### 1 Samuel

## Chapter 4

1Well from then on, whatever things that SamuEl said [were spread] throughout all IsraEl.  
  
Thereafter, the Philistines assembled to go to war with IsraEl, so IsraEl went out to meet them in battle. They camped at EbenEzer, while the Philistines had set up camp at Aphek. 2And when the Philistines attacked, the battle went badly for IsraEl, for they lost 4,000 men.  
  
3So when they returned to their camp, the people asked:  
  
 ‘Why did Jehovah allow us to fall before the Philistines today?  
  
 ‘[Next time] we should take Jehovah’s Chest of Proofs from ShiLoh and carry it in our midst, for it will save us from the hands of our enemies!’  
  
4So they sent people to ShiLoh to get the Chest of Jehovah’s Sacred Agreement [to summon the power] of the cherubs [on its Lid], and both sons of Eli (HophNi and PhineAs) traveled with the [sacred] Chest of God.  
  
  
5Well when the Chest was brought into the camp, the IsraElites let out a shout that resounded throughout the land. 6And when the Philistines heard it, they started asking each other:  
  
 ‘Why are they shouting in the camp of the Hebrews?’  
  
And they concluded that it was because the Chest of Jehovah had been brought into the camp, 7which frightened them.  
  
So they said:  
  
 ‘They’ve brought their gods into their camp.  
  
 8‘Woe to us! Please save us today, O Lord, just as you’ve done for the past three days!  
  
 ‘O woe to us, for who will rescue us from the hands of their mighty gods? They’re the same gods who brought the calamity upon Egypt and [to those] in the desert!  
  
 9‘O Philistines,  
  
 ‘We must be strong and act like men so we won’t have to serve the Hebrews. [Since our Gods] want them to serve us, we’ll have to act manly when we go to battle against them!’  
  
10Then the Philistines attacked, and the men of IsraEl started falling before them… They chased them all the way back to their tents! It was a huge defeat and 30,000 of their soldiers were lost! 11Also, the Chest of God was captured, and both of Eli’s sons (HophNi and PhineAs) were killed.  
  
12Well, there was a man of the tribe of BenJamin that had returned from the battle; and when he got back to ShiLoh that day, his clothes were torn and it looked as though the earth had fallen on his head.  
  
13And when he got there, he saw Eli sitting on his chair [atop] the gate that faces the road... And since this man’s heart was broken over the loss of the Chest of God, when he got there, he yelled out his report to the whole city.  
  
14And when Eli heard him yelling, he asked:  
  
 ‘Who’s doing all that shouting?’  
  
So the man went up and reported to Eli.  
  
15By then, Eli was 98 years old, his eyes were dim, and he couldn’t [hear well]. So he asked the Priests around him:  
  
 ‘What’s he saying?’  
  
And when the man came up before him, 16he said:  
  
 ‘I’ve just come here from our camp, and we all had to flee from the battle today!’  
  
Then Eli asked:  
  
 ‘What about my [sons]?’  
  
17And [the man] replied:  
  
 ‘All the men of IsraEl turned and ran from the Philistines… It was a huge loss for our people!  
  
 ‘Both of your sons were killed and the Chest of God was captured as well!’  
  
18Well, when Eli heard [the news] about the Chest of God, he fell backward out of his chair [from the top of] the gate and landed on the ground, breaking his back.  
  
So he died, because he was old and fat.  
  
But he’d judged IsraEl for 40 years.  
  
19And after that, when Eli’s daughter-in-law (PhineAs’ woman, who was pregnant) heard the message that the Chest of God had been captured and that her husband and her father-in-law had died, she started crying and went into labor… 20And then she started to die.  
  
Well, the women around her said:  
  
 ‘Don’t be afraid, for you’ve given birth to a son!’  
  
However, she didn’t answer, because she couldn’t understand them... 21But she named the boy IchaBod [meaning, Where’s the Glory?] after the [Sacred] Chest of God, her father-in-law, and her husband.  
  
22For she said:  
  
 ‘The glory of IsraEl is gone, now that they’ve taken the Chest of God.’