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## Here I Am

### First Samuel 3:1 to 4:1a



The main story line now resumes. For centuries **ADONAI** had rarely visited **His** people with new revelation. Now **the LORD** had **one** to whom **He** could entrust **His** message. **He** called the boy named **Samuel**, who was probably about twelve at that time. In this section we see **the boy Samuel** growing up to adulthood right before our very eyes. Many books have been written on the subject of **God's** calling, for each individual who receives that call a mystery remains: Is this an authentic message from **God**, and if so, how am I to know that? **Samuel** received that calling through an audible voice, but he did not at first correctly identify its **Source**. The message **he** received had all the direct force of **Truth**, but final verification that **he** had indeed heard the voice of **ADONAI** came only later, when events vindicated **God's Word**. It was a word **he** might well have wished **he** had not heard, as it tested **his** strength of character and resolve.<sup>90</sup>

**Chapter 3 verse 1** through **Chapter 4 verse 1a** can be broken down in chiasmic fashion, resulting in a mirror effect as the ideas are "reflected" back in the passage: **A to A, B to B, C to C, with D being the climax of the chiasm.**



**A. Absence of prophecy (3:1)**

**B. 'Eli's spiritual decline (3:2)**

**C. Samuel is called by God (3:3-9)**

**D. Messiah stands before Samuel (3:10-14)**

**C. Samuel's first prophecy (3:15-18)**

**B. Samuel's spiritual increase (3:19a)**

**A. Return of prophecy (3:19b-4:1a)**