

Cassady Hymes

BIB 102 RO

Professor Emanuel

29 October 2019

1 Samuel 3

In the story of Samuel, he is staying in the tabernacle with Eli. While Samuel was laying down trying to sleep God called out Samuels name three times, and each time Samuel did not know who called him, and would ask Eli if it was him, Eli would deny, after the third time Eli told him it was God and he needed to say "Speak, for your servant hears." so on the fourth time when the Lord called out that's what Samuel said and the Lord told Him his plans for Samuel were bright and rich and Eli's plans were that his house was to be punished forever, because of the iniquity that he knew. Samuel became the prophet of the land and everyone heard his word that the Lord spoke through him, and the land and people from east to west were blessed. It is interesting that Samuel is sleeping in the temple next to the Ark of God, also named: The Ark of the Covenant, which was a big gold covered wooden chest with a lid cover, constructed and owned by the Israelites. This suggests that Samuel was sleeping in or next to the Most Holy compartment in the tabernacle. Since God made His presence known to Samuel that night this Ark really represents the space for that to happen because the Ark is associated with God's presence. This mentioning of Samuel sleeping in the tabernacle where the Ark of God was does appear strange, because usually, only the ones who were considered of the High Priest were able to be near the Ark. When God calls Samuel He does it in exactly the same way each time. God calls out his name "Samuel" each time the same, and each time Samuel did not truly listen and

he thought Eli was calling out for him. This says a lot about who God is, this shows that God never waivers from the way He reaches out to people, God will wait and wait on us, not changing a thing, just waiting to meet us halfway. And no matter how many times God calls us, no matter how many times he says our name He is just as excited to do the things He's planned for us all along, like what He did with Samuel. From my assessment on Eli, he is not a bad person, he knew his job and no longer was Eli a parent to his sons. His responsibility to "restrain" his sons were not the duty of Eli being their boss, but he did not "restrain" them, even after hearing what they were doing. He could be considered as bad because he did not accept the sacrifice of Jesus so he in the end he knew his only choice was to be ok with what God had planned for him, which meant no chance of atonement for by sacrifice or offering ever. In 1 Samuel 3:10 the bible says "And the Lord came and stood and he called" I believe this was a rare occasion of God appearing before Samuel, I believe in a way that appeared more humanly, like Jesus, because His presence would have been too much for any person to truly bare witness to. I do not believe Samuel was dreaming, like how most encounters with God tend to happen, even though he was in bed evidence in the text point that Samuel was always just laying down but never asleep. Once Samuel finally surrendered and listened to who was exactly speaking, God revealed Himself, which is a good lesson to take show the power of having faith. The lesson I can derive from this, is at the end of the story it says "the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground" this reminds me of two of my favorite verses that say "If God is for us, who can be against us?" and "I can do all things through Christ." This all comes together to show me that faithfulness and trust with God can make even the simplest peoples gifts affect nations.

<https://www.jw.org/en/bible-teachings/questions/ark-of-the-covenant/>