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Old Testament

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### God Calls Samuel

1 Samuel 3, titled *The Lord chooses Samuel* begins with Samuel as the Lord's servant. The word of the Lord was rare in those days, but that is about to change as the Lord calls Samuel to serve him. Eli, at that time was mentoring Samuel and was starting to go blind, having Samuel alert at all his needs. As Samuel lay in the Lord's home next to the ark of God, this was beyond the veil in the most holy place. The lamp of God went out, which was strange because Exodus 27:21 refers to the responsibility of the priest to tend to the lamps until sunrise. The Lord calls upon Samuel, calling his name. Once Samuel listens and says here I am, he hears it again and goes to Eli saying here he is. On the third call Samuel goes to Eli, at this point Eli knows it is the Lord and tells him to say "Speak Lord for your servant hears" next time he is called.

The Lord came and stood there, calling Samuel the same way as he had before, "Samuel, Samuel." (3:10). In this verse, there is a sense that the Lord is in his presence, who am I to say visible? But for sure audible. The Lord then comes and Samuel answers the way Eli told him and the Lord revealed unto Samuel that he will do something to Israel where whoever listens they will have fear. The Lord will also send a plague to Eli and his family, for his sons are wicked and he allowed them to act in such manner. That his house shall not be atoned for by sacrifice or offering.

Once Samuel wakes up Eli calls him over, Samuel in no way wanted to tell Eli of such a dream, I mean who would want to relay the message of “your whole family is going to die.” After a little force of words, Samuel lets Eli know about what God told him. He simply says God's will is not for anyone to change, he accepts the judgment humbly. At this point taking a look back at Eli and why he received such a judgment from the Lord is slightly hard to understand. After his sons reached the age of adulthood, he can no longer be responsible. I am not one to judge or go against the word of the Lord. What the Lord saw was that he valued his sons before he valued God. He allowed his children to feel as if they were higher than God, so they behaved the way they did. In a way you can compare how Hannah valued the gift of life God gave, Samuel, than Eli did with his gift from God. In 1 Samuel 2:25 he lets his sons know of what they have done and how he is disappointed, that who will in treat for them for sinning against the Lord?

In a positive note chapter 3 shows the fortune of Israel and its welcoming of a servant who was called from the Lord. His name is Samuel and in 1 Sam 3:19 it states that God was with him and that he did not let any of his words fall to the ground, that all that Samuel spoke was fulfilled, so he could be known as a prophet.