

Character Study: Samuel

Part 1 – Samuel Hears from the Lord

I Samuel 2:11-3:20

What's happening?

- Samuel ministered to the Lord under Eli the priest. Eli's sons also ministered, but they were guilty of sin because they took for themselves the best meat that was to be sacrificed as an offering to the Lord. (2:11-17)
- One evening Samuel heard the voice of the Lord, which he mistakenly thought Eli was speaking. After Samuel heard the voice for the third time, Eli realized that it must be the Lord and encouraged Samuel to respond by saying "Speak, Lord, for your servant hears." (3:1-10)
- Samuel heard the voice again and responded to the Lord. The Lord told Samuel how judgment was about to come on the house of Eli because of the sin of Eli's sons and because Eli did not restrain them. (3:11-14)
- The next morning, Eli anxiously went to Samuel to hear what the Lord had told him. Eli learned of the fate his family would have to face because of their sin. (3:15-18)
- The Lord had spoken through His chosen man, and all Israel heard that Samuel had been established as a prophet. (3:19-20)

What's God doing?

- > God showed His justice by revealing the necessary consequences and punishment for those who go against His word.
- > God showed Samuel that as His spokesman, the messages he would deliver would not always make people happy. Having a man willing to speak His word, even when the message would not be popular, God established the role of a prophet (a prominent position in Israel).

What's to learn?

→ Samuel was chosen by God because he was surrendered to do the Lord's will, even if it meant carrying out difficult tasks. Surrendering your will for the Lord's will involves a willingness to do whatever God asks of you, regardless if the task is easy or difficult. Are you a person the Lord can use for whatever task He desires of you?