

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

וַיִּסָּף	יְהוָה	קָרָא אֵתִי	עוֹד	שְׁמוּאֵל	וַיִּקָּם
yet again	And the LORD	Here am I for thou didst call	H5750	And Samuel	arose
H3254	H3068	H7121		H8050	H6965

שְׁמוּאֵל	וַיִּלָּךְ	אֶל	עַל י	וַיֹּאמֶר	הִנֵּנִי י	כִּי
And Samuel	H1980	H413	to Eli	and said	H2005	H3588
H8050			H5941	H559		

קָרָא אֵתִי	לִי	וַיֹּאמֶר	לֹא	קָרָא אֵתִי
Here am I for thou didst call	H0	and said	H3808	Here am I for thou didst call
H7121		H559		H7121

בְּנִי	שׁ וּבִ	שָׁכַב:
not my son	again	lie down
H1121	H7725	H7901