

THE GLORY OF GOD
SEPTEMBER 24, 2017

1 SAMUEL 4:10-22 (ESV)

1. “Ichabod” is a word no devout Jew wants to hear. It means “departed glory” or “the glory is departed”. It meant the manifested presence of God was no longer with them. There’s a difference between God’s manifested presence and His omnipresence.
 - A. The Ark Of The Covenant represented God’s visible presence and Glory that distinguished Israel from other nations and made them invincible before their enemies. The Ark being stolen meant the glory had departed and Israel was as every other ordinary nation.
 - B. **JUDGES 16:18-21** – Samson’s hair was like the Ark. It represented God’s glory and manifested presence and power. Once removed, the glory departed, and Samson was like any ordinary man.
2. These two examples reveal that the glory can depart from a nation, and an individual. Jesus acknowledged this.
 - A. **MATTHEW 23:37-38** – Their house being left desolate meant “Ichabod,” the glory is departed. Desolate means empty and deserted. Notice how Jesus says “your house!” He used to say “my house” or my “Father’s house.” Notice **VERSE 39**.
 - **MATTHEW 27:50-51** – The glory departed.
3. If the glory can depart from a nation and individual, it can also depart from a church.
 - A. **2 TIMOTHY 3:1-5 (NLT)** – Where the absence of the glory is, there is spiritual poverty and no power to change a life.
 - B. There can be singing, preaching and religious form, even though the glory is not present.
 - C. My desire is not to see our nation, our church or any of us be without the glory of God. My desire is for our church to be a place where God’s glory rests, our worship is inhabited and lives are transformed by God’s Word and manifested glory. Our goal is not to be ordinary.
4. What promotes faded or departed glory?
 - A. Viewing the Ark as a good luck charm.

1 SAMUEL 4:4-5 (ESV) They weren’t interested in serving, worshiping or reverencing God, they were presumptuous and manipulative, and only wanted His help.

 - One can’t live in sin and tell God what to do.
 - B. Viewing the Ark as a trophy. **1 SAMUEL 5:1-5** They should’ve asked themselves “what God has to be repaired by His subjects?”
 - God wants no strange gods before Him. There is no god like Jehovah.
 - C. Esteeming the Ark lightly. **1 SAMUEL 6:19**
 - They didn’t respect God’s instructions and were judged.
 - We too can esteem lightly God’s presence in many ways.
5. The Ark was a type of Jesus who was the full expression of God’s glory.
 - A. **JOHN 1:14 (ESV), HEBREWS 1:3**
 - B. Satan’s main objective is to keep people from any contact with the glory of God.

2 CORINTHIANS 4:3-7

 - Contact with God’s glory convicts the sinner, heals the sick and sets people free. **(ISAIAH)**

CONCLUSION: Moses longed to see God’s glory. David longed to see God’s glory. As we consecrate ourselves before God and express our desire to experience a fresh manifestation of His glory, He will pour out His Spirit on our nation, church and individual lives.