

From Ichabod to Immanuel

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1 Samuel 4:12-22

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Review:

- Israel learned what happened when they take God lightly
- God doesn't demand our performance or antics but asks only that we look to Him in faith alone for our protection and salvation.

That's NOT Good News: 12

- Runner ~21miles
- Eli was waiting & trembling¹³ – seems concerned over ark
- Eli knew fate of sons, unnamed man^{2:33-34}; Samuel^{3:13}
- Eli knew his son's disobedience had imperiled ark
- Eli knew Israel had not sought God's guidance^{Dt12}
- If you want favor and peace don't disobey God's Word^{Jn14:6}

Eli Receives News: 15-18

- News of ark's capture was devastating to Eli¹⁸
- Eli's sins & son's sins now imperiled God's people
- Wordplay: heavy¹⁸ vs. glory²² departed – the glory^{KBD} has departed and is now heavy^{KBD} around Eli's waist
- Eli didn't stop the wandering of people from God^{Jdg2:10-12}
- Eli enjoyed fruits of son's corruption (fat)
- What do you owe God? Romans 12:1-2 - your life^{1Cor6:20}

Things Don't Look So Good 19-22

- Phinehas' wife goes into labor suddenly upon news¹⁹
- Storyteller mentions pains of birth^{Gen3:16} reminding us...
- Widow saw implications of God removing presence: Ichabod
- Let us not cry Ichabod today - Rom 10:5-9
- We have God as near as His Word^{Rom10:8!}

But What About the Ark & God's Discipline?

- 30K slaughtered, ark is gone, God's discipline is heavy...
- God had given great promises^{Ex6:7} God is a covenant keeper!
- Believers have similar promises^{Heb13:5; Rom8:38-39} today^{Jn10:28}
- Don't look at circumstances or feelings but Word^{Rom10:9!}

When the Glory Departs

- They regarded God lightly... consequences, discipline...
- Later^{Eze10:18-19} God disciplined after much idolatry^{Babylon exile}
- NT churches^{Rev2-3} warned^{study & avoid their sins!} WCF 18:4
- God won't tolerate continual disobedience to Word^{Is29:13; Jer2:7,11}
- Situation at Shiloh is a warning^{Jer7:14}

From Ichabod to Immanuel

- What to do when 'Ichabod'? Zec 1:3; Ex 34:6
- Call upon God in obedience for mercy: Jer 29:12-14
- OT worst Ichabod: fall of Jerusalem⁵⁸⁶
- History worst Ichabod: John 1:1-5,9-11
- Glory of God dwelt among mankind^{Mt1:23} but rejected^{Jn3:18-19}
- Men crucified Jesus, darkness over the land^{Mt27:45}
- BUT God! Jesus rose on 3rd day^{Jn20:31}
- Your sin cries 'Ichabod'; God's grace cries 'Immanuel'!
- Let us be messengers crying God's Gospel^{Isa52:7}