

# 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

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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

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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

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

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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

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וְשִׁמוּאֵל ל	וְטָרָם	אֶת יְדַע	יְהוָה:	וְטָרָם	יִגְלֶה ה
Now Samuel	did not yet	know	H853 of the LORD	did not yet	yet revealed
H8050	H2962	H3045	H3068	H2962	H1540

אֵל יו	דְּבַר	יְהוָה:
H413	neither was the word	of the LORD
	H1697	H3068

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.