

God's Call to Samuel

Read 1 Samuel 1; 2:18-21; 3:1-10

We have one detailed story as to how the word of the Lord came to a certain young prophet.

Hannah was a godly Jewish woman who lived during the 11th century B.C., during the time of the judges. She had longed and prayed to have children, but to no avail. Finally, in desperation she prayed that if the Lord would give her a son, she would give the child back to Him, completely and forever. She prayed so fervently and in such deep distress that when the priest saw her praying silently, he thought she was drunk.

God answered her prayer. When the child Samuel was weaned, Hannah delivered him to the priest Eli, at the house of the Lord in Shiloh. There he stayed, though his mother would come and bring him a new robe once a year.

That was Samuel's heritage. His mother's song of thanksgiving to God at the birth of her son, recorded in 1 Samuel 2:1-10, became the basis for Mary's Magnificat in Luke 1:46-55.

The coming of God's word to Samuel is beautifully recorded in 1 Samuel 3:1-10. A word from God was rare in those days, and Samuel was only a boy. As he laid down one evening, the Lord called to him. Samuel ran to Eli, and said "Here I am," thinking the old priest had summoned him. That's how clear the call seemed to the boy. Eli told him that he hadn't called and instructed him to go back and lie down. After this happened a second time, Eli realized that the Lord was calling Samuel. He told the boy to go lie down, and if the voice called again, he should answer, "Speak, Lord for Your servant is listening" (1 Samuel 3:9). Samuel obeyed, and at God's third call, he answered as Eli had instructed.

And what was the prophetic word that God was calling the boy to deliver? That the house of Eli, who was the head priest and Samuel's guardian, was about to be judged for the sins of Eli's sons. That was Samuel's initiation into delivering God's solemn word. That was what it would mean to be God's chosen servant and spokes-person.

Listen & Sing: [Here I Am](#) (from [LNWhymns.com](#))

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