

1 Samuel Lesson 5 Samuel, A Prophet Called by God

Background:

Key Themes in 1 Samuel :

- The connection between our obedience and our relationship to God
- God opposes the proud and exalts the humble
- Despite human evil, God is **working out His purposes in history**
- **Kingship in Israel and God's plan to one day raise up an anointed divine king**

Background:

The Lamp of God: This was the lamp outside the veil in the tent of meeting. It was next to the Holy of Holies which contained the ark of the covenant. The ark of the covenant was the place where God's presence dwelt. The lamp stand was to remain lit all night. See Ex 27:21.

Key Words:

boy: Strong's H5288 "**naar**" lad, youth

call: Strong's H7121 "**qara**" to call out. frequently to a specific recipient and intended to illicit a specific response

know: Strong's H3045 "**yada**" to know. The usage in 1 Samuel 3:7 specifically means to know a person in an intimate way: to have a relationship with the divine, which in this case is Yaweh.

listen: Strong's H8085 "**shama**" to hear attentively with the intention to obey

In our last lesson we learned that "a man of God" visited Eli with a message of judgment regarding Eli's sons and his family. God was going to remove them from the priesthood because of their disregard for the things of God and Eli's failure to rebuke them. In 1 Samuel 2:35 God promises to raise up a faithful priest who will do according to what is in God's heart. That faithful priest is Samuel. In chapter 3 we have an account of God's call to Samuel and Samuel's response to that call.

Read 1 Samuel 2:35-3:21

1. At the beginning of Chapter 3 a number of years have passed since Samuel came to live with Eli. What does 3:1 say about the spiritual climate in Israel at this time?

2. From 3:2-10 We have the call to Samuel by the Lord recorded. What was Samuel doing when God called him? Where was Samuel and why is that significant? How did Samuel respond to the call?

3. Even though 3:7 states that Samuel did not as yet "know " the Lord, what do his responses to God's call at this point reveal about his heart? Compare his responses to that of Eli's sons in chapter 2.

Application: What lessons can you learn from Samuel's response to God's call and how can you put them into practice in your own life? What warning can you receive from the judgment by God of Eli's sons?

4. God trusted Samuel with his message of judgment. How had Samuel shown Himself to be a trustworthy servant so far? How did he continue to show his trustworthiness in 3:15-18?

5. According to Deuteronomy 18:18, 21 and 22 what characterizes a true prophet of the Lord? 1 Samuel 3:19-21 is a description of Samuel's later ministry as a prophet to all of Israel. How does the description in 1 Samuel match God's criteria for a true prophet in Deuteronomy 18:18,21 and 22?

Application: Samuel began small, being faithful to listen to God and speak to Eli the message of judgment God had given him. Eventually Samuel was used by God to be a prophet to all of Israel. According to Matthew 25:21 How can being faithful and obedient in small things prepare you to be used of God in a bigger way? What should be our attitude and response when called to do anything for the Lord, big or small?

6. Which of the key themes stated above do you see in this week's lesson?

