

1 Samuel 3:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

This parenthetical explanation is crucial: 'Samuel did not yet know the LORD.' The Hebrew *yada'* (know) implies experiential, relational knowledge. Samuel served at the sanctuary but had not yet encountered God personally. The parallel phrase 'the word of the LORD yet revealed' indicates Samuel had not received direct prophetic communication. Religious service and direct divine encounter are not identical. Many serve faithfully in religious contexts without experiencing personal revelation. Samuel's subsequent call would transform service into encounter.

Historical Context

The distinction between formal religious service and personal divine encounter appears throughout Scripture. Priests could serve for years without receiving prophetic revelation. The prophet's direct experience of God's word distinguished prophetic from priestly ministry.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. What is the difference between serving in religious contexts and knowing God personally?
2. How did personal encounter with God transform your religious practice?

Interlinear Text

וְשִׁמְוֹאֵל הָיָה יְדֵיכֶם אֶת־יְהוָה:
Now Samuel did not yet know H853 of the LORD did not yet yet revealed
H8050 H2962 H3045 H3068 H2962 H1540

אֵל יְהוָה
neither was the word of the LORD
H413 H1697 H3068

Additional Cross-References

Acts 19:2 (Parallel theme): He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.

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