

**The Inscrutable Question: Israel's Reaction to Philistine Attack Compared with America's toward Islamic Invasion; Ichabod: The Glory Is Gone, 1 Sam 4:20-22**

- 47- There was still yet one more casualty. Phinehas's wife was pregnant. When she heard the news that her father-in-law had died, her husband had been killed, and the ark of the covenant had been captured by the Philistines, she went into labor, gave birth to a son, and then died.

**1 Samuel 4:20 -** And about the time of her death the women who stood by her said to her, "Do not be afraid, for you have given birth to a son." But she did not answer or pay attention.

**v. 21 -** And she called the boy Ichabod, saying, "The glory has departed from Israel," because the ark of God was taken and because of her father-in-law and her husband.

**v. 22 -** And she said, "The glory has departed from Israel, for the ark of God was taken."

- 48- The name Ichabod is significant for it forms the perfect explanation for why the wall of fire was lifted in Israel, why the Philistines were permitted to invade, and why the resultant battles led to the death of her father-in-law, husband, and brother-in law. The name Ichabod is the Hebrew proper noun:

אִיכָבֹד / *Ichavoth* / -

No *kavoth*: no glory!; the absence of glory; or the glory is gone.

When the people lost the thought they lost the glory that their forebears possessed in the second generation under Joshua. When believers in a client nation lose the thought they invite divine discipline.

- 49- For Israel their rejection of the Levitical sacrifices, feast days, and observances combined with the heretical behavior of the priesthood led to the lifting of the wall of fire and invited the invasion of heathen predators.
- 50- Symbolic of the fact that the Lord had removed His protective care for this generation of Jews, He allowed the Philistines to capture the ark of the covenant.