

## “Why Has the LORD Defeated Us?” (Part 2)

1 Samuel 4:12-22

*“Will I humble myself (have faith and obey in full dependence on Christ) or will I demand that God humble me?”**“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching (doctrine), for reproof (conviction of sin), for correction (getting back on your feet), and for training in righteousness (disciplines that lead to holiness), that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17)**“Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, make offerings to Baal, and go after other gods that you have not known, and then come and stand before Me in this house, which is called by My name, and say, ‘We are delivered!’ — only to go on doing all these abominations.... Go now to My place that was in Shiloh, where I made My name dwell at first, and see what I did to it because of the evil of My people Israel....and when I spoke to you persistently you did not listen, and when I called you, you did not answer, therefore I will do to the house that is called by My name, and in which you trust, and to the place that I gave to you and your fathers, as I did to Shiloh.” (Jeremiah 7:9-14)**“He (Yahweh) forsook His dwelling at Shiloh, the tent where He dwelt among mankind, and delivered His power to captivity and His glory (the ark/the holy of holies) to the hand of the foe. He gave His people over to the sword (34,000 soldiers) and vented His wrath on His heritage. Fire devoured their young men, and their young women had no marriage song. Their priests (Eli and Hophni) fell by the sword, and their widows made no lamentation. Then the Lord awoke as from sleep (1 Samuel 7:10,13-14), like a strong man shouting because of wine. And He put His adversaries to rout; He put them to everlasting shame.”  
(Psalm 78:60-66)*

- An overview of the Ark of the Covenant (Exodus 25:10-22; Exodus 37:1-9; Leviticus 16:1-34; Hebrews 9:1-5):
  - The Ark represented the conditional blessings and warnings for the Nation of Israel by obedience or disobedience to God’s Law (Deuteronomy 8:1-20).
  - Inside of the Ark were the 10 Commandments (that represented God’s Covenant), the Manna (that represented God’s promise of physical provision), and Aaron’s staff that budded (that represented God’s spiritual provision of forgiveness of sins).
  - The ark was to be kept in the Holy of Holies.
  - The Mercy Seat (cover, appease, cleanse, cancel, make atonement for) is the focal point of the ark. It is here that atonement was made for the Nation and the individual Israelites. It was effectual by faith.
  - This all pointed to the work of Christ (Hebrews 10:10-14; *Romans 3:23-26*; 1 John 2:2).
- 1 Samuel 4:12-22
  - The man of Benjamin’s message was the fulfillment of 1 Samuel 3:11. His message involved four parts:
 

1) Israel had fled before the Philistines.	3) Eli’s sons, Hophni and Phineas, are dead.
2) There was a great defeat among the Israelites.	4) The ark of God has been captured.
  - “Blind” Eli (1 Samuel 3:2) was waiting in anticipation for the news about the ark. More than likely Eli had given his wicked, “deaf” (1 Samuel 2:12 & 25) and “blind” (1 Samuel 2:18,21,26 & 3:1) sons permission to take the ark into battle. He wasn’t able to see, because of his willful ignorance, the spiritual condition of Israel.

(continued →)

**Worship:** There is a Fountain (Citizens)

Speak O Lord (The Gettys)

**Service Times:** Sundays: Revelation Class 4/Prayer 4:30/Church 5:30; Tuesdays: (In-Home) Bible Study: Women 6:30/Men 6:30 & 7; Thursdays: Prayer 6:20/Church 7

*“You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive. For this people’s heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.”*

*(Matthew 13:14-15)*

- Of all of the news that the city, Eli, and his daughter-in-law had received that day, the most devastating was that they had lost the ark of God. The city cried out, Eli fell over, broke his neck and died, and his daughter-in-law went into labor and died.
  - The word for heavy in verse 18 may have been a purposeful play on words (kabod=glory, weight, significance and kabad=heavy). Pointing to the fact that Eli and his sons had “stolen” God’s glory because of their dishonoring the worship of God (1 Samuel 2:17,29; 3:13).
  - Phinehas’ wife knew of her husband's dishonoring of the worship of God, his adulterous relationships, knew the prophecy about judgment on her husband, and yet seemed to be a genuine follower of Yahweh. She was devastated to death that the ark and the priesthood was gone. There would be no more worship of Yahweh in Shiloh. “The glory has departed.”
    - God’s glory mattered more than anything. What is God’s glory? *God’s glory is the beauty that flows from who He is. It is what makes Him worthy of worship. He is worthy not because of what He has done but because of who He is. It is His majesty, His love, His eternity, His perfection, His wisdom, and His holiness. His glory is seen and experienced in His creation leading us to worship of Him or a growing knowledge of Him. God’s glory reminds us that all things are from Him and for Him.*