

FIRST SAMUEL

Lesson 7: Chapter 3:1-10, The Call of Samuel

5 August 2016

Side note: this chapter records the CALL of Samuel as a prophet. It does not record Samuel's path to becoming a born again Christian by faith in Jesus Christ. Samuel did not know the Lord (vs 7) until the Lord revealed Himself to him (vs. 21), but that does not make him a New Testament Christian. There were no Christians until Jesus Christ died, was buried, and rose again over a thousand years later.

VS. 1

- a. The word of the Lord was precious in those days. It was precious because it was a rare thing to find any man who would faithfully proclaim the word of God. _____
 - b. There was no open vision: God spoke directly to the prophets of old (Noah, Abraham, Moses, Joshua, etc.), but He wasn't speaking to anybody in Samuel's day. They had to rely on the existing written Scriptures, but it was precious and rare. _____
 - c. God's written words are better than an open vision (2 Peter 1:16-20). Open visions are subject to your personal interpretation and understanding. You might be hearing an unclean spirit. God's Scriptures are "**more sure.**" _____
 - d. Open visions ceased at the completion of the 66 books of the Bible. The Bible contains everything that God wants us to know and study. He has nothing more to add to the Bible through any open visions. _____
 - e. Open visions have been counterfeited in these last days to produce unbiblical religions such as the Charismatic movement and Mormonism. _____
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VSS. 2-3

- a. In those days Eli—"laid down in his place" (a picture of slothfulness in the priesthood) and "**his eyes began to wax dim**" (pictures spiritual blindness). _____
 - b. The "**lamp of God**" was about to go out "**in the temple of the Lord.**" The priesthood was responsible to ensure that light never goes out (Exodus 27:20-21). _____
 - c. Just as the light was about to go out in the tabernacle, God called Samuel to be His witness.
 - d. Today you have been called to be the Lord's witness (Acts 1:8) at a time when the ministers are laying down on the job and the spiritual light is very dim in every nation. _____
 - e. When the Lord Jesus Christ returns to this earth, "**HE shall be as the light of the morning, when the sun riseth, even a morning without clouds...**" (2 Sam. 23:4, Rev. 21:23). In the meantime, we need to try and be the light of the world (Matt. 5:14), reflecting the light of Jesus Christ (John 8:12) into the darkness. _____
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VS. 4 Samuel answered God's call by saying "**Here am I.**" God's name is "I AM" (Exodus 3:14). Was Samuel showing reverence to the name of God; being careful not to speak His name in vain?

VSS. 5-8 God called Samuel three times until Eli perceived that God was calling. God was calling a child. We don't know the age of Samuel, but he's referred to as a child. Jesus was called a child at the age of 2 (Matthew 2:11, 16) and at the age of 12 (Luke 2:41-43). Give your children the gospel without delay. If you wait till they're older, they may be educated out of their common sense (see Luke 18:17). _____

- VSS. 9-10**
- a. Eli instructed Samuel to lie down and wait for the call again. He told him to say, "**Speak LORD; for thy servant heareth.**" When God called again, Samuel's actual response was, "**Speak; for thy servant heareth.**" _____
- b. Considering the environment of wickedness that surrounded Samuel, he was very cautious about calling anybody "LORD." He was willing to listen, but he was honest; not willing to say something that he didn't believe in his heart. After listening to the word of the Lord he believed. _____
- c. Notice "**the Lord came, and stood, and called as at other times.**" This is a Theophany; the appearance of the Lord to a human. There are many instances of God appearing to man in the Old Testament. _____
1. The LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day (Gen. 3:8).
 2. Calling Noah to "**COME**" into the ark (Gen. 7:1) and then to "**Go forth**" from the ark (Gen. 8:15-16). The Lord was in the ark.
 3. Visiting Abraham in the plains of Mamre (Genesis 18:1-3 and verse 33).
 4. Jonah fled from the PRESENCE of the LORD (Jonah 1:1-3).
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