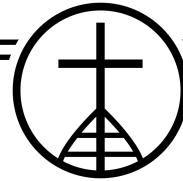


# PULPIT CURRICULUM

## Glory in a Box

1 Samuel 4:1-11

March 30, 2025 – Adam Ashoff



**Prayer & Praise:** Pray for Children's Ministry: signups of children and servants for VBS 2025; building out a special needs room in the Mueller; new curriculum "The Biggest Story" planning for fall 2025.

**Ice-breaker:** Are you an Indiana Jones fan? Was *Raiders of the Lost Ark* formative at all in your childhood conception of the ark of the covenant? Do you like any Harrison Ford movies? Do you find it ironic I'm asking so many questions about movies the week I ridiculed their existence in the life of the church?

### Glory Concealed by the Work of Man (vv.1-11)

Things look on the 'up and up' for Israel at the end of chapter 3 and first verse of chapter 4. What had God done to restore sanity to Israel? What seems to be foreshadowed at the apparent disappearance of Samuel from the plot? How is that significant for the opening scene of our text?

What other accounts in the OT talk of the power of the ark of the covenant in relation to the presence of God and involvement in Israel's deliverance? When you consider those other passages, how might the elders of Israel been right in their views, and in what ways does our text suggest otherwise? What were they guilty of in their actions?

In what ways might you be limiting the glory of God in your life? Are there any beliefs, attitudes or actions that you can look back in your life and see where you put him in a box of your own making?

How might we justify our "glory in box" theology because the box we store Him in is adorned with nostalgic spirituality, rote religious practices, and even orthodox theology?

We exist for God's glory, He doesn't exist for ours. When is it easiest for you to forget this humbling truth? What other Scriptures help lift your minds to think on the weightiness of God's glory?

**Mutual Ministry:** How seriously are you taking God and His glory? Are there any sinful habits you've grown accustomed to that suggest you are taking His commands lightly?

*Israel made an idol of the ark, and looked upon it to be as much an image of the God of Israel as those idols which the pagan worshipped their gods. To worship the true God, but not to worship him as God, is in effect not to worship Him at all.*

**Matthew Henry**