### 1 Samuel

## Chapter 3

1Well, the boy SamuEl served as an official of Jehovah under Eli, the [High] Priest. And back then, the Word of Jehovah was prized, because the [Priests] weren’t being given any visions of what they were supposed to do.  
  
2Then one day, Eli went to sleep inside [the Tent of God], and because his eyes had grown weak and he was [almost] blind, 3the [sacred] lampstand of God had been left burning.  
  
Well, SamuEl had also [slept] in the Holy Place of Jehovah, near the Chest of Proofs; 4and there the Lord called SamuEl.  
  
He said:  
  
 ‘SamuEl!’  
  
And SamuEl replied:  
  
 ‘I’m here!’  
  
5Then he ran to Eli and said:  
  
 ‘I’m here… You called for me?’  
  
And Eli replied:  
  
 ‘I didn’t call you, go back to sleep!’  
  
So he went back to his bed.  
  
6But then the Lord called to him again, saying:  
  
 ‘SamuEl.’  
  
So he went over to Eli again and said:  
  
 ‘Look! I’m here, for you called me.’  
  
And Eli said:  
  
 ‘I didn’t call you, child! Go back to sleep!’  
  
7Well, SamuEl didn’t realize that it was God speaking, and that the words of Jehovah were about to be revealed to him. 8So when the Lord called SamuEl a third time, he got up and went to Eli and said:  
  
 ‘Look, I’m here; for you did call me!’  
  
And it was then that Eli realized it was the Lord who was calling the boy.  
  
9So he said to SamuEl:  
  
 ‘Go back to bed, child; but if you hear Him calling again, you should say:  
  
 ‘Speak to me O Lord, because Your servant is listening.’  
  
Well, SamuEl then went back to his bed, 10and the Lord came and called to him again, saying:  
  
 ‘SamuEl… SamuEl!’  
  
And SamuEl replied:  
  
 ‘Speak, because Your servant is listening!’  
  
11And the Lord said to SamuEl:  
  
 ‘Look! Although the people have come to think that My words have been extinguished in IsraEl, from now on, everyone will hear them in both of their ears!  
  
 12‘For the day has come when I’ll bring about all the things that I said against the house of Eli, and I’ll finish them off!  
  
 13‘I told [Eli] that I’d punish him and his house throughout the ages for the unrighteousness of his sons, because he knows of the evil things that they’re doing against God and he hasn’t punished them!  
  
 14‘So, I swore an oath against the house of Eli that throughout the ages they’ll pay for the sins that they committed while they were offering up the incense and the sacrifices.’  
  
15Well thereafter, SamuEl went back to bed until the morning.  
  
  
And when he got up early in the day and opened the entrance to the House of Jehovah, he was afraid to tell Eli what he saw.  
  
16But Eli called to him, saying:  
  
 ‘SamuEl… SamuEl… Child!’  
  
And he replied:  
  
 ‘I’m here!’  
  
17Then [Eli] said:  
  
 ‘Tell me every word that you were told… Don’t try to hide it from me! May God [punish you] if you don’t tell me every word that He spoke into your ears!’  
  
18So SamuEl reported everything that was said to him… He didn’t try to hide a single word.  
  
And Eli said:  
  
 ‘Jehovah is good, and He will do everything that He said He will do.’  
  
  
19Well thereafter, SamuEl became great, because Jehovah was with him, and there wasn’t a word he was told that failed to come true in the land. 20So all of IsraEl, from Dan to BeerSheba, came to know that SamuEl was a faithful prophet of Jehovah.  
  
21For Jehovah started showing Himself at ShiLoh again, revealing Himself to SamuEl and speaking to him there. Thus SamuEl became the trusted prophet of Jehovah throughout all of IsraEl from one end of the land to the other.  
  
However, Eli was very old, and his sons kept doing things that were wicked before Jehovah.