

# FIRST SAMUEL

## Lesson 8: Chapter 3:11-21, Samuel Declares God's Truth

12 August 2016

**VSS 11-14 THE WORD OF THE LORD:** God reveals His will through His word.

**V11:** God has a message for Samuel to deliver that will cause everyone's ears to "tingle." This reveals to us that the word of God is not always "nice" to hear. Sometimes the truth hurts, therefore people would rather hear "smooth things" (Isaiah 30:10) from men who will tickle their "itching ears" (2 Timothy 4:3). If you're a sinner (Rom. 3:23) the word of God ought to "hurt" you every now and again. You should want God to point out the areas of your life that need correction (2 Tim. 3:16). He'll do it with some hard lessons in His word.

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**V12:** God warns Eli about His coming judgment upon him and his house (his family line). God never sends judgment without giving a warning first. That's why we must preach about hellfire and damnation. It's a much needed warning and it gives the sinner a chance to get right.

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God said, "**When I begin, I will also make an end.**" (See Philippians 1:6, Rev. 1:8, Gal. 3:3). God always finishes what He begins. He began a good work in you; you can be certain He'll finish it. The same principle applies to God's judgments. Jesus Christ will personally bring judgment (Rev. 19), followed by true peace.

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**V13:** God will judge Eli's sons for their vile actions. Judgment is a response to our rebellion and our sinful behavior. This refutes John Calvin's doctrine of predestination. \_\_\_\_\_

God will judge Eli because he failed to restrain his sons. It is a parent's responsibility to RESTRAIN their children from sinful behavior while they are under their care. \_\_\_\_\_

**Definition of Restrain:** To hold back; to check; to hold from action, proceeding or advancing, either by physical or moral force, or by an interposing obstacle. \_\_\_\_\_

☺ You must make it difficult, painful, and unprofitable for your child to do wrong. \_\_\_\_\_

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**V14:** There is a deadline. The end is coming for Eli's house. The deadline for the sinner today is the day of their death or the day that Jesus returns. You don't know when that day is so you'd better make sure you've asked Jesus Christ to save your soul from damnation. Don't delay.

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**VSS 15-18 THE MESSENGER OF THE LORD:** God communicates through faithful men.

**V15:** Samuel feared, but Samuel told (v18). It's natural to fear confrontation with other people. That fear prevents many good Christians from witnessing. God knows you're afraid, but He wants you to do it anyway. You've got to deny yourself and take up your cross daily (Luke 9:23). Jesus suffered and died on the cross for us. We ought to be willing to suffer for Him and present our bodies a living sacrifice (Rom. 12:1).

Why didn't God speak directly to Eli? God doesn't speak to willful sinners (Isa. 59:2, Psa. 66:18, Ezek. 8:18); he sends a messenger. Today God still relies on faithful witnesses to tell sinners to repent and trust Jesus Christ. It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe (1 Cor. 1:21). Therefore preach the word. (See Rom. 10:14, Mark 16:15, Acts 1:8)

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**V18:** Samuel told Eli everything God said. He faithfully delivered God's word in its entirety. He didn't skip the unpleasant parts. Eli may have loved the Lord, but he wasn't faithful to proclaim all of God's word.

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**VSS 19-21 THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD:** for blessing and effectiveness in ministry.

**V19:** Samuel spoke God's word—and God made sure those words produced results. If you will speak God's words faithfully, He promises that those words will not be spoken in vain (Isa. 55:11, 1 Cor. 15:58). Just make sure you don't leave anything out. Paul said, "**For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God**" (Acts 20:27).

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**V20:** All the people KNEW that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the Lord. You can't be a secret Christian and be God's servant. If God is with you, people will know it without any need of a religious costume. See the biographies of Helen Ewan, Charles Finney, and Peter Cartwright.

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**V21:** The Lord revealed Himself to Samuel...by the word of the LORD. The Lord always reveals Himself by His word. Do you want God to speak to you? Read the Bible.

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