

# **Bible Study October 18, 2023**

## **1 SAMUEL 3 (ESV)**

### **The LORD Calls Samuel**

***<sup>1</sup> Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD in the presence of Eli. And the word of the LORD was rare in those days; there was no frequent vision.***

- **Proverbs 28:18 (ESV)** *Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint, but blessed is he who keeps the law.*

***<sup>2</sup> At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his own place. <sup>3</sup> The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was.***

The Ark of God was kept in the Most Holy Place, the innermost room of the Tabernacle, where only the high priest could enter once a year. In front of the Most Holy Place was the Holy Place, a small room where the other sacred furniture of the Tabernacle was kept (the altar of incense, the table for the special bread, and the lampstand). Just outside the Holy Place was a courtyard with small rooms where the priests were to stay. Samuel probably slept here with the other priests, only a few yards away from the Ark.

***<sup>4</sup> Then the LORD called Samuel, and he said, "Here I am!" <sup>5</sup> and ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down.***

***<sup>6</sup> And the LORD called again, "Samuel!" and Samuel arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again."***

***<sup>7</sup> Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.***

**Jeremiah 31:33-34 (ESV)** *For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup> And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."*

**Hebrews 1:1 (ESV)** *Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.*

Although God had spoken directly and audibly with Moses and Joshua, his word became rare during the three centuries of rule by judges. By Eli's time, few prophets were speaking God's

messages to Israel. Why? Look at the attitude of Eli's sons. They, like many others at this time, either refused to listen to God or allowed greed to get in the way of any communication with him.

Listening and responding is vital in a relationship with God. Although God does not always use the sound of a human voice, he always speaks clearly through the Bible. To receive his messages, we must be ready to listen and to act upon what he tells us. Like Samuel, be ready to say "Here I am" when God calls you to action.

***8 And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. 9 Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down, and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant hears.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.***

#### **Council of God:**

- **Psalm 119:105 (ESV)** <sup>105</sup> *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*

#### **Comfort of God Peace:**

- **Colossians 3:15 (ESV)** <sup>15</sup> *And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.*

#### **Confirmation of Others:**

- Samuel confirms to Eli what God said in Chapter 2

#### **Multitude of Counselors there is safety.**

**Proverbs 11:14 (NKJV)** <sup>14</sup> *Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors there is safety.*

One would naturally expect an audible message from God to be given to the high priest Eli and not to the child Samuel. Eli was older and more experienced, and he held the proper position. But God's chain of command is based on faith and an openness to listen, not on age or position. In finding faithful followers, God may use something unexpected. Be prepared for the Lord to work at any place, at any time, and through anyone he chooses.

***10 And the LORD came and stood, calling as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant hears."***

Samuel was young, but he was learning to listen to God. Many priests and even King Saul would not do so. The whole nation of Israel found it difficult (Psalm 95:6-8). Each day we can begin our prayers this way: "Speak to me, Lord. I'm listening."

***11 Then the LORD said to Samuel, "Behold, I am about to do a thing in Israel at which the two ears of everyone who hears it will tingle. 12 On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. 13 And I declare to him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. 14 Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be atoned for by sacrifice or offering forever."***

- **2 Timothy 3:15-17 (ESV)** <sup>15</sup> *and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.* <sup>16</sup> *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,* <sup>17</sup> *that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

Eli had spent his entire life in service to God. His responsibility was to oversee all the worship in Israel. But in pursuing this great mission, he neglected the responsibilities in his own home. Don't let your desire to do God's work cause you to neglect your family. If you do, your mission may degenerate into a quest for personal importance, and your family will suffer the consequences of your neglect.

God was saying that the sin of Eli's sons could not be covered by sacrifice and that their punishment was certain. These sins were so serious and Eli's sons so entrenched in their wicked ways that there was no remedy for the situation.

***<sup>15</sup> Samuel lay until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. And Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. <sup>16</sup> But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." And he said, "Here I am." <sup>17</sup> And Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also if you hide anything from me of all that he told you." <sup>18</sup> So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. And he said, "It is the LORD. Let him do what seems good to him."***

***<sup>19</sup> And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. <sup>20</sup> And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established as a prophet of the LORD.***

The phrase "from Dan . . . to Beersheba" was often used to describe the boundaries of the Promised Land. Dan was one of the northernmost cities in the land, and Beersheba was one of the cities farthest south. In this context, it was a way of emphasizing that everyone in Israel knew that Samuel had been called to be a prophet.

***<sup>21</sup> And the LORD appeared again at Shiloh, for the LORD revealed himself to Samuel at Shiloh by the word of the LORD.***