

- I) V1-10 INTRO: Now **the boy** Samuel ministered to the LORD before Eli. And the word Samuel is no longer a small child, but has grown into his teen years
The word speaks of a youth, or a young man
- II) Saul called David a boy (youth) when David volunteered to fight Goliath (1 Sa 17:33)
Boy can speak of a young man, and Samuel was probably in his early teens
POINT: Samuel has grown into young adulthood
- III) It seems obvious the Samuel had not been influenced by Hophni and Phinehas
The sons of Eli were corrupt, robbing God of offerings and violating the women
They had no influence on Samuel
- IV) Eli had properly trained Samuel, and Samuel learned how to minister
Eli regretted his neglect of his own sons, and did not repeat the error
Samuel ministered to the Lord, before (**under the inspection of**) Eli
- V) Eli mentored Samuel in the ways of the Lord, and service to God
In contrast to the sinfulness of Hophni and Phinehas, Samuel ministered to God
- VI) At this time **the word of the LORD** was rare; there was no widespread revelation
PROPHETS
- VII) God had said to Israel that He would make Himself known through prophets
He would make His will known to them by revealing it to them
Jer 1:2 speaks of Jeremiah, **to whom the word of the Lord came**
- VIII) This is how He would communicate to Israel
Amos 3:7 Surely the Lord God does nothing without revealing His secret plan to His servants the prophets
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.
- IX) The prophet would be informed of His will and would instruct the people
One thing was necessary, and that would be for the people to be receptive
- X) Unbelief and rebellion provoked the Lord to cease communicating
The word of the Lord was rare and there was no widespread revelation
HOW HAD THIS HAPPENED

- I) Prior to Samuel, Judges exercised authority
They began judging the nation from the time of Joshua until Samuel
- II) During the days of the judges Israel would go through cycles
ISRAEL WENT THROUGH CYCLES
- III) Israel would be blessed, then would forsake God, enter into 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 practice idolatry and the cycle would begin once more
- IV) Sin and rebellion had made hearing the word of the Lord rare in those days
It is during this time that God established a line of prophets to reveal His will
- V) The priesthood was so ungodly that the Lord began speaking through prophets
Priests, prophets, and Kings became important, foreshadowing Messiah
- VI) It was rare, which makes it more noteworthy when the prophet spoke to Eli (2:27)
- VII) V2-5 It came to pass at that time while Eli was lying down in his place and when his
This gives us the details of how Samuel received his call
- VIII) Eli was sleeping in his quarters, a cubicle in the courtyard
He is now old and losing his sight, so Samuel provides help when needed
- IX) It is interesting to see what people were doing when they received their call
Abram was living among pagans in Ur of the Chaldees
Gen 12:1 The Lord had said to Abram: Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house; to a land that I will show you
- X) **Moses** was tending the flock of Jethro in the wilderness of Sinai (S Egypt)
Ex 3:9-10 Look! The cry of the people of Israel has reached me, and I have seen how harshly the Egyptians abuse them. Now go, for **I am sending you** to Pharaoh. You must lead my people Israel out of Egypt."
- XI) The **prophet Amos** said, concerning his call
Amos 7:15 The Lord took me from following the flock and said to me, **Go prophesy** to My people Israel

- I) Mk 1:16-20 Peter, Andrew, James and John were casting and repairing nets
Mt 9:9 Matthew was sitting at the tax office when Jesus said **Follow Me**
- II) Samuel was lying down at rest when he was called
- III) V2-3 It came to pass at that time while Eli was lying down in his place
It was not yet dawn, as the lamp of God (7 lamp candlestick) still has oil burning
- IV) Oil would be put in the lamps, would be lit at twilight and burn all through the night
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.
- V) V4-6 At this time **the Lord called Samuel.** And he answered Here I am
Samuel was asleep, when he was suddenly awakened by a voice, calling him
- VI) V4-6 His quick response reveals his character: he was there to serve Eli and God
He quickly responds: Here I am, thinking that Eli is calling for him
Eli was now old, and was weak with age and Samuel took care of him
- VII) This happens twice, and both times he is told to go back to bed
- VIII) V7 *Samuel did not yet know the LORD*, nor was the word of the LORD yet revealed
Samuel was aware of God in a very basic sense
He was not yet aware of how God moves in a personal way in someone's life
- IX) He did not yet know how to discern the voice of God in contrast to the voice of men
He was not yet experienced in how the Lord speaks, and how He calls
His innocence of these things was in fact a testimony to Eli
- X) This was Samuel's first encounter with God, and God's first communication to him
This was his introduction of the way God moves in the calling of a prophet
Job 42:5 I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear. But now my eye sees You
- XI) V8-9 The LORD called Samuel again the third time. So he arose and went to Eli and Eli realizes that God is speaking to Samuel and advises him

- I) V9 Go, lay down in your room, and wait: the Lord will speak to you once more
Ps 62:1 Truly my soul silently waits for God; From Him comes my salvation.
- II) V9 Therefore Eli said to Samuel **Go lie down** and it shall be if He calls you
You have grown up in the most holy place imaginable, and must respond properly
Respond with humility, obedience, and reverence when you hear His voice
Your upbringing should have prepared you to be receptive to Him when He speaks

APPLICATION

- III) A home filled with spiritual life creates a receptivity to the things of the Lord
Children surrounded by faith, prayer, service, and commitment are prepared to hear
- IV) Those with no knowledge of God's word have no filter to develop discernment
They will not be able to recognize God's voice when He is speaking to them
- V) V10 The LORD came and stood and called as at other times, Samuel Samuel
This is not a dream, or a vision but an actual event
Gen 12:7 The Lord appeared to Abram and said To your descendants I will give this land. And there he built an altar to the Lord who had appeared to him
- VI) V10 Samuel responds reverently that he is listening **with a heart to obey**
He is not just hearing, he is hearing with a heart to do as commanded
Lu 8:18 Take heed **how you hear.**

SOMEONE ASKS

- VII) How can I know the Lord in a deep and experiential way?
Listen to God's word with a desire to obey what you hear
Jn 14:21 Whoever has My commands and keeps them is the one who loves Me.
The one who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I too will love them and reveal Myself to them
- VIII) V11-14 The Lord said to Samuel Behold I will do something in Israel at which both
God tells Samuel that He is going to carry out the judgment He told Eli about
- IX) It will be so severe that people will be shocked with horror and pain
He will bring judgment that will not be stopped or removed
No number of sacrifices or offerings will remove what I have determined to do
- X) When God closes the door, there is nothing that can be done to open it

- I) This was literally true during the days of Noah, when God told him to enter the Ark
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**
Heb 10:26 if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins
- II) V15 Samuel lay down until morning and opened the doors of the house of the LORD
Samuel slept and then went about his duties, which included opening the doors
Perhaps an enclosure surrounded the Tent of Meeting and had doors
- III) V15 And Samuel was afraid to tell Eli the vision
This has been called The Prophet's Cross
He does not want to tell Eli because he loved, honored and respected him so much
- IV) Who wants to be the bringer of bad news to anybody: we prefer bringing good news
- V) V16-17 Eli called Samuel and said Samuel, my son He answered Here I am
Eli's words reveal what great tension he was dealing with over what was said
He had already been told by a prophet that judgment was coming upon his house
- VI) V1 Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. And he said
Eli knows that God is keeping His word to him, and simply resigns himself to it
Lam 3:39 Why should any living man complain when punished for his sins?
- VII) Eli had failed to correct his sons, and he was receiving judgment for this
They had sinned greatly and had not been restrained, and God judged them all
- VIII) There are different forms of child neglect, and the effects can linger over lifetimes
The one that is eternal is neglecting to discipline children in the ways of the Lord
Eph 6:4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.
- IX) There is a last time you teach your children, pray with them, or minister to them
We just do not have that long to influence our children for eternity
- X) Children are formed by consistent modeling of values and expressions of love
They trust and believe their parents, and love them completely

- I) Eli neglected discipline, and the result was his entire line was rejected by God
- II) V19-20 Samuel grew and the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to God established Samuel in the sight of Israel by fulfilling that which he spoke His credibility as a man of God was established, because God was with Him
- III) He was faithful to God, and because of this God established him
- IV) V21 The LORD appeared again in Shiloh. ***For the LORD revealed Himself to Samuel***
God continued revealing Himself to Samuel, there in the tabernacle
As Samuel uttered prophetic pronouncements, God continued to manifest Himself
- V) As Samuel was inspired to speak, God was revealed in a deeper way within him