The cloud of God's glory filled the Temple when Solomon dedicated it to God (1 Kings 8:1-13; 2 Chronicles 5:13-14; 6:41-7:3).
- The glory of the Lord departed from the Temple just before the Babylonians destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple (Ezekiel 8:4; 9:3; 10:3-4, 18-19; 11:22-23; Jeremiah 7:12-14).
- The glory of the Lord did not visibly come back to the Temple that was built in the time of Ezra and Nehemiah after the return from Babylon (Haggai 2:1-9).
- The Son of God became flesh and dwelt (lit.: "tabernacled") among us (John 1:14; 2:18-22).
- The Jews rejected their Messiah and His glory and lost their temple as a result (Matthew 23:37-39).
- At Pentecost (Acts 2) the Holy Spirit, who is God, came to dwell, not in a physical building, but in His people, both as believers individually (1 Corinthians 6:19; Romans 8:9-11; John 14:15-17), and the Church collectively (1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 2 Corinthians 6:16; Ephesians 2:19-22).
- At the second coming of Christ when He will save the remnant of Israel, Jerusalem will once again be the dwelling place of God's glory during the Millennial reign of Christ (Isaiah 4:2-6; Ezekiel 43:1-7; 48:35).
- God will dwell forever with His people when He makes a new heaven and new earth (Revelation 21).

