

STIR UP YOUR PRAYER

— 1 SAMUEL 3:1-10 —



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Scripture Reading

1 Samuel 3:1-10 (NKJV)

1 Now the boy Samuel ministered to the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was rare in those days; there was no widespread revelation. 2 And it came to pass at that time, while Eli was lying down in his place, and when his eyes had begun to grow so dim that he could not see, 3 and before the lamp of God went out in the tabernacle of the LORD where the ark of God was, and while Samuel was lying down, 4 that the LORD called Samuel. And he answered, "Here I am!" 5 So he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me."

And he said, "I did not call; lie down again." And he went and lay down.

6 Then the LORD called yet again, "Samuel!"

So Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." He answered, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." 7 (Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, nor was the word of the LORD yet revealed to him.)

8 And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. So he arose and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you did call me."

Then Eli perceived that the LORD had called the boy. 9 Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and it shall be, if He calls you, that you must say, Speak, LORD, for Your servant hears." So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

10 Now the LORD came and stood and called as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!"
And Samuel answered, "Speak, for Your servant hears."

Introduction

We are in a season of swift transition as our world shifts economically, ideologies are shifting, spiritually, man is entertaining the idea of life without God. Where man becomes a god unto himself and no longer seeks the face of the Lord. Mankind has become absorbed in its own intelligence, its own ambition, its own conquest, its own will and mankind would destroy itself to try and attain those goals.

The Creator is grieved because we will choose death instead of life. We will choose darkness instead of light. We will choose sin instead of righteousness. We will yield to temptation instead of stand against it.

With these failures comes a generational slipping away. One generation losing confidence in the example of its predecessor, questioning if what they were taught were ever true. When the only thing that is true for any generation is the fact that we need the Lord!

There is not one generation that can say they survived without the help of the Lord. And we will not make it without Him.

The Scripture we just read points to a generational shift happening in Israel where the priesthood of Eli was sun-setting as the priesthood of Samuel was sun-rising. Where the Glory of God was shifting from leadership that wasn't seeking the Lord to new younger leadership that would seek the Lord. It was a changing of the guard!

A Changing of the Guard

One of the things I heard while asking the Lord about where we are right now, and I heard the words "the changing of the guard." It marks a pivotal time of transition where a change is needed.

The Changing of the Guard — Historical Significance

Military Origins: A practice of replacing soldiers assigned to protect important people, places, and assets.

Continuous Protection: Ensures that the assigned post is never left unattended.

Transfer of Responsibility: Authority and accountability pass from the outgoing guard to the incoming guard.

Preparation: The incoming guard must understand the assignment before assuming duty.

Honor and Succession: Recognizes the outgoing guard's service while commissioning the next.

Preservation of Mission: Personnel may change, but the mission remains.

Connection to 1 Samuel 3:1–10:

God began speaking to the new guard while the old guard was still in position.

God began preparing the new guard while the old guard was still operating.

The Lord's Hand had moved to the new guard while the old guard begun realizing that His Hand had moved.

I believe that's where we are today! A changing of the guard is at hand.

The guard may change, but the assignment remains. God was preparing Samuel while Eli was still at his post.

What's the Assignment?



The Care of the Lampstand

(Lev. 24:1–4)

20 "And you shall command the children of Israel that they bring you pure oil of pressed olives for the light, to cause the lamp to burn continually.

1 Samuel 3:2-4 (NKJV)

2 And it came to pass at that time, while Eli was lying down in his place, and when his eyes had begun to grow so dim that he could not see, 3 and before the lamp of God went out in the tabernacle of the LORD where the ark of God was, and while Samuel was lying down, 4 that the LORD called Samuel. And he answered, "Here I am!"

The Lord commanded that the lamp should not go out!

But here in 1Samuel 3:3, the lamp was almost out.

But long before the lamp physically was dimming in the Temple, the lamp of the love of The Lord had dimmed in the hearts of the people and in the hearts of the priest and his family.

the passion had dimmed

the commitment level had dimmed

the diligence had dimmed

the prayerfulness had dimmed

the commandment of the Lord was not being kept and God was angry

Eli the priest had 2 sons Hophni and Phineous who would have been responsible to assist their father in the upkeep of the Temple and see to all of the Levite duties.

Instead they were fattening themselves with the meet offerings coming to the temple and also trying to catch the women who served at the entrance of the temple to sleep with them (this is seen in chapter 2).

Eli had lost control of his sons and God judged him for it.

An unnamed prophet came to Eli in Chapter 2 and delivered a severe Word to Eli that God would not allow anyone in his family descendants to grow old; they would die in their prime; if any grew past their prime, God would weaken them and take their eyesight

not only that but Hophni & Phineous would die the same day

the redemptive part of the prophecy was that God would raise up for Himself a faithful priest who would do what was in the Lord's own heart.

Here in Chapter 3 we see the prophecy had set in and Eli was old but weakened and unable to see.

the lamp of eyes was going out

and so was the lamp in the Temple of the Lord

It was at this point that the Lord was getting ready to SPEAK! "Speak Lord!"

Why the Lamp Must Keep Burning — Leviticus 24:1-4

God's Presence: Symbolized God's presence and illumination among His people.

Continual Worship: Represented faithful, ongoing service before the Lord.

Priestly Responsibility: The priests were commanded to maintain the lamps with pure olive oil.

Generational Stewardship: The responsibility continued from one generation of priests to the next.

Community Participation: Israel supplied the oil; the priests tended the flame.

Faithful Obedience: The lamps were maintained from evening until morning according to God's command.

The Lamp should not go out!
That's the assignment!
Maintain the Presence of God in our midst
Through prayer
Through worship
Through the reading of His Word
Through obedience

God Wants Us to Hear Him

There comes a time, when the desire to hear the Word of the Lord must come before
our own level of comfort
our own plans
things that we want for ourselves
even the religious order of the day
the priesthood, the position, the power, the prestige

God wants for us to become in-tuned with what's important to Him
He faithfully hears us, it's time for us to hear Him
Even if what He has to say is uncomfortable, we must hear Him
Even if He corrects us, we must hear Him
Even if He's about to shift the landscape of things and shake up what we had previously become
comfortable with, we must hear Him
"SPEAK LORD, YOUR SERVANTS ARE LISTENING."

When prayer becomes weighted in "hear us oh God" and doesn't shift to "speak Lord, we are
listening" we become a people absorbed in what we want and insensitive to what the Lord wants.