

The Lord Calls Samuel

1And the child¹ Samuel ministered unto the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; *there was* no open vision.² **2**And it came to pass at that time, when Eli *was* laid down in his place, and his eyes began to wax dim, *that* he could not see; **3**And ere the lamp of God went out in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God *was*, and Samuel was laid down *to sleep*; **4**That the LORD called Samuel: and he answered, Here *am* I. **5**And he ran unto Eli, and said, Here *am* I; for thou calledst me. And he said, I called not; lie down again. And he went and lay down. **6**And the LORD called yet again, Samuel. And Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, Here *am* I; for thou didst call me. And he answered, I called not, my son; lie down again. **7**Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, neither was the word of the LORD yet revealed unto him.³ **8**And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, Here *am* I; for thou didst call me. And Eli perceived that the LORD had called the child. **9**Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

The Lord Condemns Eli

10And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak;⁴ for thy servant heareth. **11**And the LORD said to Samuel, Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle. **12**In that day I will

perform against Eli all *things* which I have spoken concerning his house: when I begin, I will also make an end. **13**For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not. **14**And therefore I have sworn unto the house of Eli, that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be purged with sacrifice nor offering for ever.

The Child Confers the Vision

15And Samuel lay until the morning, and opened the doors of the house of the LORD. And Samuel feared to shew Eli the vision. **16**Then Eli called Samuel, and said, Samuel, my son. And he answered, Here *am* I. **17**And he said, What *is* the thing that *the LORD* hath said unto thee? I pray thee hide *it* not from me: God do so to thee, and more also, if thou hide *any* thing from me of all the things that he said unto thee.⁵ **18**And Samuel told him every whit, and hid nothing from him. And he said, It *is* the LORD: let him do what seemeth him good.⁶

The Lord Confirms His Will

19And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground. **20**And all Israel from Dan even to Beersheba knew that Samuel *was* established *to be* a prophet of the LORD.⁷ **21**And the LORD appeared again in Shiloh: for the LORD revealed himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the LORD.⁸

¹ Even a child his known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right. ~ Proverbs 20:11. Where there is no vision, the people perish (Prov. 29:18).

² Stop and think about how blessed you are that you have God's Book – and that you can hold it in your hands to read, to study, to memorize, to meditate in, to share with others, and by the grace of God, to live.

³ This is important. None of us know the Lord until his word is revealed unto us. Compare John 3:3-7 with Luke 8:11 and 1 Pet. 1:23.

⁴ It's interesting to note that Samuel was instructed by Eli to say, "Speak, LORD," but he only says "Speak."

⁵ Even when we know it is most likely bad news, we still want to know. We deal better with bad news better than we do with not knowing at all.

⁶ Eli knew it was the LORD because according to verse 13, God had already told him these things! "At the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established (Deut. 17:6, 2 Cor. 13:1)." This revelation to Samuel was Eli's confirmation that God meant business!

⁷ It is no secret when the calling of God is upon your life. Not only will you be able to see it, but others will also.

⁸ Compare with verse 7.