

Ichabod & Ebenezer

(1 Samuel 4 & 7)

- Introduction:
1. I am sure that most of us are familiar with the stories of Ichabod and Ebenezer.
 2. However, long before Washington Irving wrote “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” and Charles Dickens wrote, “A Christmas Carol,” God wrote about Ichabod and Ebenezer.
 3. And like the stories of Irving and Dickens, God tells a story about loss and redemption.
 4. My aim today is to remind you of a much more useful story about Ichabod and Ebenezer than the one with which you are most familiar.

I. Ichabod.

- A. (1 Samuel 4:1-22).
- B. Israel was wicked at this time and God was going to bring judgment upon the house of Eli (1 Samuel 2:22-24; 3:1-13).
- C. Israel went into battle with the Philistines and were being defeated (1 Samuel 4:1-2).
- D. The people then decided to get the ark of the covenant to save them (1 Samuel 4:3).
- E. The results:
 1. The ark of the covenant was captured (1 Samuel 4:11).
 2. Hophni and Phinehas are killed (1 Samuel 4:11).
 3. Eli dies (1 Samuel 4:18).
- F. The wife of Phinehas dies after giving birth, living long enough to name the child “Ichabod,” which means, “The glory has departed” (1 Samuel 4:21).
- G. What a tragic day!

II. Ebenezer

- A. (1 Samuel 7:1-17).
- B. Samuel has taken leadership of Israel and the heart of the people changed under his godly leadership.
- C. Notice the steps to their change.
 1. They were sorry for their sins (1 Samuel 7:2,6).
 2. They repented (1 Samuel 7:3).
 3. Substitution was offered (1 Samuel 7:9).
 4. God delivered them (1 Samuel 7:10-12).

- Conclusion:
1. Can we not all see the similarities between this Old Testament story and our story?
 2. We too have had the glory of God depart from us due to our sins, and the way to get him back, in principle, is the same today as it was then.