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Samuel's First Prophecy

First Samuel 3: 15-18

Samuel's first prophecy DIG: What was remarkable about Samuel opening the doors to the Tabernacle? Why did God give such a difficult mission to him (2:30)? What was Samuel afraid of? Why? How were his fears alleviated? What did Samuel tell 'Eli? What did he learn that would help him later?

REFLECT: Who have you "opened doors" to in your life? How do you face the hard, powerful will of God in your life? How do you handle highly private information in your life? Can you be trusted? Are you normally devout and submissive, or do you resist? What calling does ADONAI have on your life?

Samuel told 'Eli every word and hid nothing.

Samuel had heard the voice of **ADONAI** and received the message of **ADONAI**, but **he** continued to perform **his** priestly duties. **He lay** in bed **until morning; then he opened the doors of the Tabernacle**, doubtless busying **himself** to avoid telling **'Eli** what **he** had heard (**to see link click [Aw](#) - Samuel's Call: 'Eli's judgment**). This shows remarkable maturity on the part of a young boy. Most youths would have been proud of their experience with **YHVH**, rushed around delivering the message, and would not have stooped to such basic tasks as **opening doors**. It was only when **'Eli** insisted that **he** speak, that **Samuel** related the message of judgment that had been given to **him**. **Samuel** would have a ministry of "opening doors" for others. **He** opened doors of kingship to **Sha'ul**, who failed to use it for **God's** glory; and also to **David**, who used **his** position to serve **God** and the people. **Samuel** established a **school of the prophets (First Samuel 19:18-24; First Kings 2 and 4:38-44)**, and **opened doors** of ministry to the men **Ha'Shem** sent **him**. **He** also opened **the doors** to a new beginning for the nation of **Isra'el** that was at a low ebb both spiritually and politically.⁹⁹

The aged **high priest** was not to be denied, however, and demanded a full report.

But Samuel was afraid to tell 'Eli the vision (3:15). Here is another touching glimpse into **Samuel's** character. **He** loved **his master** and was reluctant to bring **him** such bad news. Yet, as part of a prophet's responsibility, **he** needed to tell others the message **ADONAI** had given, whether that message was good or bad. This lesson would serve **him** well in the future (see [Ck - God Rejects Sha'ul](#)). Many believers today shy away from telling others the truth about the coming judgment of **the Lord**, and some even go so far as to deny it is an eternal punishment for those who reject **Messiah** (see the commentary on [Revelation Fo - The Great White Throne Judgment](#)). But the Gospel contains both good news (that eternal life is freely available to all who believe) and bad news (that those who reject **Messiah** will spend eternity in hell). We do a gross disservice if we water down **God's Word**.¹⁰⁰



Then 'Eli called Samuel: "Samuel, my son!" He answered, "Here I am" (3:16). How could **he** raise the subject with **the** admired old **man** to whom **he** loved? **He** didn't have to **fear** however, for **'Eli** took the initiative and commanded (basically threatened) **the boy** to tell **him** the whole message. **'Eli** said, **"What did the LORD say to you? Now, don't hide anything from me.** Indeed, **'Eli** swore an oath, calling down **Ha'Shem's** judgment on **Samuel** if **the boy** refused to tell **him** everything **he** knew.¹⁰¹ **May God do whatever He said and worse, if you hide from me anything He said to you."** So, **Samuel** told **'Eli** every **word** of **his** judgment **and hid nothing (3:17).**

Resigned to **his** fate, **'Eli** replied: **It is ADONAI; let him do what seems good to him (3:18).** **'Eli's** response was both devout and submissive ([Job 2:10](#)). In that terrible moment, both **'Eli** and **Samuel** were together in obedience just as much as **they** had been at the beginning of their relationship (see [Am - Dedicated to ADONAI](#)). Both of **them** accepted the verdict of **YHVH**. For **Samuel**, that verdict

offered the power and the authority of **God**; for **'Eli** the same verdict offered only grief and humiliation. But for both, the verdict was unquestioned. The narrative concerns the sure, irresistible power of **the LORD's** will, which would soon turn the course of **Isra'el's** history. **'Eli** had nurtured **Samuel** in obedience. Now the two of **them** stood together to face the hard, powerful will of **God**.¹⁰²

Such was **Samuel's** introduction to **his** prophetic calling. Though **he** had been committed to priestly service from **his** earliest days, there was now a new dimension to **his** ministry, for **he** had received **the Word of the LORD**, and this united **his** priestly office with a prophetic task. This brought **him** favor in the Land at a time when the people needed to know **God's Word** for them because they were facing powerful enemies. **Samuel** was already learning that **his** words would not always be easy for either **him** to speak or **his** listeners to hear; however, **he** would continue to be **God's spokesman** to **Isra'el** without the fear of consequences, and so establish **ADONAI's** rule in the Land.¹⁰³

*Dear Heavenly **Father**, Praise **You** for being such a wonderful person to serve. There is such joy in trusting **You!** **You** are always watching over me to bless and to protect me. Children feel secure when walking with their daddy, holding tight onto his hand. So also there is security and peace when I walk with **You**, for though trials and problems will come - **You** are an almighty **Father**, always there with me. **For God Himself has said: I will never leave you or forsake you (Hebrews 13:5c) to help and to guide.***

*Praise you for your care to instruct young **Samuel** that the evil that **he** saw around **him** by **Eli's sons**, **You** do see and judge. When evil seems to be allowed and prospering, it can be confusing especially to a young mind, but you are all-knowing, and seeing everything, **You** judge always at exactly the perfect time. You are never late, nor are **You** early. **You** know exactly when is the best time to act. Please help me to remember that when I need help, **You** are watching and will judge in righteousness - at the perfect time. **Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne. Lovingkindness and truth go before You (Psalms 89:14).** May I live with my eyes and heart fixed on loving and pleasing **You** in all I say and do - for this life will soon be over, but life in heaven is forever! In **Messiah Yeshua's** holy **Name** and power of **His** resurrection. Amen*