



seek
His
face

I SAMUEL 3

"We are all so sunk in sin, and so wedded to the world, that we would never turn to God and seek salvation, unless He first called us by His grace. Without a divine call, no one can be saved."

- J.C. Ryle



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¹Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord in the presence of Eli. And the word of the Lord was rare in those days; there was no frequent vision.

²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his own place.



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³The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was.

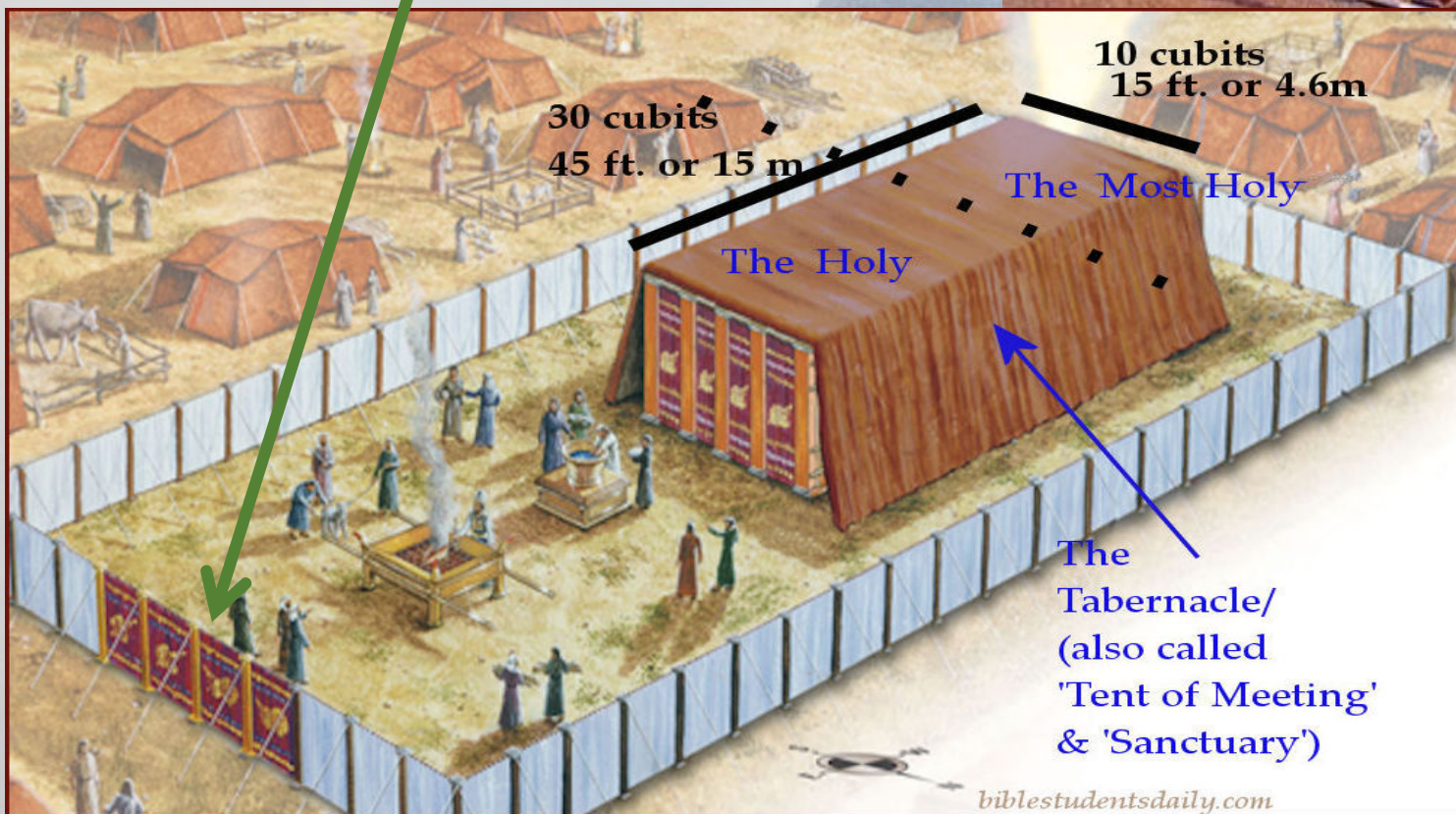
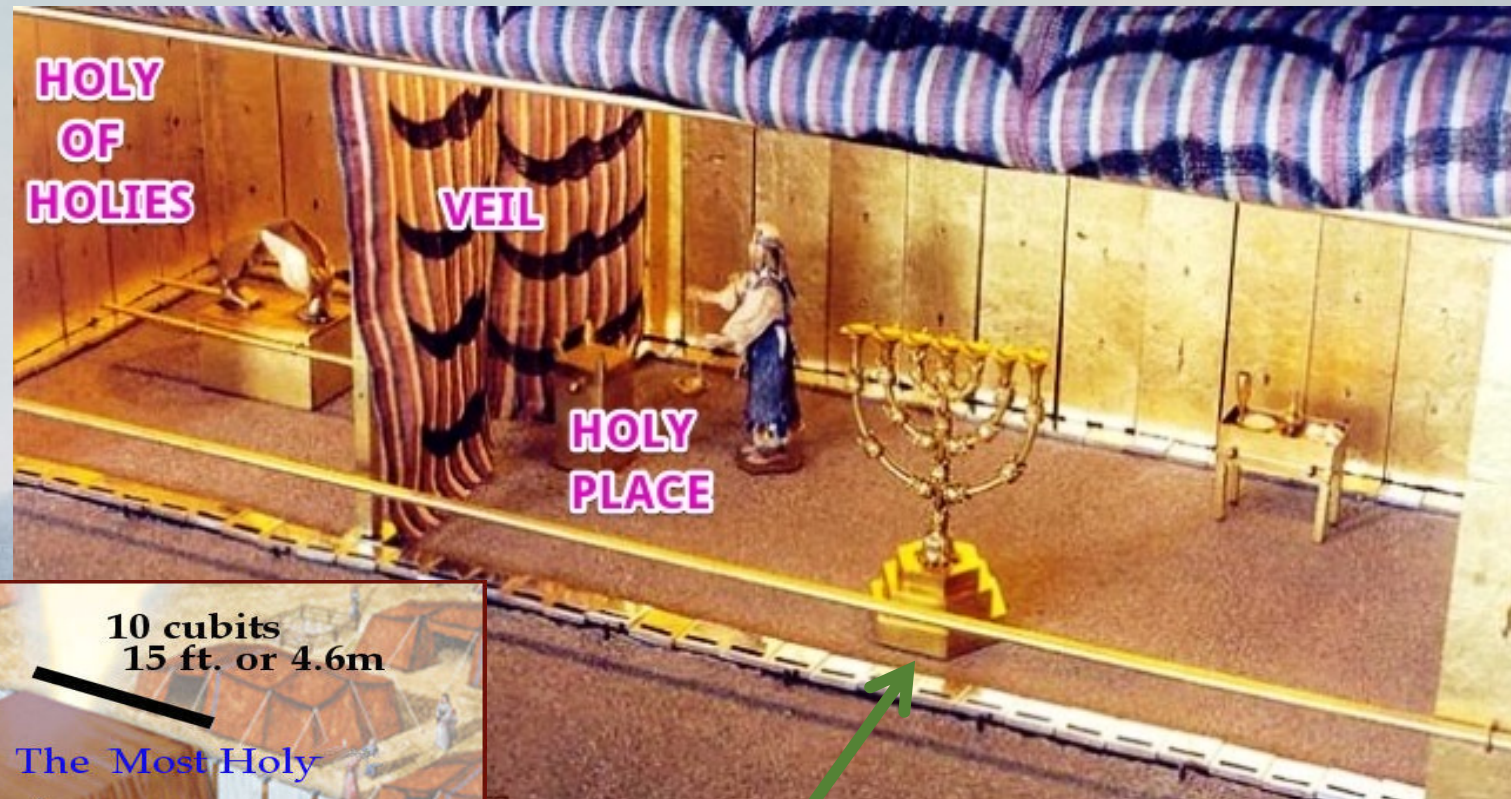
⁴Then the Lord called Samuel, and he said, “Here I am!”

⁵and ran to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call; lie down again.” So he went and lay down.



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Front Gate/Front Door



Lamp of God
Temple Lamp



SLEEP V. 1-5

Samuel –

- Young Boy – Under 12
- Served Eli – Rather than Eli's Sons
- Ministered to the Lord – "Silent Time"
- Grew Stature and Favor with God and Man
(1 Sam 2:26) Jesus as Boy (Luke 2:52)

Eli –

- High Priest of Shiloh
- Sinful Sons (Hophni and Phinehas)
- Last in Family to Serve



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⁶And the LORD called again, “Samuel!” and Samuel arose and went to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call, my son; lie down again.”

⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.



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SLOW V. 6-10

Defending Samuel –

- v. 7 “Did NOT ‘Know’ God”
- Thought Grown-Ups ONLY heard God
- There for a task and servant

Defending the Call –

- God Calls ANYONE (Available)
- God Talks to “Grown-ups” in Him
 - Age DOES NOT MATTER
- Task – Serve Him



¹¹Then the LORD said to Samuel, “Behold, I am about to do a thing in Israel at which the two ears of everyone who hears it will tingle.

¹²On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end.



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¹³And I declare to him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them.

¹⁴Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be atoned for by sacrifice or offering forever.



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SEEK V. 11-18

- “Speak, Your Servant is Listening!”
 - *What is our response?*

God –

- He will fulfill what was promised to Eli
- He will setup a new Priesthood

Samuel –

- Opened the Doors (front gate)
- Afraid to tell Eli
- Tells Eli what God said



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“Saul was once among the prophets, but he was more at home among the persecutors.”

- C.H. Spurgeon



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¹⁹And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground.

²⁰And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established as a prophet of the LORD.

²¹And the LORD appeared again at Shiloh, for the LORD revealed himself to Samuel at Shiloh by the word of the LORD.



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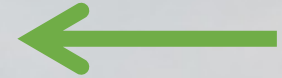
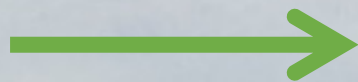
SEND V. 19-21

Samuel –

- Followed God
- Sought God
- Spoke from God
- Served God

God –

- Honored Samuel
- Loved Samuel



“The Word of God hidden in the heart is a stubborn voice to suppress.”

- Billy Graham



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OUR RESPONSE

Psalm 27 –

“When You said,
'Seek My Face'
my heart said to You,
‘Your face, O Lord, I shall seek.’”



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