

SHOW US YOUR GLORY

Part 3: Glory Gained & Lost in the Old Testament

(No. 1110 – - NLC)

I. GOD CAN GAIN GLORY (HONOR) FOR HIMSELF

- A. **Ex. 14:4, 17-18:** *⁴And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will pursue them. But **I will gain glory for Myself** through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD... ¹⁷I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them. And **I will gain glory through Pharaoh and all his army**, through his chariots and his horsemen. ¹⁸The Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when **I gain glory** through Pharaoh, his chariots and his horsemen.*
- B. **Isa. 26:15:** *You have enlarged the nation, O LORD; You have enlarged the nation. **You have gained glory for Yourself**; You have extended all the borders of the land.*
- C. **Ezek. 28:22:** *This is what the Sovereign LORD says: "I am against you, O Sidon, and **I will gain glory** within you. They will know that I am the LORD, when I inflict punishment on her and show Myself holy within her."*

II. GLORY CAN BE GIVEN TO GOD

- A. **Ps. 115:1:** *Not to us, O LORD, not to us **but to Your name be the glory**, because of Your love and faithfulness.*
- B. **Ps. 63:3:** *Because Your love is better than life, **my lips will glorify You**.*
- C. **Ps. 66:2:** ***Sing the glory of His name**; make His praise glorious!*
- D. **Ps. 69:30:** *I will praise God's name in song and **glorify Him** with thanksgiving.*
- E. **Ps. 86:9, 12:** *⁹**All the nations** You have made will come and worship before You, O Lord; they **will bring glory to Your name**... ¹²I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart; **I will glorify Your name forever**.*
- F. **1 Chron. 16:24, 28-29, 35:** *²⁴**Declare His glory among the nations**, His marvelous deeds among all peoples... ²⁸Ascribe to the LORD, O families of nations, **ascribe to the LORD glory and***

*strength, ²⁹ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name. Bring an offering and come before Him; worship the LORD in the splendor of His holiness... ³⁵Cry out, “Save us, O God our Savior; gather us and deliver us from the nations, that we may give thanks to Your holy name, that we may **glory in Your praise.**”*

- G. **Isa. 66:19:** *They [the remnant of Israel] will **proclaim My glory among the nations.***
- H. [NOTE: In Part 7, we will look in greater depth at practical ways in which we can glorify God.]

III. GOD WILL NOT SHARE HIS GLORY WITH IDOLS

- A. **Isa. 42:8:** *I am the LORD; that is My name! **I will not give My glory to another** or My praise to idols.*
- B. **Isa. 48:11:** *For My own sake, for My own sake, I do this. How can I let Myself be defamed? **I will not yield My glory to another.***
- C. NOTE: Be careful not to block out God’s glory through pride or vanity. Years ago at our 1st Christian school, a real revival broke out amongst the children during the 1st year. One day, a young minister preached at the Chapel service and the glory of God fell. Children were receiving visions, etc. In his own pride, the minister assumed that the revival was the result of his expert preaching. One boy came forward, crying and saying that he was seeing a vision of Jesus until the minister came and stood in front of Him, blocking Him from the boy’s view! God help us not to block Jesus from others’ view because *we* want to be center stage—He must increase and we must decrease (John 3:30)!

IV. GOD GIVES/BESTOWS GLORY ON THOSE HE CHOOSES

- A. **Ps. 3:3:** *But You are a shield around me, O LORD; **You bestow glory on me** and lift up my head.*
- B. **Ps. 8:5:** *You made him [man in his original state—in particular, the perfect man, Christ (Heb. 2:6-9)] **a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.***
- C. **Ps. 16:3:** *As for **the saints** who are in the land, **they are the glorious ones** in whom is all my delight.*

- D. **Isa. 17:3-4:** ³*“The fortified city will disappear from Ephraim, and royal power from Damascus; the remnant of Aram will be like **the glory of the Israelites**,” declares the LORD Almighty.* ⁴*“In that day **the glory of Jacob** will fade; the fat of his body will waste away.”*
- E. **Isa. 58:8:** *Then **your light** will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and **the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard.***
- F. **Isa. 60:1-5:** ¹*“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and **the glory of the LORD rises upon you.*** ²*See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and **His glory appears over you.*** ³***Nations will come to your light,** and kings to the brightness of your dawn.* ⁴*Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the arm.* ⁵*Then you will look and **be radiant,** your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come.”*
- G. **Zech. 2:4-5:** ⁴*Run, tell that young man, “**Jerusalem** will be a city without walls because of the great number of men and livestock in it.* ⁵*And **I Myself will be a wall of fire around it,**” declares the LORD, “and **I will be its glory within.**”*
- H. **Dan. 5:18-20:** ¹⁸*O king, the **Most High God gave your father Nebuchadnezzar sovereignty and greatness and glory and splendor.*** ¹⁹*Because of the high position He gave him, all the peoples and nations and men of every language dreaded and feared him. Those the king wanted to put to death, he put to death; those he wanted to spare, he spared; those he wanted to promote, he promoted; and those he wanted to humble, he humbled.* ²⁰***But when his heart became arrogant and hardened with pride, he was deposed from his royal throne and stripped of his glory.***
1. The Lord can give and the Lord can take away [see Job 1:20]—the very God who gave Nebuchadnezzar greatness and glory stripped it all away from him when his heart became arrogant and proud!

2. God had demonstrated this in a powerful way many years earlier in Israel's history—we'll call it the *Ichabod Disaster*...

V. GLORY DEPARTED: ICHABOD

A. Background: Eli's priesthood and family judged because he did not honor the Lord

1. **1 Sam. 2:12-17:** ¹² *Eli's sons were wicked men; they had no regard for the LORD.* ¹³ *Now it was the practice of the priests with the people that whenever anyone offered a sacrifice and while the meat was being boiled, the servant of the priest would come with a three-pronged fork in his hand. ¹⁴He would plunge it into the pan or kettle or caldron or pot, and the priest would take for himself whatever the fork brought up. This is how they treated all the Israelites who came to Shiloh. ¹⁵But even before the fat was burned, the servant of the priest would come and say to the man who was sacrificing, "Give the priest some meat to roast; he won't accept boiled meat from you, but only raw." ¹⁶If the man said to him, "Let the fat be burned up first, and then take whatever you want," the servant would then answer, "No, hand it over now; if you don't, I'll take it by force." ¹⁷This sin of the young men was very great in the LORD's sight, for they were treating the LORD's offering with contempt.*

a) v.12 – Eli's sons were "wicked men" [Heb. *beliya'al* = "Belial; worthless"]; they had "no regard for the Lord ["did not know the Lord" – NAS]—they had no knowledge of the One they were supposedly serving

b) v.13 – "**practice** ["**custom**" – NAS, KJV] of the priests" – customs or traditions can often supersede the very word of God, serving as a cover-up for selfishness:

- (1) **Mark 7:6-13:** ⁶*He replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: 'These people honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me. ⁷They worship Me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.'* ⁸*You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men."* ⁹*And He said to them: "You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to*

observe your own traditions! ¹⁰For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and, ‘Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.’ ¹¹But you say that if a man says to his father or mother: ‘Whatever help you might otherwise have received from me is Corban’ (that is, a gift devoted to God), ¹²then you no longer let him do anything for his father or mother. ¹³Thus **you nullify the word of God by your tradition** that you have handed down. And you do many things like that.”

(2) **Col. 2:8:** *Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the **tradition of men**, according to the basic principles [customs] of the world, and not according to Christ.*

c) Eli’s sons were the epitome of selfishness and carnality in spiritual leadership, shamelessly abusing their office and demanding special treatment and privilege because of their ministerial position—they were worthless shepherds fattening themselves

2. **1 Sam. 2:22-26:** ²²Now Eli, who was very old, heard about everything **his sons were doing TO ALL ISRAEL** and how they **slept with the women who served at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting.** ²³So he said to them, “Why do you do such things? **I hear from all the people about these wicked deeds of yours.** ²⁴No, my sons; it is not a good report that I hear spreading among the LORD’s people. ²⁵If a man sins against another man, God may mediate for him; but if a man sins against the LORD, who will intercede for him?” His sons, however, did not listen to their father’s rebuke, for it was the LORD’s will to put them to death. ²⁶And the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favor with the LORD and with men.

a) Their unrestrained appetites led to wanton sexual immorality in the ministry

b) The shameless conduct of Eli’s sons was widely known and talked about in Israel, corrupting the entire worshipping community (“all Israel”)

- c) Spiritual leaders can deceive themselves, thinking there is a double standard—one set of rules for the people, a different (more lenient!) set of rules for themselves!
WRONG!

3. **1 Sam. 2:27-36:** ²⁷*Now a man of God came to ELI and said to HIM, “This is what the LORD says: ‘Did I not clearly reveal Myself to your father's house when they were in Egypt under Pharaoh?’* ²⁸*I chose your father out of all the tribes of Israel to be My priest, to go up to My altar, to burn incense, and to wear an ephod in My presence. I also gave your father's house all the offerings made with fire by the Israelites.* ²⁹***Why do YOU scorn My sacrifice and offering that I prescribed for My dwelling? Why do YOU honor your sons more than Me by fattening yourselves on the choice parts of every offering made by My people Israel?’*** ³⁰*Therefore the LORD, the God of Israel, declares: ‘I promised that your house and your father's house would minister before Me forever.’ But now the LORD declares: ‘Far be it from Me! **Those who honor Me I will honor**, but those who despise Me will be disdained.* ³¹*The time is coming when I will cut short your strength and the strength of your father's house, so that there will not be an old man in your family line* ³²*and you will see distress in My dwelling. Although good will be done to Israel, in your family line there will never be an old man.* ³³*Every one of you that I do not cut off from my altar will be spared only to blind your eyes with tears and to grieve your heart, and all your descendants will die in the prime of life.* ³⁴*And what happens to your two sons, **Hophni and Phinehas, will be a sign to you—they will both die on the same day.*** ³⁵*I will raise up for Myself a faithful priest, who will do according to what is in My heart and mind. I will firmly establish his house, and he will minister before My anointed one always.* ³⁶*Then everyone left in your family line will come and bow down before him for a piece of silver and a crust of bread and plead, “Appoint me to some priestly office so I can have food to eat.”*
- a) God blamed *Eli* for the selfishness and corruption in the priesthood
- b) His biggest failure: he didn’t honor God—he honored his wicked sons more than he honored the Lord!

- c) God is no respecter of persons—He doesn't show any partiality or favoritism (Rom. 2:11)
- d) God promised fierce judgment for their complete moral failure—God is patient, but He is also zealous for His own glory

B. Israel as a nation was in dangerous spiritual decline

1. **1 Sam. 3:1-3:** *¹The boy Samuel ministered before the LORD under Eli. In those days the word of the LORD was rare; there were not many visions. ²One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. ³The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was.*
 - a) The word of the Lord was rare, as later predicted by the prophet (**Amos 8:11**): *“The days are coming,” declares the Sovereign LORD, “when I will send a famine through the land— not a famine of food or a thirst for water, but a famine of hearing the words of the LORD.*
 - b) There was no vision—Eli's physical blindness was just a symptom of the widespread spiritual blindness that had overtaken the entire nation of Israel
 - c) The lamp of God (revelation, illumination) had all but gone out—yet another sign of gross spiritual decay; God had charged the priests with the responsibility of keeping the lamps burning all night long (**Ex. 27:20-21**): *²⁰“Command the Israelites to bring you clear oil of pressed olives for the light so that the lamps may be kept burning. ²¹In the Tent of Meeting, outside the curtain that is in front of the Testimony, Aaron and his sons are to keep the lamps burning before the LORD from evening till morning. This is to be a lasting ordinance among the Israelites for the generations to come.*
 - d) Eli was “lying down in his usual place”—spiritual sloth and neglect had overtaken old Eli
 - e) Ironically, he was right “where the ark of God was!”

2. **1 Sam. 3:11-18:** ¹¹*And the LORD said to Samuel: “See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of everyone who hears of it tingle. ¹²At that time **I will carry out against Eli everything I spoke against his family—from beginning to end.** ¹³For I told him that **I would judge his family forever because of the sin he knew about; his sons made themselves contemptible, and he failed to restrain them.** ¹⁴Therefore, I swore to the house of Eli, ‘The guilt of Eli’s house will never be atoned for by sacrifice or offering.’” ¹⁵Samuel lay down until morning and then opened the doors of the house of the LORD. He was afraid to tell Eli the vision, ¹⁶but Eli called him and said, “Samuel, my son.” Samuel answered, “Here I am.” ¹⁷“What was it He said to you?” Eli asked. “Do not hide it from me. May God deal with you, be it ever so severely, if you hide from me anything He told you.” ¹⁸So Samuel told him everything, hiding nothing from him. Then Eli said, “He is the LORD; let him do what is good in His eyes.”*

- a) God held Eli responsible for failing to restrain his sons; if spiritual leaders fail to correct the “sons of Eli” in the church, God’s glory will quickly withdraw
- b) We should not coddle sin or tolerate God-dishonoring behavior in the church [see 1 Corinthians 5]—we need to lovingly confront those individuals and call them to repentance (**Mat. 18:15-17**): ¹⁵*If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. ¹⁶But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that “every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.” ¹⁷If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.*
- c) God’s judgment on Eli’s entire house was certain

C. God’s presence was no longer manifested

1. **1 Sam. 4:1-4:** ¹*And Samuel’s word came to all Israel. Now the Israelites went out to fight against the Philistines. The Israelites camped at Ebenezer, and the Philistines at Aphek. ²The Philistines deployed their forces to meet Israel, and as the battle spread, Israel was defeated by the*

*Philistines, who killed about four thousand of them on the battlefield. ³When the soldiers returned to camp, the elders of Israel asked, “Why did the LORD bring defeat upon us today before the Philistines? **Let us bring the ark of the LORD's covenant from Shiloh, so that IT may go with us and save us from the hand of our enemies.**” ⁴So the people sent men to Shiloh, and they brought back the ark of the covenant of the LORD Almighty, who is enthroned between the cherubim. And Eli's two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God.*

- a) v.2 – God was no longer going to battle for them
- b) v.3 – The elders of Israel suddenly remembered the Ark of the Covenant which was always supposed to set out before them, especially when going into battle (**Num. 10:33-36**): ³³*So they set out from the mountain of the LORD and traveled for three days. The ark of the covenant of the LORD went before them during those three days to find them a place to rest. ³⁴The cloud of the LORD was over them by day when they set out from the camp. ³⁵Whenever the ark set out, Moses said, “**Rise up, O LORD! May Your enemies be scattered; may Your foes flee before You.**” ³⁶Whenever it came to rest, he said, “Return, O LORD, to the countless thousands of Israel.”*
- c) They knew they were in trouble without God's manifest presence, but for them, the ark had become just an “it.”

2. **1 Sam. 4:5-10:** ⁵*When the ark of the LORD's covenant came into the camp, **all Israel raised such a great shout that the ground shook.** ⁶Hearing the uproar, the Philistines asked, “What's all this shouting in the Hebrew camp?” **When they learned that the ark of the LORD had come into the camp, ⁷the Philistines were afraid.** “A god has come into the camp,” they said. “We're in trouble! Nothing like this has happened before. ⁸Woe to us! Who will deliver us from the hand of these **mighty gods**? They are the gods who struck the Egyptians with all kinds of plagues in the desert. ⁹Be strong, Philistines! Be men, or you will be subject to the Hebrews, as they have been to you. Be men, and fight!” ¹⁰So the Philistines fought, and the Israelites were defeated and every man fled to his tent.*

The slaughter was very great; Israel lost thirty thousand foot soldiers.

- a) But even with all their shouting, “it” didn’t save them because *God* did not show up!
 - b) God doesn’t have to show up just because we shout or follow some formula—He is looking for sincere, God-honoring hearts
- D. The ark (which represented the very glory of God) was captured
1. **1 Sam. 4:11-15:** *¹¹The ark of God was captured, and Eli’s two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, died. ¹²That same day a Benjamite ran from the battle line and went to Shiloh, his clothes torn and dust on his head. ¹³When he arrived, there was **Eli sitting on his chair** by the side of the road, watching, because **his heart feared for the ark of God**. When the man entered the town and told what had happened, the whole town sent up a cry. ¹⁴Eli heard the outcry and asked, “What is the meaning of this uproar?” The man hurried over to Eli, ¹⁵who was ninety-eight years old and whose eyes were set so that he could not see.*
 - a) What a sad picture: old, blind Eli sitting on his chair by the side of the road, awaiting the tragic news from the battlefield
 - b) “His heart feared for the ark of God” – Eli seemed to sense that the hour of judgment had now come
 2. **1 Sam. 4:16-18:** *¹⁶He told Eli, “I have just come from the battle line; I fled from it this very day.” Eli asked, “What happened, my son?” ¹⁷The man who brought the news replied, “Israel fled before the Philistines, and the army has suffered heavy losses. Also your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, are dead, and the **ark of God has been captured**.” ¹⁸**WHEN HE MENTIONED THE ARK OF GOD, Eli fell backward** off his chair by the side of the gate. His neck was broken and **he died**, for he was an **old man and heavy**. He had led Israel forty years.*
 - a) No doubt, the news of the death of his two sons would have been troubling to Eli, but it was the report about the ark’s capture that caused him to fall over and die—why was the capture of the ark so disturbing?

- b) It is hard for us to comprehend the scope of this tragedy for the Israelite community—losing the ark was a BIG DEAL—it essentially meant losing the presence of God!
 - c) Consider the following points about the Ark of the Covenant:
 - (1) It represented God’s covenant relationship with Israel
 - (2) God said He would meet with His people there (Ex. 25:22)
 - (3) It represented God’s throne (Ps. 99:1) and His glory (Heb. 9:5)
 - (4) The ark brought death and heavy judgment on the Philistines and their false gods (1 Sam. 5:1-9)
 - (5) People died if they looked inside (1 Sam. 6:19-21)
 - (6) People died if they touched the ark (2 Sam. 6:6-7)
 - (7) Solomon realized his temple was incomplete without the ark (1 Kings 8:1-11)
3. **1 Sam. 4:19-22:** ¹⁹*His daughter-in-law, the wife of Phinehas, was pregnant and near the time of delivery. When she heard the news that the ark of God had been captured and that her father-in-law and her husband were dead, she went into labor and gave birth, but was overcome by her labor pains. ²⁰As she was dying, the women attending her said, “Don’t despair; you have given birth to a son.” But she did not respond or pay any attention. ²¹She named the boy Ichabod, saying, “The glory has departed from Israel”—because of the capture of the ark of God and the deaths of her father-in-law and her husband. ²²She said, “The **GLORY HAS DEPARTED** from Israel, for the ark of God has been captured.”*
- a) The birth of her son brought no consolation
 - b) As with Eli her father-in-law, the greatest tragedy of all was the capture of the ark
 - c) The name given to her son, Ichabod, summed it all up—“God’s glory has departed from Israel!”

VI. CONCLUSION

- A. God is zealous for His glory, and will not allow anyone to steal it from Him
- B. In the sobering story of God's judgment on the priesthood of Eli, we can learn many valuable lessons on how *not* to lose the manifest presence and glory of God in our lives:
 - 1. Watch out for dead traditions and customs of men that are a veil for selfishness and indulgence
 - 2. Always be careful to honor God first above everyone and everything
 - 3. Be careful not to abuse positions of leadership and develop a sense of entitlement or special privilege
 - 4. Crucify the flesh (selfishness) with all of its lusts—good shepherds lay down their lives for the sheep, not fatten themselves by fleecing the sheep!
 - 5. Watch out for spiritual blindness and lethargy—pray for fresh vision and revelation from God
 - 6. Don't let the word of God become rare—study, preach, and live the word of the Lord
 - 7. Don't trust in "its" and religious formulas—cultivate a sincerely longing and passion for God's manifest presence and glory!
- C. In the next section, we will finally turn our attention to the New Testament and the great good news of the coming One who would reveal the glory of the Lord to all mankind! Hallelujah!