



Ichabod: The Glory Has Departed

The Destiny of Religion without Relationship

(1 Sam 4:1 - 22)

Study Notes Handout: Week Four

Why did the Lord bring defeat upon us today before the Philistines? (4:3)

Introduction:

We could characterize religion as human attempts to harness God's power. In its more refined forms it is called spirituality. How can we know *what to do* to access the power of God? The religions and spiritualities that humans have devised are largely attempts to guess the answer to that question. The tragedy is that they are no more than that - human guesses as to how to access the power of God.

John Woodhouse, *Looking for a Leader*

Life *with* God is different because its goal is not to *use* God, its goal *is* God. He ceases to be a device we employ or a commodity we consume. Instead God Himself becomes the focus of our desire.

Skye Jethani, *With*

Sermon Outline:

1. God in a Box (4:1 - 4)

2. God Almighty (4:5 - 11)

3. God of Glory (4:12 - 22)

Questions for Reflection:

- Discuss how the elders of Israel asked the right question but arrived at the wrong answer in vs. 3. What predisposed them to arriving at a wrong conclusion? What comparison to this could we make for ourselves today?
- In thinking about Eli and his sons, what further reflections on leadership do you have?
- What is the glory of the church today? What must never be lost? How do we apply the truth of 'Ichabod' to our lives today?



Personal Study Notes

Key Verses:

She named the boy Ichabod, saying, "The glory has departed from Israel" -- because of the capture of the ark of God and the deaths of her father-in-law and her husband. She said, "The glory has departed from Israel, for the ark of God has been captured."

1 Samuel 4:21-22

The House of Eli is Devastated as the Ark of God is Captured

The Philistines Kill Eli's Sons and Capture the Ark (4:1b-11)

Eli Dies; Ichabod is Born (4:12-22)

The Lord Triumphs During Samuel's Career

The Lord Overwhelms to Philistines' God (5:1-6:12)

Questions or Insights for Discussion:

1)

2)

