



Icabod: The Glory of God Departs from Israel (1 Sam 4 - 5)

Questions: Week Four

The Philistines Capture the Ark - [1 Samuel 4:1-22](#)¹

Topics: [Age](#), [Assumptions](#), [Blindness](#), [Death](#), [Despair](#), [Discouragement](#), [Enemies](#), [Fear](#), [Glory](#), [Grief](#), [History](#), [Humiliation](#), [Name](#), [Risk](#), [War](#), [Wives](#), [Worry](#)

Open It

1. What role does religion play in motivating people to go to war?
2. *What are some religious symbols that have been meaningful to you?
3. When was the last time you anxiously awaited some news?

Explore It

4. *What were the Israelite losses in battle before and after the priests brought the ark of the covenant to the battlefield? ([4:2](#), [10](#))
5. *After their initial defeat by the Philistines, what strategy did the elders of Israel take for granted in approaching the next battle? ([4:3](#))
6. Who accompanied the ark from Shiloh to the battlefield? ([4:4](#))
7. How did the army of Israel react when the ark of the covenant arrived at the front? ([4:5](#))
8. What reaction did the news of the ark's arrival provoke among Israel's enemies? ([4:7](#))
9. With what historical event concerning God and the Hebrews were the Philistines familiar? ([4:8](#))
10. How did the Philistine commanders motivate their troops to fight harder rather than be discouraged? ([4:9](#))
11. *What became of the ark and the priests at the end of the battle? ([4:11](#))
12. How did news of the battle's outcome reach Shiloh? ([4:12](#))
13. Why was Eli anxiously awaiting news from the front? ([4:13](#))
14. Of all the bad news reported to Eli, what was the proverbial "last straw"? ([4:18](#))

1. *Adult Questions for LESSONMaker*, (Austin, TX: Wordsearch, 1992), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, Under: "The Philistines Capture the Ark - 1 Samuel 4:1-22".

15. What other family member ultimately died as a result of hearing the bad news? ([4:19-20](#))
16. How did the naming of Phinehas' son relate to the worst outcome of the battle against the Philistines? ([4:21-22](#))

Get It

17. Why do you suppose the elders decided to bring the ark to the battlefield?
18. *Why isn't it safe to assume that the presence of the symbols of God guarantee the presence of God?
19. How were the lives of the people waiting at home affected by the decisions of the priests and elders?
20. *When are we most likely to become overconfident?
21. What does the phrase "fear of God" mean to you?

Apply It

22. *What symbol of God's presence and power can you resolve not to take for granted?
23. How can you voice your concerns about an important issue the next time it differs from the majority?