November 8, 2026

The Ark Is Lost
1 Samuel 4:12-22

Lesson Aim: To show that God's presence cannot be manipulated by religious ritual, and that losing or treating His holy presence lightly is life's greatest tragedy.

Key Verse: [Phinehas' wife] said, "The Glory has departed from Israel, for the ark of God has been captured**.**
– 1 Samuel 4:23

CONCEPTS

1. Some physical signals prepare the heart to bear the weight of bad news. (Vv. 12-13)

2. Our conscience can create the feeling of impending disaster. (Vv. 14 -16)

3. We face judgement for treating God casually and trusting ritual over obedience. (v.17)

4. Leaders are held accountable when they treat God's commands lightly. (v. 18)

5. When God promises judgement, it will come to pass. (Vv. 21-22)

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