

1 Samuel 3:1-21 **The Lord Speaks to Samuel**

Samuel's First Prophecy

1 Now the boy Samuel ministered to the Lord before Eli. And the word of the Lord was rare in those days; there was no widespread revelation.

2 And it came to pass at that time, while Eli was lying down in his place, and when his eyes had begun to grow so dim that he could not see, 3 and before the lamp of God went out in the tabernacle of the Lord where the ark of God was, and while Samuel was lying down, 4 that the Lord called Samuel. And he answered, "Here I am!" 5 So he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." And he said, "I did not call; lie down again." And he went and lay down.

6 Then the Lord called yet again, "Samuel!" So Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." He answered, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." 7 (Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, nor was the word of the Lord yet revealed to him.)

8 And the Lord called Samuel again the third time. So he arose and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you did call me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord had called the boy. 9 Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and it shall be, if He calls you, that you must say, 'Speak, Lord, for Your servant hears.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

10 Now the Lord came and stood and called as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel answered, "Speak, for Your servant hears."

11 Then the Lord said to Samuel: "Behold, I will do something in Israel at which both ears of everyone who hears it will tingle. 12 In that day I will perform against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. 13 For I have told him that I will judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knows, because his sons made themselves vile, and he did not restrain them. 14 And therefore I have sworn to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be atoned for by sacrifice or offering forever."

15 So Samuel lay down until morning, and opened the doors of the house of the Lord. And Samuel was afraid to tell Eli the vision.

16 Then Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son!" He answered, "Here I am."

17 And he said, "What is the word that the Lord spoke to you? Please do not hide it from me. God do so to you, and more also, if you hide anything from me of all the things that He said to you."

18 Then Samuel told him everything, and hid nothing from him. And he said, "It is the Lord. Let Him do what seems good to Him."

19 So Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. 20 And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel had been established as a prophet of the Lord.

21 Then the Lord appeared again in Shiloh. For the Lord revealed Himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the Lord.
NKJV

Facts Revealed:

Samuel's First Prophecy [1 Samuel 3:1-18]

- ✧ The Word of Yehowah was rare in those days.
- ✧ Yahweh called to Samuel three times before they realized it was the voice of the Lord calling.
- ✧ The fourth call, Samuel responded to the Lord and stopped to listen.
 - ◇ The Lord can and does speak audibly to His servants whenever and wherever He so chooses, though such occurrences are rare.
 - ◇ In such cases the voice of God is very much like the voice of a man and may be so mistakenly perceived.
 - ◇ The Lord is patient, and waits until we exhaust all other possibilities and realize it could be none other than the voice of God Himself.
 - ◇ Many run with their imagination when the Lord has not spoken at all. [Deuteronomy 18:21-22, Jeremiah 23:21, Ezekiel 13:7, 22:28]
- ✧ The Lord confirmed to Samuel that all the words the Man of God had spoken will now be performed against Eli and his house.
 - ◇ By the word of the Man of God, the Lord had warned Eli of coming judgment, but Eli did not act to correct the problem and restrain his sons. [1 Samuel 2:22-36]
 - ◇ Now it is too late for repentance, and the punishment previously promised is coming to pass.
- ✧ Eli asked Samuel what Yahweh had said, and Samuel told him all.
- ✧ Eli Responded:
 - ◇ "It is the Lord. Let Him do what seems good to Him."
 - ◇ When Judgment is passed by the Lord, no one may dispute it, God's Word stands.
 - ◇ God allowed time to repent, but there comes an end to his waiting time.

Samuel grew and the Lord confirmed him as a prophet of God [1 Samuel 3:19-21]

- ✧ So 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 had been established as a prophet of the Lord. [1 Samuel 3:19-20]
 - ◇ When the words of Samuel came to pass, all Israel realized that Samuel was indeed a prophet of God.
- ✧ Then the **Lord (Yahweh) appeared** again in Shiloh. For the Lord (Yahweh) **revealed** Himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the **Word of the Lord (Dabar Yahweh)**. [1 Samuel 3:21]
 - ◇ **Jesus the Word** of the Lord came to speak directly to His prophets in the Old Testament and was recognized as the word of the Lord (Dabar Yehowah). [from Genesis 15:1 and on through out the Old Testament, John 1:1-3, 14 New Testament]
 - ◇ All **appearances** of the Lord and the Word of the Lord in the Old Testament were preincarnate appearances of Jesus as **God the Word**.