

1 Samuel 3:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

The fourth encounter differs significantly: 'the LORD came, and stood.' This is not merely a voice but a presence. The phrase intensifies the divine encounter - God is present in a way He was not before. The doubled name 'Samuel, Samuel' signals urgency and affection (compare Genesis 22:11; Exodus 3:4). Samuel responds with the shortened formula 'Speak; for thy servant heareth,' omitting 'LORD' - perhaps too overwhelmed by the Presence to add the name. The encounter has moved from calling to commissioning.

Historical Context

Divine theophany (God's appearing) is distinct from auditory revelation alone. The physical manifestation ('came, and stood') suggests a more intense form of encounter. Such theophanies appear at critical junctures in salvation history.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does the intensification of God's presence in this call affect Samuel's response?
2. What distinguishes general awareness of God from specific encounter with His presence?

Interlinear Text

וַיָּבֹא	וְהִי	וְיֹתַחַ בְּ	וְיֹקַר אָ	בְּפָעָם	בְּפָעָם
came	And the LORD	and stood	and called	as at other times	as at other times
H935	H3068	H3320	H7121	H6471	H6471
שְׁמוֹאֵל	שְׁמוֹאֵל	וַיֹּאמֶר	שְׁמוֹאֵל	דְּבָרֶךָ	שְׁמוֹאֵל
Samuel	Samuel	answered	Samuel	Speak	heareth
H8050	H8050	H559	H8050	H1696	H8085
עֲבָדֶךָ:					
for thy servant					
H5650					

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