

1 SAMUEL 4; March 19; Ichabod

ANALYSIS:

1. What religious object did the elders of Israel take into battle against the Philistines? _____
2. How did Israel's army react when the ark came into the camp _____ and how did the Philistines react and what did they say (3 words)? _____
3. What happened to the ark and the priests who were with it?

4. Who else died the day Israel was defeated and 70,000 soldiers died?

5. What does the name "Ichabod" mean? _____

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

It appears that the elders of Israel imagined that if they brought the ark of the covenant unto the battlefield it would enable them to defeat the Philistines. Instead they should have sought the LORD who can defeat all enemies. Their defeat meant they had dishonored their God and He had withdrawn His power, protection and blessing. This is a sad example of the futility of placing faith in a symbol, instead of repenting and returning to pleasing and trusting the LORD.

"Seek ye the LORD while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon" (Isa 55:6-7).

HELP:

1. The ark of the covenant of the LORD (vs 3-5).
2. Israel shouted with a great shout, the Philistines were afraid, "Woe unto us!" (vs 5-7).
3. The ark was captured by the Philistines, and the two priests Hophni & Phinehas were killed (v 11).
4. Eli and Phinehas' wife as she gave birth (vs 18-19).
5. The glory is departed from Israel, or No honor, No glory (v 21).