

1 Samuel 3

The LORD Speaks to Samuel

1. 3:1-4 – The Word of the LORD

- a. “ministered unto the LORD before Eli” (see 2:11, 2:18) serving God acc to his will.
- b. “word of the LORD was precious” – Only scripture was Moses, Joshua.
- c. “no open vision” = God was not speaking to Israel openly ← not a limitation on God
 - i. No prophets since Deu 34:10, Josh 24:2, Jg 4:4, 6:8, (private words 2:1, 2:27)
- d. 2 - Eli was very old and could not see (literal to him and like unto Israel) - 2:22
- e. 3 - “ere the lamp of God went out” – before the oil was gone ere dawn – Exo 27:20, 30:7
 - i. At this time in Israel, when the light of God was going out light was given.
- f. 4 - “the LORD called Samuel” - When the light is dim, he calls upon the faithful.

2. 3:5-10 – Here Am I

- a. “the LORD called Samuel” – He spoke his name. He spoke to him with a voice/ words
 - i. Calling ~def. Naming, summons, invitation, duty to respond (i.e. vocation)
 - ii. Vocation not just a job (who told you to do that?), but a vocal call to action
 - iii. We are called to be members of the Body – Eph 4:1, 4:4, 16, Phi 3:14, Col 3:15
- b. “Here am I” - Response of faithful servants Gen 22:11, 31:11, 37:13, Exo 3:4, Isa 6:8
 - i. (Acts 9:5) Saul: “Who art thou, Lord?” (Acts 9:10) Ananias: “I am here, Lord”
- c. 6 - “He ran unto Eli” – A willing servant to run that early in the morning (twice)
- d. 7 - “Samuel did not yet know the LORD” but was being called (2:12 God did not speak)
- e. 8-9 - “the third time” - A young zealous servant shows up to do what elders say.
 - i. God wants faithfulness, willingness, presence – showing up half the work.
- f. 9 - “say, Speak LORD” - Wise patient elders teach to know God’s word – 2 Tim 2:2,15
- g. 10 - “the LORD came, and stood” – He stands with those who believe his word.

3. 3:11-18 – A Hard Lesson

- a. “I will do a thing...” – prophetic words about judgment - Acts 13:40-41 ref Hab 1:5
- b. “both the ears... shall tingle” – The word of the LORD can be a terrifying thing.
- c. “against Eli... his house” – The judgment was against this young man’s teacher.
- d. 13 - “for ever... because ... he restrained them not” – 2:29, a parent/priest’s responsibility
 - i. Not chastening, correcting, instructing children is unloving - Prov 3:11-12, 13:24
 - ii. A wise king’s instruction for training children - Pro 19:18, 22:6,15, 23:13-15, 29:12-17
 - iii. It is grievous momentarily, but in the end is righteousness - Heb 12:5-11, Gal 4:1-2
 - iv. Paul’s grace speech - 1Co 4:16, Col 3:21, Eph 6:4, Titus 1:6, 1Tm 3:4, 2Tm 3:16, 4:1-5
- e. 14 - “I have sworn...not be purged”-The first word an unforgivable sin Heb 10:26, Nu 15:30
- f. 15 - “opened the doors...” - The word and vision will now be open to people, too.
- g. 15-16 - “Samuel feared to shew Eli” but Eli already knew, calling Samuel to tell him.
- h. 17 - “God so do to thee” – what it ‘blood on your hands’ means, - Eze 3:18, 33:8
- i. If you want to hear the word of the Lord – you must obey even when it’s hard.
- j. “if thou hide anything from me” – Speak the whole truth, every word – Lk 4:4, Pro 30:5
- k. 18 - “let him do what seemeth him good” - Though Eli does not seem to show repentance.
- l. Samuel learned to hide nothing, even the bad, even from the high priest, his mentor.

4. 3:19-21 - The LORD in Shiloh Again

- a. 19 - *"and the LORD was with him"* as a prophet as long as he let none of his words fall
- b. 20 - *"all Israel...knew "* - now open vision and word of the LORD is spoken in Israel
 - i. *"established to be a prophet of the LORD"* - as well as priest, by his words.
- c. Psa 78:56-62- The LORD forsook the tabernacle of Shiloh due to their unfaithfulness.
- d. 21 - *"LORD appeared again in Shiloh"* - The lamp continued burning because of Samuel.
- e. *"revealed himself ... by the word"* - How do we know God? By hearing his word - Ro 10:17
- f. To hear the word meant also to do what the word said - Jam 1:22-23, John 8:31
- g. The word of the LORD revealed as the word of Samuel. 1 Sam 4:1, Acts 3:24