

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

First Samuel Lesson 6
The Call of Samuel

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We will start this lesson in 1 Samuel 3. Let's read verses 1 through 10. This whole chapter is about the call of Samuel. 1 Samuel 3:1-10 *And 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. 2 And 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; 3 And 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; 4 That the LORD called Samuel: and he answered, Here am I. 5 And 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. 6 And 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. 7 Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, neither was the word of the LORD yet revealed unto him. 8 And 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. 9 Therefore 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. 10 And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth.*

There are many good lessons to be learned from this book. We will try to cover a few. Commentaries do not really give these verses the explanation they are due, so read through the above verses again, and we will dive in to see what God will show us.

The Bible says in verse 7, *Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD...*

On a side note, if you read through the stories of Samuel, do not make the mistake that most Bible expositors do - Samuel was not born again because to be born again, one has to put his faith and trust in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ – His death, burial and resurrection. Jesus is not going to be crucified, buried, and rise again for at least a thousand years after Samuel lived. There is nobody from Genesis to Malachi that stands up and says, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." What we find in the life of Samuel is the same thing we find in the life of David, Abraham, Noah, Moses, and others. We find men responding to the revelation that God gave them by faith. In Samuel's case, it was a call to proclaim God's words to Eli.

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The Bible tells us in Romans 1 & 2, God will judge the Gentiles that never had His words. He will judge them by what they had.

1 Samuel 3:1 *...the word of the LORD was precious in those days; there was no open vision.* Do you know why diamonds are precious and clay is not? Because there is clay everywhere. Diamonds are a rare thing. Do you know what was a rare thing in Samuel's day? To be able to go into a gathering of believers and hear the truth from the scriptures.

The word of God was far more precious in Samuel's day. God spoke directly to Noah, Abraham, and Moses. God met with Joshua out on a battlefield. Now, the Bible says in Samuel's day, there was no open vision. (God was not audibly speaking to man.) There was only God's written word. It was a rare thing to find somebody that would declare the truth from God's written word in Samuel's day.

In our day, there is no open vision. Do you know why? When Malachi wrote of a curse period and ended the Old Testament, it was four hundred years before God spoke again, and He spoke through the coming of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Many of today's TV preachers want to set a date for the Rapture or the Second Coming. (It sells books). Yet there is no open vision today. God sent a man to close the scriptures with the book of Revelation, and God has not spoken since. He said everything He needed to say. He gave us a full and complete Revelation of His mind, purposes, and His will. When you hear someone on TV say, "I got a new word from God... God spoke to me in a vision... I got a word of knowledge...", just turn him off. He's lying!

God has said everything He is going to say and ended His Revelation with a severe warning Revelation 22:18-19 *For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.*

1 Samuel 3:2 *And 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;* What a picture of the priesthood. After all we have seen of Eli to this point, that lying down speaks of slothfulness. His dimness of the eyes (he could not see) speaks of his spiritual blindness. (Will explain further in lesson).

1 Samuel 3:3 *And 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;* Turn over to Exodus 27:20-21 *And thou shalt command the children of Israel, that they bring thee pure oil olive beaten for the light, to cause the lamp to burn always. 21 In the*

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tabernacle of the congregation without the veil, 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.

God has given His word. The testimony on the tables of stone is in the ark of the covenant. It is in the temple, in the tabernacle, and there is supposed to be a light there shining and illuminating that testimony all day and all night. Somebody is supposed to always be there to make sure that light does not go out! Eli is lying down to sleep.

The Bible says in verse 3, *ere the lamp of God went out...* Just before the lights went out, God said, "Samuel, Samuel... Oh, Samuel..." You know that saddens my heart. I look around in this world at churches and can see what is going on. Men are supposed to be ministering the truth of God, and they're not doing it. Those who ought to be standing for the Lord are lying down on the job. The lights in our nation are just about to go out everywhere. God's not willing that any should perish. (2 Peter 3:9) God wants all men everywhere to be saved. (1 Timothy 2:4)

The Lord has called us to be saved, to be His witnesses. What an honour He has given to us in these last days with the lights going out in the very house of God and the ministry falling asleep and letting the light go out. Just before **total darkness** sets in and the **whole nation** falls into ruin, God calls you and me to accept Him. He saves us, gives us His Holy Spirit, teaches us His word, and says, "You shall be **MY WITNESSES.**" What an honour!

In Amos 8 the Bible tells us in the last days there will be a famine, but not of food, rather of hearing the word of truth Amos 8:11 *Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD:* We may be close to these days now, as it was also in the days of Samuel. Spiritual darkness is beginning to settle over our land. It may get dim. It may become a rare thing to find a Church where the word of God is taught and preached correctly, but the gospel light will not go out until the trumpet sounds.

Who was Samuel? Just a boy whose momma made a coat for him once a year. That's about it. Do we read anything in the Bible about his exceptional education or intellect? No. Do we read anything in the Bible about his physical strength like Samson? No. Do we read anything in the Bible about his training like Moses? No. All we know about this fellow is that his mother dedicated him to the Lord when he was born, he has a new coat every year (1 Samuel 1:22; 1 Samuel 2:19) and he works in the temple for Eli.

God was just looking for a spokesman. That's all He wanted. Just somebody that would declare His truth!

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The book of Samuel begins with a light going out in the house of God, and it ends with the sunlight of the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. The book of Revelation begins with the lights going out in the church of God... God saying to those seven candlesticks, "Strengthen the things to remain and repent... do the first works... trim your lights... the lights are going out!" And it ends with the Lamb, the light of God's holy city. (2 Samuel 23:4; Revelation 3:2; Revelation 22:5)

1 Samuel 3:4 Notice the heart condition of this young man. Words mean something according to the Bible. *Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.* (Matthew 12:34; Luke 6:45) Jesus said, "I'll judge you out of your own mouth." What we say shows what we are. *The LORD called Samuel: and he answered, "Here am I. Here am I."* How does Jesus Christ speak all through the gospels? *Here I am.* What is God's name? I AM. I don't know if it's a conscious thing or subconscious thing, but Samuel shows a good heart. He wouldn't even speak God's name. He wouldn't take the name of the LORD his God in vain. He just wouldn't use it without meaning. He said, *Here am I... not Here I am.*

Do you know whom God calls?. He calls busy men and humble men. Samuel is diligent, busy, hard-working; he is a humble fellow. He said, "*Here am I.*"

(Verse 5.) *And he ran... (Not wasting any time.) 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. 6 And the LORD called yet again... Aren't you glad the Lord called you more than once? Some of you went to a priest many times before you got to God. Amen. I'm glad the Lord didn't just call once and move on.*

1 Samuel 3:6-7 *And 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. 7 Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, neither was the word of the LORD yet revealed unto him.* Now you know what the implication is there. Even in these times, you can't know the Lord apart from His word. God reveals himself through His word. *8 And 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... (He catches on about as quick as Peter did.) Eli perceived that the LORD had called the child.* He's not grown. He's a child. The Bible says, *the LORD had called the child...*

Richard Irby spent several years in Japan as a missionary. He tried every way he knew to reach the adults and just could not get through to them. He finally decided to witness to the six, seven, and eight-year-old children. He said, "They'll be grown-ups in fifteen years. Why wait? In fifteen years, I'll have a church full of saved adults to go out and preach the word of God throughout Japan."

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Do not let the world convince you not to tell your children about the Lord. The devil's pushing his views on them now. The world is not going to wait until they are older to start telling them about sin. Go ahead, tell them about Jesus now, so they will be ready to meet the Lord.

Verse 9 says this. *Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, (Now watch this real carefully.) 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. 10 And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth.*

See the significance to why Samuel answered as he did? He is a young man who is being raised by Eli who knows right and believes right but doesn't have the courage to stand for it. His influences are Hophni and Phinehas with all their wickedness and all the ungodly stuff that is likely going on in the house of God. He is a bit cautious in answering.

Look at verse 10. *And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times...* Jesus Christ is right there in that temple, standing in the door of Samuel's bedroom. The Bible says **the LORD CAME, and STOOD, and CALLED...** Now pretend you are Samuel... The only authorities you are familiar with are Eli and Hophni and Phinehas. You would not call anybody LORD until you find out who they were and what they wanted. Samuel is not going to make a commitment until he finds out who's talking to him. When he heard that message, he was convinced it was the LORD.

Revelation 3:20 *Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.*

Notes

KJV

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Name _____

Note: (*) indicates that you must include scripture with your answers, including the T/F.

1. What is meant by the term “no open vision?” *
2. How does someone get born again in the Old Testament?
3. What was Samuel’s first assignment from God? *
4. What verse tells the heart condition of Samuel? *
5. How does our days and Samuel’s days seem alike?
6. What special gifts did Samuel have that you and I may not?
7. What kind of people does God call for His service?
8. What did Richard Irby learn in Japan?
9. How many times did the Lord have to call Samuel before he realized it was the Lord? *

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10. Compare the way the Lord called Samuel in 1 Samuel 3:10 to the way in which He calls us in Revelation. *
11. What is the significance of the way Samuel answered the Lord when He called?
12. Define Luke 6:45.
13. What should you do when you hear or read that someone has been given a new revelation from God? *
14. Explain 1 Samuel 3:3 in relation to 2 Samuel 23:4; Revelation 3:2, and Revelation 22:5. (Use a separate sheet of paper to clarify your answer).

True/false

- You should witness to children under 7. They will understand.
- The audible voice of God is a more sure word of testimony than a book with words. *
- Eli's lying down speaks of slothfulness.

**Scripture memorization**

2 Peter 1:19; Revelation 22:18-19

Write out these verses on the back of this page: (must be in KJV)

any questions?