1 Samuel 3

The Lord Calls Samuel

¹ And the child Samuel ministered unto the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; there was no open vision.

² And it came to pass at that time, when Eli was laid down in his place, and his eyes began to wax dim, that he could not see;

³ And ere the lamp of God went out in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was, and Samuel was laid down to sleep;

⁴ That the LORD called Samuel: and he answered, Here am I.

⁵ And he ran unto Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou calledst me. And he said, I called not; lie down again. And he went and lay down.

⁶ And the LORD called yet again, Samuel. And Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And he answered, I called not, my son; lie down again.

⁷ Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, neither was the word of the LORD yet revealed unto him.

⁸ And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And Eli perceived that the LORD had called the child.

⁹ Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

10 And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth.

The Lord's Message to Samuel

11 And the LORD said to Samuel, Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle.

12 In that day I will perform against Eli all things which I have spoken concerning his house: when I begin, I will also make an end.

13 For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not.

14 And therefore I have sworn unto the house of Eli, that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be purged with sacrifice nor offering for ever.

15 And Samuel lay until the morning, and opened the doors of the house of the LORD. And Samuel feared to shew Eli the vision.

16 Then Eli called Samuel, and said, Samuel, my son. And he answered, Here am I.

17 And he said, What is the thing that the LORD hath said unto thee? I pray thee hide it not from me: God do so to thee, and more also, if thou hide any thing from me of all the things that he said unto thee.

18 And Samuel told him every whit, and hid nothing from him. And he said, It is the LORD: let him do what seemeth him good.

19 And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground.

20 And all Israel from Dan even to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the LORD.

21 And the LORD appeared again in Shiloh: for the LORD revealed himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the LORD.

HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

God — אֱלֹהִים (Elohim)

God (plural of majesty)

The Hebrew **Elohim** (אֱלֹהִים) is a plural form denoting majesty and fullness of deity. Though grammatically plural, it takes singular verbs when referring to the one true God, suggesting the Trinity's plurality within unity.

Prophet — נָבִיא (Navi)

Prophet, spokesman

The Hebrew **navi** (נָבִיא) means prophet—one who speaks God's word to the people. Prophets received divine revelation and declared God's message, often calling Israel to repentance and foretelling future events.

Iniquity — עָוֹן (Avon)

Iniquity, guilt, punishment

The Hebrew **avon** (עָוֹן) encompasses iniquity, guilt, and its punishment—the twisted nature of sin. 'The LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all' (Isaiah 53:6), Christ bearing our guilt and penalty.

Sacrifice — זֶבַח (Zevach)

Sacrifice, offering

The Hebrew **zevach** (זֶבַח) denotes a sacrifice or offering—an animal slaughtered for worship. Old Testament sacrifices foreshadowed Christ, 'the Lamb of God' (John 1:29).

Lord — יְהוָה / אֲדֹנָי (YHWH / Adonai)

The LORD / Lord

When 'LORD' appears in small capitals, it represents the Tetragrammaton **YHWH** (יְהוָה), God's personal covenant name meaning 'I AM.' When 'Lord' appears normally, it's **Adonai** (אֲדֹנָי), meaning 'my Lord,' emphasizing sovereignty.

Word — דָּבָר (Davar)

Word, thing, matter

The Hebrew **davar** (דָּבָר) means word, thing, or matter—God's creative and authoritative speech. 'By the word of the LORD were the heavens made' (Psalm 33:6).

CROSS REFERENCES

1 Samuel 3:1   **Parallel theme:** Psalms 74:9. **Word:** 1 Samuel 3:21. **References Lord:** 1 Samuel 2:11; 2:18

1 Samuel 3:2   **Parallel theme:** 1 Samuel 4:15; Genesis 27:1; 48:10; Psalms 90:10

1 Samuel 3:3   **Temple:** Psalms 5:7; 27:4; 29:9

1 Samuel 3:4

References Lord: Exodus 3:4; Psalms 99:6; Isaiah 6:8. **Parallel theme:** Genesis 22:1

1 Samuel 3:7   **Parallel theme:** Acts 19:2

1 Samuel 3:9

  Parallel theme: Exodus 20:19. **References Lord:** Psalms 85:8; Isaiah 6:8; Acts 9:6

1 Samuel 3:11   **References Lord:** 2 Kings 21:12; Jeremiah 19:3. **Parallel theme:** Isaiah 28:19; 29:14; Habakkuk 1:5; Luke 21:26; Acts 13:41

1 Samuel 3:13

  Parallel theme: 1 Samuel 2:12; 1 Kings 1:6; Proverbs 19:18; 29:15; Matthew 10:37. **Sin:** 1 Samuel 2:17. **Judgment:** Ezekiel 7:3; 18:30

1 Samuel 3:14   **Sin:** 1 Samuel 2:25; Isaiah 22:14. **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 7:16; 15:1

1 Samuel 3:17   **References Lord:** Ruth 1:17. **References God:** 2 Samuel 3:35

1 Samuel 3:18   **Good:** Judges 10:15; Job 2:10; Isaiah 39:8. **Parallel theme:** Psalms 39:9; Lamentations 3:39; 1 Peter 5:6. **References Lord:** Job 1:21

1 Samuel 3:19   **References Lord:** 1 Samuel 2:21; Genesis 39:2; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 2 Timothy 4:22. **Parallel theme:** 1 Samuel 9:6; Isaiah 43:2; Luke 2:40; 2:52; 2 Corinthians 13:11. **Word:** 1 Kings 8:56

1 Samuel 3:20   **References Lord:** Judges 20:1. **References Israel:** 2 Samuel 3:10

1 Samuel 3:21   **References Lord:** 1 Samuel 3:4; 3:10; Genesis 12:7; Amos 3:7. **Word:** 1 Samuel 3:1; Genesis 15:1; Numbers 12:6. **Parallel theme:** Hebrews 1:1