

1 Samuel 3

King James Version (KJV)

(God calls Samuel to become chief priest and judge over Israel)

3 And the child Samuel ministered unto the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; there was no open vision. (precious = valuable, rare – better translation)

(There was no open vision – there were no prophets in those days to teach God's Word to the people. The priesthood was corrupt under Eli)

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; (The menorah was lighted every day at sundown and burned through the night)

(It was located in the tabernacle, just outside of the Holy of holies. It served as a spiritual light in a world of darkness and confusion. Samuel made sure that the oil in the menorah didn't run out; so that the lamp stayed lit throughout the night)

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. (Samuel thought that it was Eli who called him. It was God. HE was choosing Samuel to replace Eli as Judge over Israel)

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. (know = to ascertain by seeing) (Samuel wasn't a priest yet. This was the first time that God called him)

(Samuel knew God's Word and obeyed His commandments. But he had never been in direct contact with God yet)

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. (Eli understood what was happening)

⁹Therefore 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. (Eli realized that it must be God who was calling Samuel)

¹⁰And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth.

¹¹And 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. (This is a figure of speech - The people will be astonished at hearing the thing that God will do)

¹²In 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. (God will execute judgment against Eli)

¹³For 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. (The Septuagint states that Eli's sons cursed God) (Eli ignored God's warning to straighten out his house)

¹⁴And 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. (Eli's house is done; judgment is passed)

¹⁵And Samuel lay until the morning, and opened the doors of the house of the LORD. And Samuel feared to shew Eli the vision.

¹⁶Then Eli called Samuel, and said, Samuel, my son. And he answered, Here am I.

¹⁷And 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. (Eli remembered God's warning, so he was expecting bad news. He wants to know the truth, unvarnished)

¹⁸And Samuel told him every whit, and hid nothing from him. And he said, It is the LORD: let him do what seemeth him good. (This was also

a test for Samuel. Would he convey God's message accurately to Eli? Samuel passed the test and told Eli the truth)

NOTE: (God will also test the Elect in the end times; to speak all the words that are given to them when they are brought up before antichrist) see Joel-2:28-32, Acts-2:17

¹⁹ And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground. (God fulfilled all the prophecies that He had revealed to Samuel, so that the people recognized Samuel as a true prophet of God)

²⁰ And all Israel from Dan even to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the LORD. (From the extreme north to the extreme south of Israel)

²¹ And the LORD appeared again in Shiloh: for the LORD revealed himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the LORD. (Samuel would go on to become the last judge of Israel. After Samuel, Saul will begin the king line)