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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

Discernment, Samuel, God's Word, Godly authority, Eli, judgment, lamp of God, ark of God, heritage, submissiveness, God's will, spiritual stability, Holy Spirit, obedience, transformation.

SPEAKERS

Baruch Korman, Intro Voice

Intro Voice 00:03

Shalom and welcome to via hafte yesrael, a Hebrew phrase, which means you shall love Israel. We hope you'll stay with us for the next 30 minutes, as our teacher, Dr Baruch, shares his expository teaching from the Bible. Dr Baruch is the senior lecturer at the Zera Avraham Institute based in Israel. Although all courses are taught in Hebrew at the institute, Dr Baruch is pleased to share this weekly address in English. To find out more about our work in Israel, please visit us on the web@loveisrael.org That's one word, loveisrael.org Now here's Baruch with today's lesson.

Baruch Korman 00:39

If we are going to be used by God, we need to have discernment. And a major aspect of having discernment is being able to recognize the Word of God. Well, take out your Bible and look with me to First Samuel and chapter three, the book of First, Samuel, and chapter three. Now in the passage of scripture that we're going to be looking at in this study, we're going to see that Samuel is going to be called by God in order that he might serve Him and serve Him faithfully, and in order to do so this young man, Samuel, he needs discernment. He needs to be able to recognize God's word, and he needs to be able to learn how to recognize godly authority. Well, take out your Bibles and look there with me. First, Samuel, chapter three and verse one, notice what the Word of God says the young man, Samuel, is serving the Lord before Ellie. Now that reveals to us an important truth. He was serving the Lord, but he was doing so before Ellie. Ellie, as we've seen, is not a perfect man. He is an inadequate leader. But nevertheless, you'll recall a few weeks ago that he scolded his sons. He pointed out what they were doing was not good. In fact, he called it evil. He had a degree of discernment. And therefore, Samuel, he was serving God under the authority of Ellie. And if we're going to be a faithful servant, if we're going to carry out the will of God in our life, we must recognize authority. This is the first thing that our passage is teaching us. Look at the second half of verse one, where it says the word of the Lord was literally precious. Now many Bibles will say rare, and I agree with that is the meaning, but the literal word here is precious, and the reason for it being so precious is God, for the reasons that we have learned the improper leadership of Ellie, we see that God wasn't speaking Much to his people. In fact, it says the word of the Lord was precious in those days, and there was not, what we might say, widespread vision. The people didn't have vision in those days. And if we're living in a time where there is great corruption spiritually, and people are doing what they want in their own eyes, and they're not

sensitive to the instructions of God. Therefore, the manifestations of God's Word, His power, His miracles, they will be very rare, and I believe to a certain degree, this is what we are experiencing in this generation. Well, look now to verse two, where it says and it came about in that day. Now that day also relates to judgment, and what the scripture is doing is telling us this call of Samuel comes because of God's judgment. God is faithful to put things in order. He's making this transition. He's moving away from the family of Ellie and his sons and later offspring, and he's going to be using Samuel. Look again at verse two. And it came about on that day that Ellie, he is lying in his place, and his eyes began to be dull, and he was not able to see. Now that is a way of saying that Elie had no discernment. He was not able to see things properly. He. Was old, and he was incapable of discerning the will of God. And it's for this reason that there's going to be this change. Look on to the next verse, verse three.

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And the lamp of God literally near which is a candle, but it refers to a source of light, and in this case, the lamp of God, before it went out and Samuel was lying in the the sanctuary of the Lord, where there is the ark of God. Now, several things are important. Here we see that the lamp had not gone out. Now that lamp represented the presence of God. So what we're told is God is moving, and when God is present, we see something. We see mention also in this verse, the ark of God. The ark of God represented his power, and what was in the ark of God? Well, we all know the answer to that the commandments, and we see that the commandments, when we apply them to our life, we are inviting power into our life. When we submit to the commandments of God, we are going to see that God's presence, His power and vision is going to be given to the people of God. What is that very famous verse from the book of Exodus, chapter 24 and verse seven, when the people responded, we will do and we will hear when we do that is when we obey. We are going to be a recipient of that vision, that guidance, that voice of the Lord. Look now to to verse verse four, and the Lord called to Samuel, and he said, hineni. Now I want us to learn that Hebrew word hinani. Now it's actually a combination of two Hebrew words, the word hinay, which means Behold, and the word Ani, which means I, or I am, and hinani means, behold, here am I. And we see that that the patriarchs frequently use that term when God called them, and what he was saying is, I'm available. I want to be used here. Am I use me? So it's a an expression of submissiveness and, once more, a recognition of authority. So Samuel responded, as the patriarchs did. He wanted to be used by God, and he wanted to participate in the things of God. There's a very important concept in the Bible. The concept has to do with heritage. And what we find is this, when we are committed to the heritage of the Lord, what does that mean? Heritage? Well, it's what God wants us to take possession of, what he wants us to apply to our life, that our life reflects a certain culture, a certain character, a certain way of life, a behavior. So when we exemplify that behavior, we're going to see that God is going to provide, God is going to direct, and God is going to empower, and the outcome is going to be the privilege of entering into God's will, where his will will be fulfilled. And what does that bring? That brings blessing. So we see over and over that the patriarchs, when they were called, they said the same expression, behold, here am I, a statement of submissiveness and a desire to be used by God. Now what we need to do is to pause for a moment and ask ourselves a question, do you really want to be used by God? Are you truly interested and committed and passionate about the will of God and what God would want you to do? You are committed to do? If you are then you are going to find God's provision in your life. You are going to find God's counsel, God's leadership. You are going to have opportunities to recognize, through submissiveness, the authority of God in your life, and when you demonstrate the. You understand His authority, you're going to find that your life is

forever changed and that it's going to have significance. Now the world may not see that significance. They may not agree that what you're doing is significant at all. What difference does that make? One of my favorite books in the Bible is the book of Daniel, and the name Daniel means God is my judge. That's what we need to remember. And when we always recognize God as our judge, it is his view, his opinion, his thoughts, that should be important to us, not what the world thinks. The world is a world of darkness. The world is a world of falsehood. When we follow the ways of the world, where are we going to be deceived? The world deceives its people. It's only the truth of God that puts us in that pathway that leads into being an instrument of God, pleasing to God and empowered by God. So notice what happens. The Lord called to Samuel, and Samuel said he named it verse five, and he ran to Ellie, and he said, just to Ellie the same expression in 80 why? Well, for Samuel, Ellie represented God. He was God's priest, and therefore Samuel is dealing with Ellie as he would with God. He's recognizing Ellie's call even though God is displeased with Ellie. He says that he runs to Ellie and he says, hinani, for you have called me. But he said, this is Ellie. He said, I have not called you again. Lie down. And he went and he lied down. Now, why is that there? It shows us that Samuel obeyed what Ellie said for him to do. He did and he did it all the time. He did it consistently. So he had that, that that reputation, that that testimony, that he was quick to obey, quick to recognize authority. Look, if you would, to verse six, and again, the Lord called once more, Samuel. And Samuel got up and he went to Ellie, and he says, hinani, for you have called me. But he said, I have not called you, my son. Again, lie down verse seven. Now in verse seven, we're going to see that once more God is going to call it's going to be the third time, and we're going to see that there's something special about the number three. The number three is the number of Revelation. It documents, it reveals something, and this is exactly what we're going to find. Look at verse seven and Samuel before he knew the Lord. Now, what does that mean? This was a time where God, in an individual way, had not appeared to Samuel. What the Scripture is saying is this, Samuel had not any experience with God. Although he believed in God, he knew the word of God. He had never experienced God personally, but things were about to change, and we read, Look again at verse seven and Samuel before he knew the Lord, before the word of the Lord was revealed to him. Now I hope you understand what this verse has done. You might say, well, I don't know God either. The Lord hasn't revealed himself to me. Yes, he has. How? Well, if you carefully paid attention to this verse, you'll know the answer. Let's look again at verse seven. Take it very slowly, because there is much wisdom in this principle that we're going to learn verse seven

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and Samuel, it was before he knew the Lord, before that was revealed to him in. The word of the Lord. Now, what is being taught here a principle, how is the Lord revealed to a person? Well, what we find in this verse is it was before the Lord revealed himself to Samuel, and it was before the word of the Lord was revealed to him. What we find is this, the message of this text, this seventh verse, is that we know God. We come to know him through his word, not just his spoken word, but rather His written Word. In other words, I'm speaking about Scripture. We know God through Scripture. Everything that we need to know about him is written in this book that we might have an understanding of who he is, and not just who he is, but more importantly, what He has called us to do, how we serve Him. Remember how the Scripture begins. Go back to verse one. It says, And the young man, Samuel, is serving the Lord, that's what we want to do. This is where things begin when we are serving the Lord, nothing spiritual, nothing good, nothing powerful, nothing that's going to have eternal significance is going to happen to you until you make the wise decision to serve the Lord, and As you serve the Lord. We know something. God is

perfect. God's not going to change, but in your service to Him, you are going to be changed. You are going to see that the workmanship of God in your life begins when you start serving God. Look now to verse eight. And again, the Lord called Samuel. And here it is a third time. And he got up and he went to Ellie, and he said, once more, hinani, for you have called to me, and then we finally see something. It's this third time. Remember, third is for the purpose of revealing. It was this third time. Notice what the scripture says via ven Ali ki Hashem Corey le naar, which means and Ellie understood that the Lord is calling to this young man. Finally, Elie demonstrated discernment that God was at work. God was moving, and God was calling this young man. Ellie, in one sense, knew that there was this change coming. Why? Well, as we saw last week, the man of God had told him that God was displeased, and that God was going to bring about a change, and that change was going to focus in on on Samuel and what was his mother's name, Hannah, which represents grace. We see over and over. It's the grace that allows us to demonstrate the character of God. That's what Samuel means, the name of God or the character of God. It all begins with Grace at work. Well, look on now to verse verse nine. And Elie said to Samuel, go lie down. And if it should come about that he will call to you, you are to say, speak Lord, for hearing is your servant. Now, there's many things that's important in this verse. Look at it again. Verse nine, Elie knew what was going on. He understood God was speaking. He was calling this young man, Samuel, into service, and he says, Go and lie down and and if it should come about that he will call unto you, you are to say, speak Lord, for Your servant is listening. Now this is the word listening for, for responding to God. We talked about that last week, and what he's saying is this number one, notice how Elie speaks concerning Samuel. He says, Your servant, Elie knew that that Samuel wanted, above all things, to serve God. That was his. Is objective. That is what he was interested in doing. So we need to ask ourselves, does that describe you and me? Are we interested? Are we committed? Are we passionate about serving God? If we understand who God is and we understand His nature, he desires to bless. Why would we want to serve him? Why would we want to recognize his authority? Why wouldn't we want to apply his instructions to our life? Now, if you are putting something together, those instructions are very important. They show you, they teach you. They reveal to you what you are to do in order to accomplish an objective. That you have bought something and you want to use that you have to put it together, assemble it, and you have a set of instructions. These instructions bring about a desired outcome. And when we submit to the instructions of God, then and only then is it going to have a desired outcome, whose desired outcome, God's desired outcome. And when God is well pleased with you, you will know the joy of the Lord. It is an outcome of pleasing God. You will know the power of that joy, and you will be ever transformed into what we're called to be, and that is servants of the living God. Look now to the last part of verse, verse nine, Word says, For Your servant is hearing. And Samuel went and he lied down, where in his place? Now that's important, because in his place means he was where he should be, and that's what we need to do. We need to get to the place that we should be, and that's why our prayer life should be, oh, God, help me find your will. Help me be able to carry out your will when we are in God's will, doing God's will, we are going to be a recipient of God's presence, God's power, God's provision and God's perspective. And when we have those things, his presence, power, provision and perspective, we are going to be able to do God's will, and doing God's will is going to bring about a wonderful outcome in our life. It is going to bring us into a new new reality whereby we are pleasing God, we are serving God, and we are going to be built up into the people that God wants us to be. Well, let's look at our last verse, verse 10, where it says,

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And the Lord came. Now there's a very interesting word, if you keep reading, it says, And the Lord came and he stood himself. Now this expression is the same expression that is used when, when God came before, before Moses at the Red Sea, and where God said to Moses, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord. So that same word is being used here, and what we find here when we look at this word very carefully, it is a word of stability. God comes where we are when we are in that right location, with that desire to serve God, obey God, recognize his authority. God comes, and he will bring stability into our life. What type of stability, spiritual stability that we're not going to be moved to one side or the other, but we are going to have through faith ourselves being anchored, anchored where in God's will? Why? So that we can do God's will? Because it's in the doing of the will of God that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is going to transform us, change us, build us up. We are going to experience the edification of the Holy Spirit when, when we obey the will of God, see, we obey the will of God, not because God needs something. God doesn't need us. We need to obey God, because when we do, God moves in our lives. He. He moves in our circumstances, he moves in those things that are around us. And what does God do? Well, when God moves, he puts things into order. He will bring a change. See, we need to realize that unless we're in God's will and doing God's will. We're not going to become a person where God is building, changing, ministering, helping, assisting and transforming, but when we are committed to the will of God, God is going to be active in our life, and we need his activity. Let's conclude. Look at the end of verse 10, where it says, And the Lord came and he stood and he called as before. At other times now, literally, it's cap, bam. Palm is time. So, so as times and end times, it shows a consistently how God speaks. And what did he say? He says, schwell, schwell, Samuel, Samuel. And Samuel said, Speak for your servant is hearing. What does that mean? Well, this word for hearing, as we've said three times, is a word that says, I want to hear so I can respond properly. That's what was unique about Samuel, and we can have that same uniqueness in our life as well if we make the wise decision to submit to the Lord with the purpose of obeying Him. We come before him submissively in order that we might obey His purposes, his plans, his will. And when we do, we find God does what well. Notice how this verse, verse speaks your servant is hearing this tells us that Samuel wanted to respond to God. This is why he was there. This is why his mom placed him with Ellie in Shiloh at that tabernacle, so that he could serve God. He knew his mom's desire, and he was submissive to it. The thing that stands out over and over about about Samuel is that he wanted to serve. He wanted to obey. He wanted to be used by God. And when that describes us, life is going to be transformed. God is going to change us. He is going to work mightily in our life. We will know that anointing of the Holy Spirit, and we will be able to accomplish those things that are pleasing to God. And when God is pleased, we will know the joy of the Lord

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well. We hope you will benefit from today's message and share it with others. Please plan to join us each week at this time and on this channel for our broadcast of loveisrael.org again, to find out more about us, please visit our website, loveisrael.org There you will find articles in numerous other lectures by Baruch. These teachings are in video form. May download them or watch them in streaming video until next week. May the Lord bless you in our Messiah, Yeshua, that is Jesus as you walk with Him, Shalom from Israel.