

26 April 2015: Preached by Preacher Clement Chew

Topic: **A Study of 1 Samuel – Ichabod!**

Scripture Text: 1 Samuel 4:1-22

1. Ichabod means there is no glory or where is the glory? Israel has departed from God and hence the glory of God is no more seen in them. The prophecy that God has given to Samuel concerning the judgment on the house of Eli and his sons was fulfilled in chapter 4. The sons failed to perform their priestly duties and sinned against God in the Temple. The father Eli failed to discipline his sons.

2. The first sign Ichabod has taken place is when one is de-sensitised to sin. Samuel has warned the people of their sins but it has fallen on deaf ears. The people did not take heed to the rebuke from God's Word and did not examine their lives to repent.

3. The second sign of Ichabod is gross superstition. When Israel lost the first battle against Philistines, they thought that victory would come if they could take the ark of God out from the Tabernacle to bring it to battle. They substitute God with a symbol of His presence. This is only a form of religion. We can't cover sin with our service.

4. The third sign of Ichabod is having derelict leaders. The priests Hophni and Phinehas did not stop the people in their wrong form of worship. They did not teach the people the truth of God's Word.

5. The fourth sign of Ichabod is having depraved theology. Israel's theology and understanding of God is like the Gentiles of a localized god. They forgot the true and living God is the God who controls and reigns the entire world.

Hence, Israel lost the 2nd battle against the Philistines. Eli's 2 sons died and Eli fell backward when he heard the news and also died. The glory of God indeed has departed from Israel.