

Do Not Depart From Us

(1 Samuel 4:20-22; Ephesians 4:30-31)

1. Distressed Messenger (v.12)

) A man from the tribe of Benjamin runs 20 miles from Ebenezer to Shiloh to bring news of the battle. This man had his clothes torn and dust on the head, which is indicative of grief and mourning in ancient Israel (Genesis 37:29, 34; 44:13; 2 Sam. 1:2).

2. Description of Eli (v.13)

) Eli was sitting when we first met him (1:9) and here he is sitting, a blind man of 98 years old, who has become irrelevant to the nation of Israel.

3. Deeply Troubled and Trembling Eli (v.13)

) Eli is trembling because: (A) He assumed that the LORD would never allow the ark to be captured by pagans. (B) He knew his sons were with the ark and there were two prophecies (2:30-31; 3:12-13) that they would both die on the same day. (C) The ark was to go forth only after the command of the LORD (Deut.12:5,11). (D) The safety of the ark was his responsibility as High Priest.

4. Detailed Description of the Battle and Death of Eli (v.14-19)

) The succession of events is in order of ascending tragedy from the perspective of Eli: Israel has fled from the enemy, the army has taken casualties, Eli's sons have been killed, and the ark has been captured.

) In Eli's dealings with the man of God (chapter 2) and Samuel (chapter 3), there was no mention of the ark. Eli's dynasty is now "dethroned" as Eli fell off the chair backwards and broke his neck.

5. Dreadful Labor (v.19-20)

) Hearing news that the ark has been captured by the Philistines, combined with the death of her father-in law, Eli, and her husband, Phinehas, her labor pains increased.

) The midwife tending to Phinehas' wife tried to encourage her, but it was to no avail. She died after giving birth to a son.

) The account of Rachel's labor and birth has striking similarities; both women experienced heavy labor, had midwives who attempted to encourage them, died after giving birth, issued names of despondence, and gave birth to sons.

) The difference however is that Ben-oni was renamed Benjamin by Jacob following Rachel's death. Ichabod's name remained because Phinehas, his father, was killed in battle (4:11).

6. Do Not Grieve the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:30)

Offenses against the Holy Spirit:

-) Lying to the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:1-5)
-) Grieving the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:30-31)
-) Quenching the Holy Spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:19)
-) Resisting the Holy Spirit (Acts 7:51)
-) Insulting the Holy Spirit (Hebrews 10:29)
-) Blaspheming the Holy Spirit (Matthew 12:31-32)

The Father has sealed believers through the Holy Spirit. The H.S. is one with Christ (John 6:27). The H.S. is God's stamp of regeneration and authenticity. This seal indicates that you were purchased, regenerated, born again. The LORD, who is self-sufficient and unchanging, chooses to condescend to enter a relationship with you. The immutable, self-sufficient, unchanging God chooses to grieve.

What causes the Holy Spirit to grieve?

-) Indulgent sins, anger (in all its forms of unrighteousness), licentious thoughts, ingratitude, worldly distractions, resistance to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, pride, and neglecting prayer.

What happens to the child of God when the Holy Spirit is grieved?

-) There can be a loss of all senses of His filling, joy, power, assurance and usefulness. Along with the grief can also come chastisement.

Only a person has grief. The Holy Spirit's grief is for the good of His children. He grieves and disciplines to cause them to return to Him (Zechariah 1:3).

Israel rebelled and grieved the Holy Spirit (Isaiah 63:10). They forgot God (Psalm 78:11), they complained and grumbled (Psalm 78:19), they disobeyed (Psalm 78:10) and they had disbelief (Psalm 78:22).

7. Departed Glory (1 Samuel 4:21-22)

) Ichabod means "where is the glory." Ichabod is going to grow up as an orphan; he is without father, mother, uncle, grandmother, grandfather and without the ark. Ichabod is an image of Israel; he is an orphan in a dark world without God.

) The greatest state of despair for the believing soul is when he or she feels that the glory/filling of God has left them. Israel will suffer for 20 years under the hands of the Philistines, lamenting the glory of God that has departed (1 Sam.7:2).