

- I) **V1-10 INTRO:** Now the boy Samuel ministered to the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD
 - a) **BY THIS TIME:** Samuel is no longer a small child, but has grown into his teen years
 - 1) **BOY:** Is the same word Saul called David when David volunteered to fight Goliath (1 Sa 17:33)
 - 2) It is a word that speaks of a young man, and Samuel was probably in his early teens
 - 3) **POINT:** Samuel has grown into young adulthood

- II) **AT THIS TIME:** The word of the LORD was rare; there was no widespread revelation
 - a) **INTERESTINGLY:** God had said to Israel that He would make Himself known through prophets
 - 1) Num 12:6 Then He said, "Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you, I, the LORD, make Myself known to him in a vision; I speak to him in a dream.

- III) **PROPHETS:** Would be informed of His will and would instruct the people
 - a) **BUT:** One thing was necessary, and that would be that the people would be receptive
 - 1) Unbelief and rebellion would cause the Lord to withdraw from communicating His word to them
 - 2) **RESULT:** The word of the Lord was rare in those days and there was no widespread revelation

- IV) **DURING THE DAYS OF THE JUDGES:** Israel actually went through cycles
 - a) They would forsake God, enter in to sin, serve idols, end up oppressed by enemies, repent and cry out to God, would be delivered, would once again serve Him, and then when the Judge died, they would revert and once again move in to idolatry and the cycle would begin once more

- V) **THE FACT IS:** Sin and rebellion had made hearing the word of the Lord rare in those days
 - a) **STILL:** It is during this time that God establishes a line of prophets to reveal His will
 - 1) The priesthood had grown so ungodly that the Lord begins speaking through prophets
 - 2) Priests, prophets, and Kings all became important in the nation, foreshadowing Messiah

- VI) **V2-5 AND:** It came to pass at that time while Eli was lying down in his place and when his eyes
 - a) This gives us simple details of how Samuel received his call
 - 1) Eli is sleeping in his quarters, a cubicle in the courtyard
 - 2) He is losing his sight, so Samuel is sensitive to provide help when needed

- VII) **KEY:** It was not yet dawn, as the lamp of God (7 lamp candlestick) still has oil burning
 - a) Oil would be put in the lamps, it would be lit at twilight and it would burn all through the night
 - 1) Lev 24:2-3 Command the children of Israel that they bring to you pure oil of pressed olives for the light, to make the lamps burn continually. Outside the veil of the Testimony, in the tabernacle of meeting, Aaron shall be in charge of it from evening until morning before the LORD continually; *it shall be* a statute forever in your generations.

- VIII) **V4-6 AT THIS TIME:** The Lord called Samuel. And he answered Here I am
 - a) Samuel is asleep, when he is suddenly awakened by a voice
 - 1) His quick response reveals his character: he was there to serve Eli and the Lord
 - 2) He quickly responds: Here I am! This happens twice, and both times he is told to go to bed

- IX) **V7 NOW:** *Samuel did not yet know the LORD*, nor was the word of the LORD yet revealed to him
 - a) Samuel was aware of God in a very basic sense, and according to this had been serving Him
 - 1) This was Samuel's personal encounter with God, and God's first communication to him
 - 2) Job 42:5 I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear. But now my eye sees You

- I) **V8-10 AND:** The LORD called Samuel again the third time. So he arose and went to Eli and said

- a) **THIS IS THE THIRD TIME:** Now, Eli realizes that God is speaking to Samuel
 - 1) **ADVICE:** Go, lay down in your room, and wait: the Lord will speak to you once more
 - 2) **Ps 62:1** Truly my soul silently waits for God; From Him comes my salvation.

- II) **POINT:** You have grown up in the most holy place imaginable, and must respond properly
 - a) **ADVICE:** Respond with humility, obedience, and reverence when you hear His voice
 - 1) Your upbringing should have prepared you to be receptive to Him when He speaks

- III) **FACT:** A home filled with spiritual life creates a receptivity to the things of the Lord
 - a) **KEY:** Children surrounded by faith, prayer, service, and commitment are prepared to hear
 - 1) Those with no undergirding of God's word have no filter to develop spiritual discernment
 - 2) They will not be able to recognize God's voice when He is speaking to them

- IV) **V10 NOW:** The LORD came and stood and called as at other times, Samuel Samuel And Samuel
 - a) **IMPORTANT:** This is not a dream, or a vision but an actual event
 - 1) Samuel responds reverently that he is listening with a heart to obey
 - 2) **Lu 8:18** Take heed *how you hear*.
 - 3) **Pr 2:3-5** Yes, if you cry out for discernment, and lift up your voice for understanding, If you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; Then you will understand the fear of the LORD, And find the knowledge of God.

- V) **V11-14 THEN:** The Lord said to Samuel Behold I will do something in Israel at which both ears
 - a) God tells Samuel that He is going to carry out the judgment He told Eli about
 - 1) It will be so severe that people will be shocked with horror and pain
 - 2) He will bring judgment that will not be stopped or removed
 - 3) **KEY:** No amount of sacrifices or offerings will remove what I have determined to do

- VI) **FACT:** When God closes the door, there is nothing that can be done to open it
 - a) This was literally true during the days of Noah, when God told him to enter the Ark
 - 1) **Gen 7:16** Those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; *and the LORD shut him in*
 - 2) **Heb 10:26** if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins

- VII) **V15 SO SAMUEL:** Lay down until morning and opened the doors of the house of the LORD
 - a) Samuel slept until morning, and then went about his duties, which included opening the doors
 - 1) Perhaps an enclosure now surrounded the Tent of Meeting, and these doors are spoken of

- VIII) **KEY:** Samuel does not want to tell Eli what the Lord had told him
 - a) **Who wants to be the bringer of bad news to anybody: we prefer bringing good news**
 - 1) **Pr 25:25** As cold water to a weary soul, so is good news from a far country.
 - 2) **3 Jn 1:3** I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth that is in you, just as you walk in the truth.

- IX) **V16-17 THEN:** Eli called Samuel and said Samuel, my son He answered Here I am
 - a) Eli's words reveal what great tension he was dealing with over what was said
- I) **V18 THEN SAMUEL:** Told him everything and hid nothing from him. And he said
 - a) **SAMUEL:** Tells Eli everything that was said, and holds nothing back from him

- 1) Eli knows that God is keeping His word to him, and simply resigns himself to it
 - 2) Lam 3:39 Why should any living man complain when punished for his sins?
- II) **FACT:** There are different forms of child neglect, and the effects of neglect linger over lifetimes
- a) The one that is eternal is neglecting to discipline your children in the ways of the Lord
 - 1) Eph 6:4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.
 - 2) We just do not have that long to influence our children for eternity
- III) **KEY:** Children are formed by consistent modeling of values and expressions of love
- a) They trust and believe their parents, and love them completely
 - 1) Eli had sons who were neglected when it came to discipline, and the result was his entire line was rejected by God
- IV) **V19-20 SO:** Samuel grew and the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground
- a) God established Samuel in the sight of Israel by fulfilling that which he spoke
 - 1) His credibility as a man of God was established, because God was obviously with Him
 - 2) Samuel was faithful to the Lord, and because of this God established him as a respected man
- V) **V21 THEN:** The LORD appeared again in Shiloh. *For the LORD revealed Himself to Samuel*
- a) As Samuel uttered prophetic pronouncements, God continued to manifest Himself to him
 - 1) As Samuel was inspired by God to speak, God was revealed in a deeper way within him
 - 2) Jn 14:21 He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."