

PCF-LA Sermon Slides - Sunday May 12, 2024

PART
5

VISIONS OF THE PROPHETS

A SERMON SERIES FOR
*2024: THE YEAR OF
VISION & PROVISION*

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PART 5

BY THE
WORD OF
THE LORD

1 SAMUEL 3:1-21

THE
VISION OF
SAMUEL

By the Word of the LORD: The Vision of SAMUEL

1 SAMUEL 3:1-21

Though he would grow up to become one of Israel's greatest judges—one used by the LORD to anoint the first kings of Israel including David himself—the prophet **Samuel** came of age in an era when many of God's people were growing dim in their faith. And thus, "In those days the word of the LORD was rare; there were not many visions" (*1 Sam 3:1*).

By the Word of the LORD: The Vision of SAMUEL

1 SAMUEL 3:1-21

Yet even from his earliest youth, Samuel demonstrated a great responsiveness to the LORD; he learned at a young age to say throughout his life: **"Speak LORD, for Your servant is listening"** (*1 Sam 3:9*). We can also follow Samuel's example today so that we, too, would see the revelation available as we live *By the Word of the LORD*.

By the Word of the LORD: The Vision of SAMUEL

1 SAMUEL 3:1-21

1. **Dark Days: When No Vision Spread** (vv.1-7)
2. **Open Ears: When God Calls** (vv.8-15)
3. **Strong Words: When God Reveals** (vv.16-21)

1. Dark Days: When No Vision Spread

1 SAMUEL 3:1-7

1 The boy Samuel ministered before the LORD under Eli [the priest]. **In those days the word of the LORD was rare; there were not many visions** [*LIT: no vision spread abroad*]. **2** One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. **3 The lamp of God had not yet gone out**, & Samuel was lying down in the house of the LORD, where the Ark of God was. **4** Then the LORD called Samuel. Samuel answered, "Here I am." **5** And he ran to Eli & said, "Here I am; you called me." But Eli said, "I did not call; go back & lie down." So he went & lay down. **6** Again the LORD called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up & went to Eli & said, "Here I am; you called me." "My son," Eli said, "I did not call; go back & lie down." **7 Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD: The word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.**

1. Dark Days: When No Vision Spread

1 SAMUEL 3:1-7

"The 'word of the LORD' is often a technical term referring to oracular message [the discerning of which was] a priestly function, & so there is an intimation here of some sort of breakdown in the professional performance of the house of Eli. But the same phrase also is used to announce prophecy, & 'vision' is a prophetic term: the whole episode concerns the transition from priestly to prophetic authority."

~Robert Alter

PROFESSOR OF HEBREW & COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

1. Dark Days: When No Vision Spread

1 SAMUEL 3:1-7

ELI (v.2)

- Nighttime (DARKNESS)
- Eyes so weak he can barely see (BLINDNESS)
- Laying down to sleep "in his usual place" (LETHARGY / COMPLACENCY)

GOD (v.3)

- Lamp still lit (LIGHT / SIGHT)
- House still standing (STRENGTH)
- Ark of the Covenant in place (LEGACY / PURPOSE / POWER)

SAMUEL (vv.3-7)

- Listening, attentive (SOUND & SIGHT)
- Laying down in the sanctuary (PREPARED / WORSHIPFUL)
- Called in a pattern of threes; uninitiated (POTENTIAL / PURPOSE / PURITY)

1. Dark Days: When No Vision Spread

1 SAMUEL 3:1-7

ELI (v.2)

- "Where there is no vision, the people perish, but the one who keeps to God's word is bound to be blessed." (PROV 29:18)

GOD (v.3)

- "In the beginning....God said, 'Let there be light,' & there was light. God saw that [it] was good, &...separated [it] from the darkness." (GEN 1:1-4)
- "In the beginning was the Word [&] the Word was God....In Him was life, & that life was the light of all humanity. The light shines in the darkness, & the darkness has not overcome it." (JN 1:1-5)

SAMUEL (vv.3-7)

- "Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, 'This is the way; walk in it.'" (ISA 30:21)

2. Open Ears: When God Calls

1 SAMUEL 3:8-15

⁸ A third time the LORD called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up & went to Eli & said, "Here I am; you called me." Then Eli realized that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹ So Eli told Samuel, "Go & lie down, & if He calls you, say, **'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'**" So Samuel went & lay down in his place. ¹⁰ **The LORD came & stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!"** Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." ¹¹ And the LORD said to Samuel: **"See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of everyone who hears about it tingle."** ¹² At that time I will carry out against Eli everything I spoke against his family—from beginning to end. ¹³ For I told him that I would judge his family forever because of the sin he knew about; his sons blasphemed God, & he failed to restrain them. ¹⁴ Therefore I swore to the house of Eli, 'The guilt of Eli's house will never be atoned for by sacrifice or offering.'" ¹⁵ Samuel lay down until morning & then opened the doors of the house of the LORD. He was afraid to tell Eli the vision...

1. Dark Days: When No Vision Spread

1 SAMUEL 3:1-7

¹⁶ ...but Eli called...& said, "Samuel, my son." Samuel answered, "Here I am." ¹⁷ **"What was it He said to you?"** Eli asked. "Do not hide it from me. May God deal with you, be it ever so severely, if you hide from me anything He told you." ¹⁸ So Samuel told him everything, hiding nothing from him. Then Eli said, "He is the LORD; let Him do what is good in His eyes." ¹⁹ **The LORD was with Samuel as he grew up, & He let none of Samuel's words fall to the ground.** ²⁰ And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba recognized that Samuel was attested as a prophet of the LORD. ²¹ **And the LORD appeared again at Shiloh, because the LORD revealed Himself to Samuel at Shiloh by the word of the LORD.**