

WHY A MOTHER NAMED HER SON ICHABOD 1 SAMUEL 4

Text: 1 Sam 4:21

1 Samuel 4:21

And she named the child I-chabod, saying, The glory is departed from Israel: because the ark of God was taken, and because of her father in law and her husband.

Introduction:

In our text we have the story of a mother who named her son "Ichabod" Now that sounds quite unusual to us. Yet, she had a reason for naming her son that.

1. IT WAS A TIME OF DISOBEDIENCE

A. Preaching Was Scarce

1 Samuel 3:1

And the child Samuel ministered unto the Lord before Eli. And the word of the Lord was precious in those days; there was no open vision.

B. Preachers Were Scandalous

1 Samuel 2:12

Now the sons of Eli were sons of Belial; they knew not the Lord.

1 Samuel 2:17

Wherefore the sin of the young men was very great before the Lord: for men abhorred the offering of the Lord.

C. People Were Sinful

1 Samuel 2:23-24

And he said unto them, Why do ye such things? for I hear of your evil dealings by all this people. [24] Nay, my sons; for it is no good report that I hear: ye make the Lord's people to transgress.

2. IT WAS A TIME OF DEFEAT

A. The Foe

1 Samuel 4:1

And the word of Samuel came to all Israel. Now Israel went out against the Philistines to battle, and pitched beside Eben-ezer: and the Philistines pitched in Aphek.

B. The Foolishness

1 Samuel 4:1-10

And the word of Samuel came to all Israel. Now Israel went out against the Philistines to battle, and pitched beside Eben-ezer: and the Philistines pitched in Aphek.

[2] And the Philistines put themselves in array against Israel: and when they joined battle, Israel was smitten before the Philistines: and they slew of the army in the field about four thousand men.

[3] And when the people were come into the camp, the elders of Israel said, Wherefore hath the Lord smitten us to day before the Philistines? Let us fetch the ark of the covenant of the Lord out of Shiloh unto us, that, when it cometh among us, it may save us out of the hand of our enemies. [4] So the people sent to Shiloh, that they might bring from thence the ark of the covenant of the Lord of hosts, which dwelleth between the cherubims: and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God. [5] And when the ark of the covenant of the Lord came into the camp, all Israel shouted with a great shout, so that the earth rang again. [6] And when the Philistines heard the noise of the shout, they said, What meaneth the noise of this great shout in the camp of the Hebrews? And they understood that the ark of the Lord was come into the camp. [7] And the Philistines were afraid, for they said, God is come into the camp. And they said, Woe unto us! for there hath not been such a thing heretofore. [8] Woe unto us! who shall deliver us out of the hand of these mighty Gods? these are the Gods that smote the Egyptians

with all the plagues in the wilderness. [9] Be strong, and quit yourselves like men, O ye Philistines, that ye be not servants unto the Hebrews, as they have been to you: quit yourselves like men, and fight.

[10] And the Philistines fought, and Israel was smitten, and they fled every man into his tent: and there was a very great slaughter; for there fell of Israel thirty thousand footmen.

- They went to war without seeking spiritual guidance.
- Then they think the presence of the Ark of the Covenant alone will bring them victory. They were trusting in the ark and not the Lord.

C. The Fatalities

- In the first battle there were 4000 killed.
- In the second battle there were 30000 killed.

3. IT WAS A TIME OF DEPARTURE

A. Departure Of Her Husband And Father-in-law

1 Samuel 4:19

And his daughter in law, Phinehas' wife, was with child, near to be delivered: and when she heard the tidings that the ark of God was taken, and that her

father in law and her husband were dead, she bowed herself and travailed; for her pains came upon her.

B. Departure of the Glory of God (vs 19)

C. Departure of the Boys Mother (vs 20)

1 Samuel 4:20

And about the time of her death the women that stood by her said unto her, Fear not; for thou hast born a son. But she answered not, neither did she regard it.

Close:

What has happened to the glory of God ? Where's the glorious presence and power of God in our lives ?
Where is the glory in our marriages, in our families ?
Where has the glory gone in the church ? Are our lives filled with the presence, and power of the Holy Spirit ?
The children of Israel first departed from the Lord, and then the glory of the Lord departed from them. When they should have repented, and returned, they stayed the course of disobedience, and it would cost them dearly !