

SERMON-BASED STUDY: THE GLORY WARS

1 Samuel 4:12-22, ESV – ¹² A man of Benjamin ran from the battle line and came to Shiloh the same day, with his clothes torn and with dirt on his head. ¹³ When he arrived, Eli was sitting on his seat by the road watching, for his heart trembled for the ark of God. And when the man came into the city and told the news, all the city cried out. ¹⁴ When Eli heard the sound of the outcry, he said, “What is this uproar?” Then the man hurried and came and told Eli. ¹⁵ Now Eli was ninety-eight years old and his eyes were set so that he could not see. ¹⁶ And the man said to Eli, “I am he who has come from the battle; I fled from the battle today.” And he said, “How did it go, my son?” ¹⁷ He who brought the news answered and said, “Israel has fled before the Philistines, and there has also been a great defeat among the people. Your two sons also, Hophni and Phinehas, are dead, and the ark of God has been captured.” ¹⁸ As soon as he mentioned the ark of God, Eli fell over backward from his seat by the side of the gate, and his neck was broken and he died, for the man was old and heavy. He had judged Israel forty years.

¹⁹ Now his daughter-in-law, the wife of Phinehas, was pregnant, about to give birth. And when she heard the news that the ark of God was captured, and that her father-in-law and her husband were dead, she bowed and gave birth, for her pains came upon her. ²⁰ And about the time of her death the women attending her said to her, “Do not be afraid, for you have borne a son.” But she did not answer or pay attention. ²¹ And she named the child Ichabod, saying, “The glory has departed from Israel!” because the ark of God had been captured and because of her father-in-law and her husband. ²² And she said, “The glory has departed from Israel, for the ark of God has been captured.”

Notes:

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- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

- 1 Why did the Israelites react the way they did to the news? Why was this such a great defeat?

2 Looking at 1 Samuel 4:21, we see that Phinehas' wife named her son Ichabod. Why did she give her son this name? How does this story illustrate how our sins can harm people who are close to us?

3 How do you think Eli, Hophni and Phinehas lost their way and allowed their own appetites to become more important to them than honoring God?

DIGGING DEEPER

A **Jeremiah 9:23-24, ESV** – ²³ Thus says the LORD: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, ²⁴ but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD.”

Psalms 115:4-8, ESV – ⁴ Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands. ⁵ They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see. ⁶ They have ears, but do not hear; noses, but do not smell. ⁷ They have hands, but do not feel; feet, but do not walk; and they do not make a sound in their throat. ⁸ Those who make them become like them; so do all who trust in them.

4 According to Jeremiah 9:23-24, what does the “unwise” man boast in? What does the “wise” man boast in? What does it mean to glory in something? Is the instinct to glory in something a bad thing? Why or why not?

5 Why does God delight in these things?

6 In Psalm 115:4-8, what does the Psalmist mean by, “Those who make them become like them; so do all who trust in them”?

B *Psalm 96:7-10a, ESV* – ⁷Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength! ⁸ Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts! ⁹ Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth! ¹⁰ Say among the nations, “The LORD reigns!”

Psalm 115:1, ESV – Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!

7 What does it mean to ascribe? What is “due” to God?

8 What kind of offering should we bring to God? How is ascribing to the Lord what is due Him related to worship?

9 How should we “say among the nations, ‘The Lord reigns’”? Why is this important?

TAKING IT HOME

As followers of Christ, we are to let the glory of God be our chief aim in life. How are you doing in this area? Are you looking for your own glory or are you giving Him the glory? Share with your group or accountability partner what God is speaking to you today. Pray for one another as you seek to give Him the glory He is due, in all things.

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

Matthew 5:4

Luke 2:14

1 Corinthians 10:12

Galatians 6:3

Philippians 3:17-19