



# THE CONTRAST

**1 Samuel 3:1:** *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.*

- \* **The era of the Judges.** Brutal, spiritually dark, and chaotic.
- \* **The Word of the Lord was rare.** Why?
- \* **Hosea 11:1-2:** *When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. The more they were called, the more they went away; they kept sacrificing to the Baals and burning offerings to idols.*
- \* **No frequent vision.** This term is specifically pointing to divine words through prophets.

**1 Samuel 3:2-3:** *At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his own place. 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.*

- \* **Eli.** Slow to understand Hannah (1:13). He has become fat (2:29). He honored his sons above God (2:29). His eyesight is dim (3:2). Lying in own place (3:2).
- \* **1 Samuel 2:30:** *Therefore the Lord, the God of Israel, declares: 'I promised that your house and the house of your father should go in and out before me forever,' but now the Lord declares: 'Far be it from me, for those who honor me I will honor, and those who despise me shall be lightly esteemed.'*

# THE CALLING

**1 Samuel 3:6-7:** *"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." Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him.*

- \* **"Here I am."** Abraham says these words before nearly sacrificing Isaac (Genesis 22:18). Moses says these words at the burning bush (Exodus 3:4). Isaiah says these words when God reveals Himself in a vision (Isaiah 6:8). What is your heart towards God? When He call, guides, convicts, directs, shepherds, is your response "here I am?"
- \* **Samuel didn't know the Lord?** This does not mean that Samuel had no relationship to the Lord. Contrarily, he is depicted as serving the Lord, sleeping close to the ark, and growing in the Lord. So, "not knowing the Lord" in this sense, meant to *not having experienced the direct revelation of a prophet.*

**1 Samuel 3:10:** *"And the Lord came and stood, calling as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant hears."*

- ✳️ **Obey.** Carl Laney in his commentary points out that “listening” can also be translated “obeying.” Samuel was willing and quick to obey the Lord.
- ✳️ **Isaiah 57:15:** *For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: “I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite.*

# THE CONTENT

**1 Samuel 3:11-12:** *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. On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end.*

- ✳️ **It produces tingling.** God was going to do something that all of Israel would find interesting! Eli and his sons were priests! To change the priesthood to a different family would be quite a big deal. This was later fulfilled with the priesthood of Zadok.
- ✳️ **It confirms God’s word.** God has already spoken against Eli (2:27-36).
- ✳️ **Samuel is afraid.** Sometimes God’s Word isn’t easy or popular!
- ✳️ **1 Corinthians 2:14,** *The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.*

# THE CONFIRMATION

**1 Samuel 3:19-21:** *And Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established as a prophet of the Lord. And the Lord appeared again at Shiloh, for the Lord revealed himself to Samuel at Shiloh by the word of the Lord.*

- ✳️ **Samuel grew and the Lord was with Him.**
- ✳️ **None of His words fall to the ground.**

**1 Samuel 3:19-21:** *And Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established as a prophet of the Lord. And the Lord appeared again at Shiloh, for the Lord revealed himself to Samuel at Shiloh by the word of the Lord.*

- ✳️ **The Word of the Lord** can be defined as the revealed communication of God to men. In the OT, it came directly through prophets. In Samuel 3, The Word of the Lord is revealed to Samuel. To us living in the NT era, it has chiefly be revealed through *the written* Word of God.
- ✳️ **Hebrews 1:1-2,** *Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, ... He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.*
- ✳️ **Hebrews 4:12,** *For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*
- ✳️ **John 1:14,** *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*
- ✳️ **Mark 4:14,** *The sower sows the word.*
- ✳️ **Acts 8:4,** *Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word.*