

THE CHARACTERS AND DRAMA OF

1 SAMUEL

[PART 9]

THE WAGES OF SIN.....

Reading: 1 Samuel 4:10 - 22

Introduction

- This portion of the Bible most accurately proves the truthfulness of the apostle Paul's statement in [Romans 6:23].

1 Recap Of Events

- The Israelite army had locked horns with the Philistines already and suffered a loss of some 4000 soldiers.
- In superstition rather than faith they sent for the '**ark of the covenant**' from Shiloh 28 miles away.
- The wicked sons of Eli led the carrying of the ark.
- Israel cheered when the ark entered the battlefield.
- The 2 armies '**locked horns**' again.
- This second defeat was worse than the previous losing a further 30,000 soldiers.
- The ark was also captured and Eli's 2 sons slain.

2 Romans 6:23 Re: Hophni And Phinehas

- Along with their father, they were in charge of the Tabernacle.
- They were '**corrupt**.'
- Born in a minister's house yet they were children of hell.

- They did not know the Lord in the sense of salvation.
- They took the best of the offerings for themselves.
- They committed adultery with many of the female worshippers.
- Eli confronted them, but they refused to repent.
- God had previously announced His intention to execute [Romans 6:23] on them. [See 2:25,34].
- Sin is serious and a cavalier approach to it is folly for believer as well as unbeliever.
- Consider [Hebrews 12:6 - 7].
- [Isaiah 52:11] calls us to be clean and holy before the Lord.

3 The Death Of Eli

- Eli sits waiting for news and worrying about the ark.
- He is 98 years of age, almost blind and overweight and he had judged Israel for 40 years.

At the news he falls backwards and breaks his neck and dies.

4 The Death Of Phinehas' Wife

- The bad news from the runner is not over yet.
- When she hears it, Phinehas' wife goes into labour.
- Although a son is born, she dies in childbirth.
- The child is called '**Ichabod**' meaning, '**the glory has departed.**'

5 What About Ichabod?

- What became of him? Imagine him learning how he got his name.
- This word was painted on the door of the famous City Temple church in London.
- The minister had got away from the great truths of the Bible.
- It is to be feared there are churches throughout our land and the word '**Ichabod**' sums them up.
- May they say of our church: '**Jehovah Shammah.**' (The Lord is there.).

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