

I. Israel’s Spiritual Climate (various passages)

- A. **Apathetic spiritual leadership** - Eli had grown comfortable with his position and privileges.
- B. **Sinful spiritual leadership** - Eli’s sons were stealing from God, bullying the people, and seducing the women.
- C. **Compromised spiritual leadership** - Eli chose his sons above God by ignoring their continued sin
- D. **Denounced spiritual leadership (2:27-36)** - God had already sent a prophet to declare doom to the house of Eli.
- E. **Blind spiritual leadership (3:1)** - “And the word of the Lord was rare in those days; there was no frequent vision.”

II. God’s Sovereign Choice Before (3:2-10)

- A. He chose one with humility (2:18) - “Samuel was ministering before the Lord, as a boy...”
- B. He chose one with integrity (2:26) - “Now the young man Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the Lord and with man.”
- C. He chose one from obscurity (3:3-10)
 - 1. Samuel was a mere servant boy, not Israel’s priest.
 - 2. Samuel had not yet had any personal encounter with God
 - 3. Samuel could not even discern God’s voice for himself

III. A Servant’s Sobering Challenge (3:11-17)

- A. God’s message was ominous (3:11) - “Then 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.”
- B. God’s message was dangerous (3:12-14) - **His first message was one of judgment against the current spiritual leaders!**
- C. God’s messenger was anxious (3:15) - “Samuel lay until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. And Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli.”
- D. God’s will was obvious (3:16-17) - **Samuel was commanded to tell the message God had given him. Would he obey?**

IV. Samuel’s Solid Choice (3:18-21)

- A. Samuel was faithful (18) - “So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him.”
- B. Samuel was favored(19) - “And Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him sand let none of his words fall to the ground.”
- C. Samuel was fruitful (20-21) - “And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established as a prophet of the Lord. 21 And the Lord appeared again at Shiloh, for the Lord revealed himself to Samuel at Shiloh by the word of the Lord.”