

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. How does someone minister unto the Lord, and yet not know the Lord?
2. Why didn't the Lord reveal Himself to Samuel at His first calling? At His second calling? at His third calling?
3. What are some characteristics of Eli that are admirable today?
4. Why did God communicate a message to Eli through Samuel rather than speak directly to Eli? Eli, after all, was the priest.
5. Is it possible for us to pursue work in the church, however noble that may be, and yet neglect the responsibilities of our own family?
6. What kind of heart did Samuel apparently have, e.g. to tell all to Eli?

### SUMMARY:

In Samuel, we have an example of a life devoted to the Lord from childhood on. We can see the results of the effectual fervent prayer of Samuel's mother. Samuel was prepared not only to hear God's Word but to heed it. We can see his willingness to do God's will. It must have been wonderful for him to have the Lord walk with him. We, too, should always strive for this closeness to our Lord.

### NOTES:

## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #3

April 16, 2023

Second Quarter

## THE CALL OF SAMUEL

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**LESSON TEXT:** *1 Samuel 3:1-21*

**LESSON SETTING:** Samuel was assisting Eli in the temple at Shiloh.

**TIME:** Samuel's early childhood.

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### I. MINISTERING UNTO THE LORD. 1 Samuel 3:1-3

- A. A Helpful Child. 1 Samuel 2:18; Proverbs 20:11; Isaiah 11:6; Luke 2:49; John 6:9
- B. An Old Man. Leviticus 19:32; 1 Samuel 4:15; Proverbs 16:31; 20:29; 23:22

### II. LISTENING TO THE LORD. 1 Samuel 3:4-14

- A. The Lord's Call. Psalm 29:4; Isaiah 1:18; 30:30; Revelation 3:20
- B. Man's Response. Psalm 85:8; Proverbs 8:34; Proverbs 15:31; Matthew 13:16; Luke 8:15; Acts 9:6

### III. OBEYING THE LORD. 1 Samuel 3:15-20

- A. Samuel's Report to Eli. Psalm 68:2; Galatians 1:9
- B. Samuel's Growth in the Lord. Psalm 16:8; Proverbs 22:1; Isaiah 54:14; Colossians 2:7

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**GOLDEN TEXT:** *SPEAK, LORD; FOR THY SERVANT HEARETH.*

1 Samuel 3:9

**NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON:** 1 Samuel 4:1-22

**SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES:** John 3:16-18; Revelation 3:1-22

**QUARTERLY THEME:** Samuel and Saul - 1 Samuel

**TOPIC:** CAPTURE OF THE ARK

**INTRODUCTION:**

In the battle between the people of Israel and the Philistines, the presence of the Ark of the Covenant proved to be an incentive to the Philistines to be even more terrible in their fighting against Israel. The Ark brought terror to their hearts and seemingly gave them more boldness in their attack. So bold were they that they even carried the Ark away with them.

What a desperate situation for the people of God to be deprived of the Ark! It held the Mercy Seat and how could they possibly gain mercy from God if the Ark was gone? What a blasphemous act of the Israelites to take the precious Ark into battle with them. Having been disobedient to God, how could they then expect to win the battle? We cannot go our own ways and still expect God's blessings upon us. We must first be humble and obedient unto Him.

**CENTRAL TRUTH:** The deaths of Eli and his sons vividly illustrate the Biblical principle of sowing and reaping.

***GOLDEN TEXT: THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH; BUT THE GIFT OF GOD IS ETERNAL LIFE THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD.***

Romans 6:23

At last the word of the Lord spoken by Samuel had come to pass. For the sons of Eli their death was truly the "wages of sin". They had thought to protect themselves and Israel by sending the Ark of the Covenant into battle. They wished to avail themselves of the protection of God without giving Him due honor and obedience. How often do we see men and women—who do not give thought to God and His ways—attempt to call upon Him in time of danger!

If we wish to have God with us at the time of death we must come to know and obey him during life. "Seek ye the Lord while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon." (Isaiah 55:6-7)

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 17 – 23**

Mon. \*War Clouds Over Israel. 1 Samuel 4:1-9  
Tue. \*Defeat and Tragedy. 1 Samuel 4:10-18  
Wed. \*A Child Named Ichabod. 1 Samuel 4:19-22  
Thu. The Church at Sardis. Revelation 3:1-6  
Fri. The Church at Philadelphia. Revelation 3:7-13  
Sat. The Church at Laodicea. Revelation 3:14-22  
Sun. Sowing and Reaping. Galatians 6:4-10

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