

# 1 Samuel 3:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

The message God delivers is severe: 'I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle.' Ear-tingling indicates shocking news, here specifying judgment. The phrase anticipates Jeremiah 19:3 and 2 Kings 21:12, where similar language introduces announcements of catastrophic judgment. Samuel's first prophetic message concerns the destruction of his mentor's house. God does not ease the young prophet into pleasant assignments but immediately confronts him with the weight of prophetic responsibility.

## Historical Context

The idiom of ears tingling (tsalal) appears only three times in Scripture, each announcing devastating judgment. The physical response of shock becomes a metaphor for how the news affects hearers. Such judgment oracles characterize much prophetic ministry.

## Related Passages

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. Why would God commission a young prophet with such a difficult first message?
2. How do you respond when God's word to you concerns judgment rather than comfort?

## Interlinear Text

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עֲשֵׂה	הִנֵּה	אָנֹכִ	לֵאמֹר	אֶל	שְׁמוֹאֵל	לְשָׁמְעוֹת	יְהֹוָה	וְיֵאמֶר	אָמַר
<b>said</b>	<b>And the LORD</b>	H413	<b>to Samuel</b>	H2009		H595		<b>Behold I will do</b>	
H559	H3068		H8050					H6213	
תִּצְלַח	יְהֹה	שְׁמַע	וְ	כֹּל	אֲשֶׁר	בִּשְׁרָא	לְ	דָּבָר	
<b>a thing</b>	<b>in Israel</b>	H834	H3605	<b>of every one that heareth</b>	H8085			<b>it shall tingle</b>	
H1697	H3478							H6750	
שְׁתַּיִם	אֶת								
<b>at which both</b>	<b>the ears</b>	H241							
H8147									

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 19:3** (References Lord): And say, Hear ye the word of the LORD, O kings of Judah, and inhabitants of Jerusalem; Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will bring evil upon this place, the which whosoever heareth, his ears shall tingle.

**2 Kings 21:12** (References Lord): Therefore thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Behold, I am bringing such evil upon Jerusalem and Judah, that whosoever heareth of it, both his ears shall tingle.

**Acts 13:41** (Parallel theme): Behold, ye despisers, and wonder, and perish: for I work a work in your days, a work which ye shall in no wise believe, though a man declare it unto you.

**Habakkuk 1:5** (Parallel theme): Behold ye among the heathen, and regard, and wonder marvellously: for I will work a work in your days, which ye will not believe, though it be told you.

**Luke 21:26** (Parallel theme): Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.

**Isaiah 29:14** (Parallel theme): Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvellous work among this people, even a marvellous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid.

**Isaiah 28:19** (Parallel theme): From the time that it goeth forth it shall take you: for morning by morning shall it pass over, by day and by night: and it shall be a vexation only to understand the report.

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