



I Samuel

Part #7 –

Ichabod

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Introduction

Key Scriptures

- 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.. – 1 Samuel 3:1
- That the LORD called Samuel: and he answered, Here *am* I. – 1 Samuel 3:4
- Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, neither was the word of the LORD yet revealed unto him. – 1 Samuel 3:7
- And the LORD said to Samuel, Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle. – 1 Samuel 3:11



Introduction – Cont'd

Key Scriptures

- For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not. – 1 Samuel 3:13
- For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not. And she said, The glory is departed from Israel: for the ark of God is taken. – 1 Samuel 4:21,22



Introduction – Cont'd

It appears we have lost the referential fear of GOD as a result of sinful excesses presented as acceptable practices. Far too often we paint our excesses with broad strokes on the canvas of life based on how we understand God's Grace. This is absurd!

Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil. - Ecclesiastes 8:11



Keys

Ichabod!

- The word of the Lord scarce, rare!
- They was no message from GOD
- The apprentice Samuel we get His first taste of hearing from GOD
- God was patient with the young boy
- Going against your adversaries without right standing emboldens them
- The glory had departed, and they knew it not – Where have we seen this before?



In this lesson

- God's word to Samuel
- God's word to Eli
- God's absence from Israel



God's Word to Samuel

That the LORD called Samuel: and he answered, Here am I. - 1 Samuel 3:4

Here am I

- A new thing with Samuel
- God's word was Scarce
 - No open vision
 - No message by the prophets
- God decided Samuel will be privy to the new way of communicating with Israel
- Yay! You did it right, Samuel!



God's Word to Samuel – Cont'd

- The Lord God will call 4 times until Samuel understood
- He will call even though Samuel did not know the Lord
- He will call even though Samuel did not have a revelation of the word of the Lord
- Notice the Lord did not withdraw His calling because Samuel did not understand
- Yay! You got it right, Samuel!
- God establishes the work and word of a prophet Samuel in Israel – 1 Samuel 3:19-21
- His word will come to all of Israel (While Eli is still High Priest in Israel) – 1 Samuel 4:1



God's Word to Eli

A Test of Delivery

- Samuel will be tested for his delivery of the word
- The preparation for ministry with a word that is perhaps difficult to deliver
- God reiterates His judgment of Eli's house
- Eli knew his son's iniquity and he did nothing to restrain them
- The judgement will be an everlasting judgement!



God's Word to Eli – Cont'd

Eli's threat to know what God had said

- Eli utters a curse for the message of God he did not currently have, when he had all the knowledge about God that could have averted the situation
- Eli's resignation about the word of the LORD for his house
- Eli had reached a place in complacency that he could not return from



God's absence from Israel

Adding sin to sin

- We described the practice and conduct of Eli's sons as profligate (utterly and shamelessly immoral) and rapacious (given to seizing for plunder or the satisfaction of greed)
- The Elders would take charge and explain away their losses
- These were those who were supposed to be responsible for direction and leadership
- These were supposedly part of the moral compass or the lack thereof of Israel



God's absence from Israel – Cont'd

Adding sin to sin

- They condoned the behavior of Eli and his sons
- They turned a blind eye and a deaf ear to all the atrocities perpetrated by Hophni and Phinehas
- They did not hear the cry of the women at the temple as they were violated by them
- They used their voices to reassure the people that the Lord was with them
- They said the reason behind the loss of 4,000 men in battle was their failure to take the ark into battle



God's absence from Israel – Cont'd

Adding sin to sin

- They relied on the emblematic appearance of God but not on the Lord himself
- They thought! ...That the ark's presence was guarantee they will prevail in battle
- They disregarded the fact that a holy God required holy living for His holy presence
- For them works **for** the Lord was better than works **with** the Lord
- They put their safety in the ark and not in the Lord
- They placed their confidence in the system and not in the God who presided over the system



God's absence from Israel – Cont'd

Adding sin to sin

- When God is not in it....It is a form, an empty shell of worship!
- They will identify the ark by name and label it in the presence of all Israel
- Everyone will shout until the earth would quake
- You'd think God had shown up



God's absence from Israel – Cont'd

Adding sin to sin

- Upholding the system of observance was more important to them than relationship with the Lord
- They will suffer additional losses of 30,000 men
- The judgment will begin in Eli's household – First with his two sons, then with him and then his daughter in law.
- A child will be born motherless
- The birth of Ichabod will signify to the people that the Glory of God had departed!



God's absence from Israel – Cont'd

The enemy's impression

- Every Philistine feared the ark and the Lord until this point in time
- Their fear should have remained a permanent disposition
- Sin left the children of Israel without protection
- The ark was supposed to serve as the promise of His presence with Israel
- Are we carrying empty promises around because of the presence of sin in our lives?
- Sin causes those who are supposed to tremble before us to afflict us
- Sin causes the enemy of your soul to lose his fear of you!



God's absence from Israel – Cont'd

The enemy's impression

- Sin emboldens your adversary!



Summary

Carefree and Callous, but know your sin will find you out!



Next Week

We will continue next week – Still in the book of 1 Samuel – The Philistines have the Ark of the Covenant