

1 Samuel 3:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

The pattern repeats: God calls, Samuel runs to Eli, Eli denies calling. The phrase 'I called not, my son' adds paternal affection to the denial. Eli's tender address as 'my son' shows relational warmth even amid his failures. Samuel obeys again, returning to his place. The threefold pattern (this is the second of three calls) follows a common narrative structure that builds toward decisive moment. God's patience in calling repeatedly shows His commitment to communicate with those who genuinely seek to hear.

Historical Context

Threefold repetition is a standard literary pattern in Hebrew narrative (Joseph's dreams, Peter's denial and restoration). The pattern emphasizes importance and moves toward climax. God's persistence in calling despite initial failures shows grace in the communication process.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What does God's repeated calling despite misunderstanding teach about His patience?
2. How does the narrative build tension through repetition?

Interlinear Text

וְקָם שְׁמוּאֵל עִזִּים
yet again And the LORD Here am I for thou didst call And Samuel arose
H3254 H3068 H7121 H5750 H8050 H6965

כִּי הִנֵּן וְאָמַר עַל יְלִי שְׁמוּאֵל
And Samuel H1980 H413 to Eli and said H2005 H3588
H8050 H5941 H559

קָרְבָּנִים לֹא וְאָמַר לֵאמֹר
Here am I for thou didst call H0 and said H3808 Here am I for thou didst call
H7121 H559 H7121

שְׁכַב בָּנִים
not my son again lie down
H1121 H7725 H7901

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