

STOLEN GLORY

THE FAT BELONGS
TO THE LORD



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And if his offering for a sacrifice of peace offering unto the Lord be of the flock; male or female, he shall offer it without blemish. If he offer a lamb for his offering, then shall he offer it before the Lord.... and if his offering be a goat, then he shall offer it before the Lord... And the priest shall burn them upon the altar: it is the food of the offering made by fire for a sweet savour: all the fat is the Lord's.

Leviticus 3:6-7;12,16

Now the sons of Eli were worthless men. They did not know the Lord. The custom of the priests with the people was that when any man offered sacrifice, the priest's servant would come, while the meat was boiling, with a three-pronged fork in his hand, and he would thrust it into the pan or kettle or cauldron or pot. All that the fork brought up the priest would take for himself. This is what they did at Shiloh to all the Israelites who came there. Moreover, before the fat was burned, the priest's servant would come and say to the man who was sacrificing, "Give meat for the priest to roast, for he will not accept boiled meat from you but only raw." And if the man said to him, "Let them burn the fat first, and then take as much as you wish," he would say, "No, you must give it now, and if not, I will take it by force." 17 Thus the sin of the young men was very great in the sight of the Lord, for the men treated the offering of the Lord with contempt.

I Samuel 2:12-17

So the people sent to Shiloh and brought from there the ark of the covenant of the Lord of hosts, who is enthroned on the cherubim. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God... So the Philistines fought, and Israel was defeated, and they fled, every man to his home. And there was a very great slaughter, for thirty thousand foot soldiers of Israel fell. And the ark of God was captured, and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, died.

I Samuel 4:4;10-11



A man of Benjamin ran from the battle line and came to Shiloh the same day, with his clothes torn and with dirt on his head. When he arrived, Eli was sitting on his seat by the road watching, for his heart trembled for the ark of God. And when the man came into the city and told the news, all the city cried out. When Eli heard the sound of the outcry, he said, "What is this uproar?" Then the man hurried and came and told Eli. Now Eli was ninety-eight years old and his eyes were set so that he could not see. And the man said to Eli, "I am he who has come from the battle; I fled from the battle today." And he said, "How did it go, my son?" He who brought the news answered and said, "Israel has fled before the Philistines, and there has also been a great defeat among the people. Your two sons also, Hophni and Phinehas, are dead, and the ark of God has been captured." As soon as he mentioned the ark of God, Eli fell over backward from his seat by the side of the gate, and his neck was broken and he died, for the man was old and heavy. He had judged Israel forty years.

I Samuel 4:12-18

You might be asking yourself, what just happened? Well, it was a lot:

- Eli's son were incredibly sinful priests who disregarded the Word of God at every turn. The Bible even professes that they had no relationship with God. The men selected to lead Israel in the way of the Lord had no interest in knowing Him or His will.
- In stark contrast to our first passage from Leviticus, Hophni and Phineas spent their time feeding themselves, gorging on the fat that belonged to God alone.
- So when it was time to go to battle, without consulting God, they took the Ark from its place in the Temple and brought it before the enemy in the hope that its mere presence would win them the battle.



Unsurprisingly for anyone that is following along, this did not go so well.

- Israel was defeated, handily, and in their defeat, the sons of Eli were both killed and the Ark was captured from a battlefield in which it was never intended to be at.
- A man of Benjamin, the house of promise and the bloodline of Jesus, ironically, was the one to bring the news to Eli of their defeat.
- In shock, Eli's neck is broken as he falls from his chair. Scripture also makes note that Eli had also grown fat in his old years.

The Bible speaks to us about the necessity and methods of sacrifice and when all is said and done, it is the fat that belongs to God.

- The fat provides the savor.
- The fat provides that delectable smell.
- The fat is what brings flavor to any dish.

Value In the Fat

When I cook, I find value in the fat. I do everything to preserve it so that I can use it for its best application. Marbled steaks provide the best flavor because they are flush with the fat of the animal. And just as we desire the benefits of the fat, God's sacrifices also prioritized it.

Throughout scripture we see parallels between the way that fat and glory are translated and written about. In the same way we are told that the fat belongs to God, we are also told that all the glory is God's as well.



So the question we have to ask ourselves is in what areas of our lives are withholding the fat for ourselves? Where have I been stealing His glory to feed myself and my own ministry; my own dream; my own desires. At what point did I lose sight of God's will and begin to prioritize my own needs over what God wants?

- Like the priests had given into their own desires for so long and forsaken their relationship with God, we too can steal from God the glory that is owed him.
- Like the priests that were unable to hear the voice of God when it mattered most, we too can get so lost that we are unable to know God's desires for us when we arrive at a pivotal moment in our lives.

Show Us Your Glory

The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the Lord of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the Lord of hosts.

Haggai 2:9

It might seem backwards and counterintuitive, but if we truly, desperately want to see the glory of God on display in every aspect of our lives, we have to be willing to give Him the glory that He deserves every single time.

The Lord's Prayer says, "Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven".

I've been totally obsessed with that phrase as I've seen it used all across Christianity.

- In my city as it is in Heaven.
- In my Church as it is in Heaven.
- In my School as it is in Heaven.
- At my job as it is in Heaven.



In every aspect of our life, we want the glory of God to be evident; we want to experience the kingdom of God everywhere that we go in every moment that we live and breath.

We should want to see the fulfillment of His will in the lives of our friends, our families, and everyone that we interact with.

But in order for any of that to happen, we have to surrender ourselves; our dreams, our goals, our good intentions, our relationships, our future spouses, our future children and families, our jobs, our passions and hobbies.

Anything worth anything; every ounce of that fat belongs to Him.

