

**“The Glory Has Departed”
I Samuel 4**

In chapters 4-7:2 we will be looking at a section of Scripture which deals with the wandering adventures of the Ark of the Covenant. This occurs not too many years after the prophecies about Eli’s family (fulfills them).

Double defeats at Aphek, 4:1-11.

1. First battle goes badly (1-2).
New battle plan forgets Joshua 7:7-13, plus see I Sam. 7:3.
2. Second battle is worse (6-11).
Hophni and Phinehas are killed just as predicted (2:34).
The Ark of the Covenant is stunningly captured as spoils of war.
False assumptions. . . can we be equally manipulative?

Double deaths at Shiloh, 4:12-22.

- First death from news in 12-18. Eli is sitting again (1:9, 3:3), and ironically his weight contributes to his death (2:29b). His violent reaction is explicitly tied to the Ark’s fate (18). This was a shock!
1. Second death from news in 19-22. Phinehas’ wife hears the bad news, which induces her labor, total despair and death (18-22).

Q: WHY SUCH DEADLY REACTIONS TO THIS BAD NEWS?

False assumption of Eli and D-in-Law . . . can we be so deceived?

QUESTION: DO WE AT
TIMES ASSUME TOO
MUCH ABOUT WHOSE
SIDE GOD IS ON, WHAT
HE’S INVOLVED IN AND
HOW MUCH WE CAN
COERCE HIM TO ACT
IN OUR FAVOR?