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Just to remind us all of what is happening in and around the Tabernacle at Shiloh. Eli has been the Priest for many years and is from the Tribe of Levi as God ordered as the Priestly Tribe. Eli has failed in many ways as a father to his two sons Phineas and Hophni. They have committed many offenses against God and brought a curse on their father and the future males in their family. Samuel knew of his son's activities and he did not correct them. It became an affront to God.

Samuel has now been at the Tabernacle ministering to God for and unknown amount of time, but he is recognized as having a heart for God.

1 Samuel 3

The Lord Calls Samuel

1And the child Samuel ministered unto the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; *there was no open vision.*

Eli was Samuel's mentor teaching him the things of the Lord and the various duties in and around the Tabernacle.

The last part of this verse says, ***“there was no open vision”***. Meaning God had withdrawn visions that would normally be given to the Priests and Prophets. The reason is not specifically stated but likely due to the evil of the Priests, primarily Hophni and Phineas.

These next few verses set the stage for the death of Eli and the succession of Samuel at the hand of God.

2And it came to pass at that time, when Eli was laid down in his place, and his eyes began to wax dim, *that* he could not see;

Eli is reaching the end of his time on earth and his eyes had begun to fail him. He would be off to one side of the Tabernacle proper in a room and his assistant Samuel would be in another room not far from Eli.

3And ere the lamp of God went out in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was, and Samuel was laid down *to sleep*;

vs 3 tells us this was during the night as the lamp was to be kept burning from evening till morning. Also, the name Samuel means **“heard of God”**.

Exodus 27: 21In the tabernacle of the congregation without the vail, which is before the testimony, Aaron and his sons shall order it from evening to morning before the

LORD: it shall be a statute for ever unto their generations on the behalf of the children of Israel.

I have only met one person who ever said the voice of the Lord spoken to them clearly and that was Charlie A. *(last name left out)* During this time in Israel according to 1 Samuel 3:1 GOD had not spoken to any Priest or Prophet for some time again likely due to the evil committed by the High Priest's sons Hophni and Phineas and Eli not addressing there evil deeds. When the Religious leadership failed the entire country was in peril as we can see in our own country.

Samuel not being acquainted with God in a personal way nor never having been given His Word, would not recognize His Voice. Samuel would need guidance from someone who would know God and could direct him.

4That the LORD called Samuel: and he answered, Here *am* I. 5And he ran unto Eli, and said, Here *am* I; for thou calledst me. And he said, I called not; lie down again. And he went and lay down. 6And the LORD called yet again, Samuel. And Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, Here *am* I; for thou didst call me. And he answered, I called not, my son; lie down again. 7Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, neither was the word of the LORD yet revealed unto him.

Interesting fact that Samuel who was serving in the Tabernacle under the High Priest Eli but did not know the Lord God. How do you suppose that would be?

“Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, neither was the word of the LORD yet revealed unto him.”

At this time in God’s timing, we do not find the indwelling of the Holy Spirit even in Priests and Prophets at least that is spoken of as in the New Covenant. We see more often an empowerment of or by the Holy Spirit for specific people and times.

Numbers 27:18 18And the LORD said unto Moses, Take thee Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay thine hand upon him; (emphasis mine)

1 Samuel 16: 12And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he. 13Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah. (emphasis mine)

1 Samuel 10: 10And when they came thither to the hill, behold, a company of prophets met him; and the Spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them. (emphasis mine)

In the book of Judges, you will find the Holy Spirit coming upon these Judges to carry out their tasks of judging Israel. It was God’s practice that when the person needing the Holy Spirit for a specific task, completed the task the Holy Spirit was removed. We

see 1 Samuel 16:14 in the case of King Saul that God removed the power of the Holy Spirit He had given Saul.

1 Samuel 16:14But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him.

There were people who God would loan the power of the Holy Spirit regardless of their “spiritual” heart condition. Once the task at hand was done the Holy Spirit was removed.

In Samuel’s case, in his early life he had not had any direct contact with God at this point. God had not spoken to him nor shown Samuel any visions. It seems like a very clinical setting where you do your job in a very sanitary way with really no interaction with anyone other than the Priest. For whatever reason Eli had not shared with Samuel the WORD of the LORD. The WORD would have been in scrolls and usually only a Priest would have access to them and Samuel was not a Priest.

I can’t help but think even though we are not told that Hannah would have told Samuel about God and the miracle he Samuel was to her. And she would have explained why he was taken to the Tabernacle to serve God. But apparently no real relationship had developed between God and Samuel except God knew Samuels heart.

8And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, Here *am* I; for thou didst call me. And Eli perceived that the LORD had called the child.

The fact that it took Eli 3 times to recognize that God was calling on Samuel may be of some pertinent fact. Eli, and his son's had gone astray for some time, not having heard from God distanced Eli from a sensitivity to God and His calling.

Eli finally got the message and told his young assistant what to do when it happened again.

9Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Samuel's encounter with God is not simply a voice calling but according to this next verse it would be what has been called a theophany, where God manifests Himself in some physical form that can be seen by Samuel. The gist of this appearing would verify the importance of this first meeting with God and the importance of the message. God never took lightly His relationship with the Priests of the Levitical Priesthood nor with His Prophets. This was a BIG deal to have God in some form standing before His Prophets and Priests.

At this point God is moving from Judges to a King and Samuel will be an essential part in that development by God.

How would you like your first contact with the Creator of the Universe to be about the demise of your mentor and his family?

God's Judgment against Eli

10And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth.

Obedience even though Samuel did not know God in a personal way. His mentor Eli told Samuel what to do and he did it without question.

11And the LORD said to Samuel, Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle.

This word “tingle” in the Greek from Strong’s Concordance:

“Pronunciation: tsaw-lal’

Phonetic Spelling: (tsaw-lal’)

KJV: quiver, tingle

NASB: tingle, quivered

Word Origin: [a primitive root (identical with [H6749](#) (לָלַץ - [sank](#)) through the idea of vibration)]”

Teeth chatter and ears reddened with fear of what is spoken and especially by who it is spoken. **God will not be mocked!** There is nothing I doubt as dreadful as being cursed by God.

Similar words were spoken by God just before the destruction of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar in 2 Kings and in Jeremiah. So how big was that announcement by God?

2 Kings 21:12 Therefore thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Behold, I am bringing such evil upon Jerusalem and Judah, that whosoever heareth of it, both his ears shall tingle.

In 2 Kings 21, in this case King Manasa had done great evil in Israel and Jerusalem. God became angry with Manasa laid out this destruction.

Jeremiah 19:3 And say, Hear ye the word of the LORD, O kings of Judah, and inhabitants of Jerusalem; Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will bring evil upon this place, the which whosoever heareth, his ears shall tingle.

In the case of Jeremiah, the “weeping prophet” he was tasked by God to preach to the 2 Southern Tribes of Judah to repent. The 10 northern tribes had already fallen to the Assyrians and Judah was next. Much of what Jeremiah experience I think can mimic what is happening today. This is a partial quote from Got Questions as to who Jeremiah was. Tell me if this does not sound like America and Europe today?

“Obviously, the people of Israel had become so hardened by the numbing effects of sin that they no longer believed God, nor did they fear Him. Jeremiah preached for 40 years, and not once did he see any real success in changing or softening the hearts and minds of his stubborn, idolatrous people. The other prophets of Israel had witnessed some successes, at least for a little while, but not Jeremiah. He was speaking to a brick wall; however, his words were not wasted. They were pearls being cast before swine, in a sense, and they were convicting every person who heard them and refused to heed the warning.....

.....Jeremiah was given the task of delivering an unpopular, convicting message to Judah, one that caused him great mental anguish, as well as making him despised in the eyes of his people. God says that His truth sounds like “foolishness” to those who are lost, but to believers it is the very words of life ([1 Corinthians 1:18](#)). He also says that the time will come when people will not tolerate the truth ([2 Timothy 4:3-4](#)). Those in Judah in Jeremiah’s day did not want to hear what he had to say, and his constant warning of judgment annoyed them. This is true of the world today, as believers who are following God’s instructions are warning the lost and dying world of impending judgment ([Revelation 3:10](#)). Even though most are not listening, we must persevere in proclaiming truth in order to rescue some from the terrible judgment that will inevitably come.”

Back to God’s judgement on Eli and his son’s.

12In that day I will perform against Eli all *things* which I have spoken concerning his house: when I begin, I will also make an end.

1 Samuel 2: 31Behold, the days come, that I will cut off thine arm, and the arm of thy father's house, that there

*shall not be an old man in thine house. **32**And thou shalt see an enemy in my habitation, in all the wealth which God shall give Israel: and there shall not be an old man in thine house for ever. **33**And the man of thine, whom I shall not cut off from mine altar, shall be to consume thine eyes, and to grieve thine heart: and all the increase of thine house shall die in the flower of their age. **34**And this shall be a sign unto thee, that shall come upon thy two sons, on Hophni and Phinehas; in one day they shall die both of them.*

13For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not. **14**And therefore I have sworn unto the house of Eli, that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be purged with sacrifice nor offering for ever.

God judges with complete knowledge not only of events and sins but of the heart of the sinner. God's knows your heart, if you are an unbeliever, you will be judged, just as surely as the High Priest and his sons were judged by God.

Samuel Shares his Vision

15And Samuel lay until the morning, and opened the doors of the house of the LORD. And Samuel feared to shew Eli the vision.

As a matter of housekeeping, it would have been Samuel's job to put out the lamp and open the doors of the Tabernacle each

morning. This morning, Samuel did not want to do his routine, because in his heart he knew Eli would ask what God had said.

16Then Eli called Samuel, and said, Samuel, my son. And he answered, Here *am* I. **17**And he said, What *is* the thing that *the LORD* hath said unto thee? I pray thee hide *it* not from me: God do so to thee, and more also, if thou hide *any* thing from me of all the things that he said unto thee.

Samuel and Eli had been together long enough that Eli could likely tell that Samuel did not want to have this conversation. So Eli employs the threat of joining him in any curse if he does not tell him everything God said. Besides, Eli knew he had failed with his son's and his responsibility to God. We all know that feeling deep in the pit of your stomach when you know bad news is coming and you deserve it.

18And Samuel told him every whit, and hid nothing from him. And he said, It *is* the LORD: let him do what seemeth him good.

Galatians 6: 6Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things. 7Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. 8For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

To Eli's credit he had the strength of character and love of God to simply say, God's Will over my will.

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

In Deuteronomy 18 when God instituted the Prophet He declared that the words of a True Prophet would come to pass just as stated. However, a false prophet would lie and God would destroy him.

Deuteronomy 18: 15The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken; 16According to all that thou desiredst of the LORD thy God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, neither let me see this great fire any more, that I die not. 17And the LORD said unto me, They have well spoken that which they have spoken. 18I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. 19And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him. 20But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die. 21And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken? 22When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.

Samuel would become that Prophet to Israel and anoint kings.

Samuel would not want to anoint any King as he believed God

was their King. Even so, he would carry out God's Word in obedience.

20And all Israel from Dan even to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established *to be* a prophet of the LORD. 21And the LORD appeared again in Shiloh: for the LORD revealed himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the LORD.

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