

# WICKED SONS BRING SORROW TO THEIR FATHER

I Samuel 4:1–18.

## LESSON 55 -- Primary Course

**MEMORY VERSE:** “The face of the Lord is against them that do evil” (I Peter 3:12).

### BIBLE TEXT

#### I Samuel 4:1–18

1 And the word of Samuel came to all Israel. Now Israel went out against the Philistines to battle, and pitched beside Ebenezer: and the Philistines pitched in Aphek.

2 And the Philistines put themselves in array against Israel: and when they joined battle, Israel was smitten before the Philistines: and they slew of the army in the field about four thousand men.

3 And when the people were come into the camp, the elders of Israel said, Wherefore hath the LORD smitten us to day before the Philistines? Let us fetch the ark of the

covenant of the LORD out of Shiloh unto us, that, when it cometh among us, it may save us out of the hand of our enemies.

4 So the people sent to Shiloh, that they might bring from thence the ark of the covenant of the LORD of hosts, which dwelleth between the cherubims: and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God.

5 And when the ark of the covenant of the LORD came into the camp, all Israel shouted with a great shout, so that the earth rang again.

6 And when the Philistines heard the noise of the shout,

they said, What meaneth the noise of this great shout in the camp of the Hebrews? And they understood that the ark of the LORD was come into the camp.

7 And the Philistines were afraid, for they said, God is come into the camp. And they said, Woe unto us! for there hath not been such a thing heretofore.

8 Woe unto us! who shall deliver us out of the hand of these mighty Gods? these are the Gods that smote the Egyptians with all the plagues in the wilderness.

9 Be strong, and quit yourselves like men, O ye Philistines, that ye be not servants unto the Hebrews, as they have been to you: quit yourselves like men, and fight.

10 And the Philistines fought, and Israel was smitten, and they fled every man into his tent: and there was a very great slaughter; for there fell of Israel thirty thousand footmen.

11 And the ark of God was taken; and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were slain.

12 And there ran a man of Benjamin out of the army, and came to Shiloh the same day with his clothes rent, and with earth upon his head.

13 And when he came, lo, Eli sat upon a seat by the wayside watching: for his heart trembled for the ark of God. And when the man came into the city, and told it, all the city cried out.

14 And when Eli heard the noise of the crying, he said, What meaneth the noise of this tumult? And the man came in hastily, and told Eli.

15 Now Eli was ninety and eight years old; and his eyes were dim, that he could not see.

16 And the man said unto Eli, I am he that came out of the army, and I fled to day out of the army. And he said, What is there done, my son?

17 And the messenger answered and said, Israel is

fled before the Philistines, and there hath been also a great slaughter among the people, and thy two sons also, Hophni and Phinehas, are dead, and the ark of God is taken.

18 And it came to pass, when he made mention of the ark of

God, that he fell from off the seat backward by the side of the gate, and his neck brake, and he died: for he was an old man, and heavy. And he had judged Israel forty years.

## **NOTES**

### **The Wicked Sons**

The sons of Eli, the priest, were not saved and did wicked things. They took the meat offered to God, in sacrifices, before it was ready for them to take; and took more than they should take. The sons of Eli had a right to have the meat, but they should take it just as God had said they should. But they wanted to have their own way. Their hearts were bad. Their father, Eli, had not punished them as he should for doing wrong, and God was not pleased with the sons nor with their father.

### **The Holy Ark**

The Ark of the Covenant was an oblong chest made of wood, and covered with gold. It was 45 inches long, 27 inches wide, and 27 inches deep. It contained the Tables of Stone, a pot of manna -- a sample of the food God rained down from Heaven -- and Aaron's rod. The ark was very holy and was to be kept in a holy place. God was very particular about the way it was carried, and by whom it was carried. It was carried on the shoulders of four men. The Ark meant to those people somewhat the same as the Bible means to us today.

## **Punished for Disobedience**

The Israelites decided to take the Ark with them into the battle. They thought God would help them if the Ark was there, but that was a terrible mistake, as we shall see. God had not told them to take the holy Ark into the battle, and he was not pleased with what they were doing. He let the enemy win the battle, and they took the holy Ark into their country. Many of the Israelites were killed, and Eli's two sons were killed. Eli was an old man now, almost a hundred years old. When he heard that the Ark was taken by the enemy, and his sons had been killed, he fell down and died.

## **Children and Parents**

When children disobey their parents they bring sorrow to their parents. But more than that -- they grieve the heart of God. It also brings great sorrow to parents if they do not punish their children and try to teach them the right things, the things God has commanded. It is wrong for parents not to punish their children when they should. It is terrible to disobey God. God will punish those who disobey Him. He punishes them for their own good and for the help of others.

## **For Her Good**

A little girl named Grace had been playing outdoors, and the wind blew a hard, sharp bit of cinder into her eye. It hurt so much that the tears came into her eye, but they did not wash out the cinder. When she rubbed it, that only made it hurt worse. So she ran to her mother. The mother took Grace on her knee, and with the corner of a soft handkerchief tried to get the cinder out. But that hurt so badly the little girl cried even harder. She slid down from her mother's lap, and would not let her mother help her. But the mother told her that unless she took the cinder out, it could make Grace's eye so sore that she might not be able to see any more.

Grace came back and sat on her mother's knee again; and although she could not help the tears coming into her eyes, she did not scream nor struggle, even though it hurt her. Grace understood now that her mother knew best, and it was because her mother loved her that she worked until she had the cinder out of the eye. Although it pained her, it was all for her good. Just so God sometimes permits pain to come to us for our own good.

### **Christian Parents**

Mothers and fathers who are saved know what is best for their children. When they punish them it is for the good of the children. The greatest desire of Christian parents is to have their children saved and grow up to love and to serve the Lord with all their heart, and do all they can to help others to love Jesus and do His work.

## **QUESTIONS**

1. Who won the battle? I Samuel 4:10.
2. What happened to the Ark of God during the battle?  
I Samuel 4:11.
3. What happened to Eli's two sons? I Samuel 4:11.
4. Did Eli seem to be concerned about the Ark of God?  
I Samuel 4:13.
5. Do you think Eli was a good father to his children?  
I Samuel 3:13.

## LESSON RESOURCES

### TITLE

# WICKED SONS BRING SORROW TO THEIR FATHER

Lesson 55

I Samuel 4:1-18

# Do No Sinful Action

WATCH AND PRAY 61

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## **Do No Sinful Action**

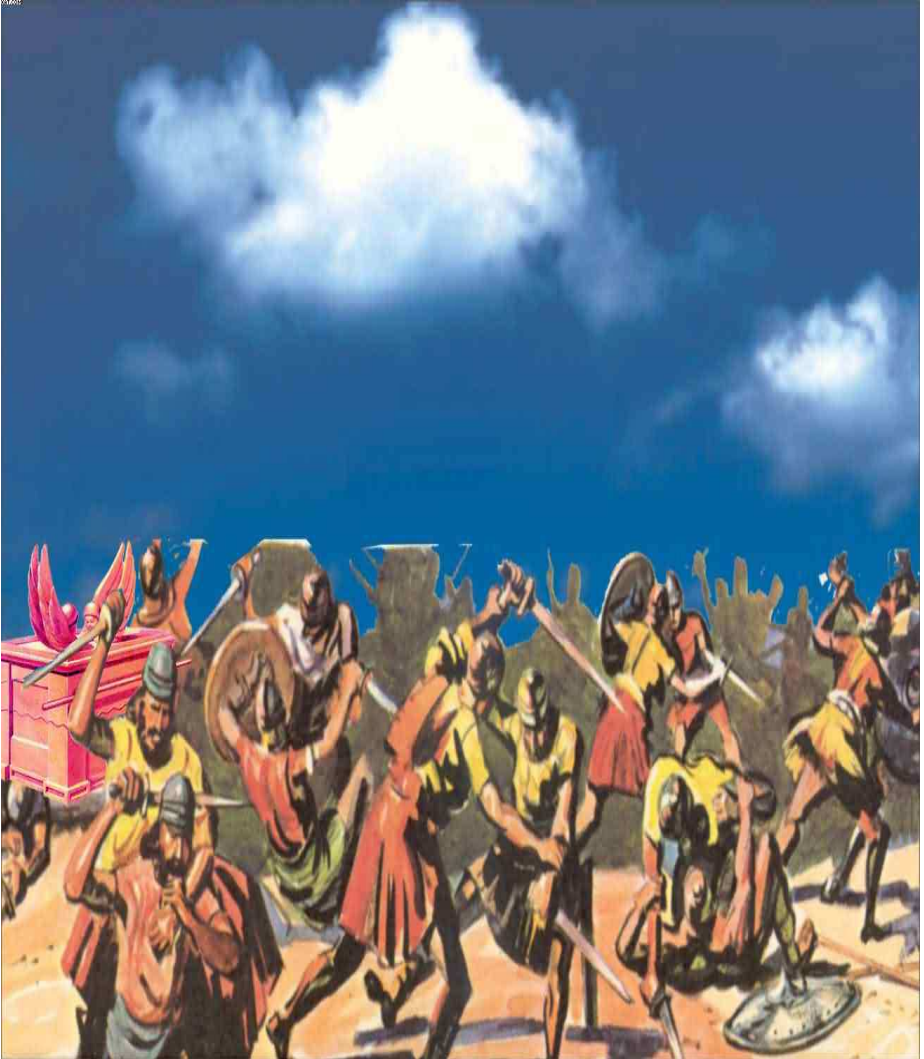
**Do no sinful action,  
Speak no angry word;  
Ye belong to Jesus,  
Children of the Lord**



**PICTURE 1**



**PICTURE 2**



**PICTURE 3**

