

# FIRST SAMUEL STUDY

## CHAPTER 3:1-21

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

**"Hearing the Call of God  
for Your Life" – Part 1**

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

**Children, Hearing the Lord, The Call of God**

**INTRODUCTION**

*to the text*

*1 Samuel 3:1-21*

## **Living in the Days of Technology Can be an amazing thing**

Microwave Ovens / Worldwide Banking / Electronic Mail and Air Travel

can now move us across the skies at record speeds that would have seemed impossible just 50 years ago.

A month or so ago I left here after the 3<sup>rd</sup> Service Sunday morning, drove to LAX, flew to Stuttgart, Germany = 10.5 hrs., taught for a week at our church there, left Stuttgart on Saturday morning and arrived back in Los Angeles on Saturday afternoon and taught here on Sunday morning again without missing a service!!!

## **We Live in Amazing Times**

Cells Phones Whisk Us Around the World Via Satellite but there is no substitute for...

**"Hearing the Call of God for Your Life"**

**1.) Desperate Times and Desperate Needs vv.1-4a**

**a.) The Call will come to the proper person**

### **Verse 1**

Then the boy Samuel ministered to the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was rare in those days; there was no widespread revelation.

**There are 4 Key Factors in the Equation**

# #1

## Samuel was there

Just as Samuel was present at that time  
– so God has called you to be Present at this time!

### Esther 4:14

"For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

The Birth the Life and Death of a Person is  
Eternally Planned by God

### 1 Corinthians 15:8

Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of **due time**.

I Remember September 26, 1986 at Twin Peaks Conference Center  
*With Mike Macintosh*

"Go Back to Your Church and Find Out What You're to Do"

## Like Samuel Then – You're Here Now

# #2

## Eli was Soon to Pass

### Isaiah 6:1-8

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. 2 Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!" 4 And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. 5 So I said: "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts." 6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. 7 And he touched my mouth with it, and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your iniquity is taken away, and your sin purged." 8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."

### Joshua 1:1-2

After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, it came to pass that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying: 2 "Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them--the children of Israel.

## For You, – Opportunities Will Arise

### #3

## The Word was **Rare** in the Those Days

A Drought – Something hard and difficult to find

Romans 10:13-15

For "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." 14 How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!"

### #4

## No Widespread Vision

# There was No Clear Message or Voice Preaching

There were no servants of God's Word.

– *No one had passion and enthusiasm for the things of God*

## b.) *The call will come at the right time*

### Verse 2-3

2 And it came to pass at that time, while Eli was lying down in his place, and when his eyes had begun to grow so dim that he could not see, 3 and before the lamp of God went out in the tabernacle of the LORD where the ark of God was

**God Has His Plans  
But We Must Be Open to Them and Expect Them  
to Come**

1. **While** Eli was lying down
2. **When** his eyes had begun to grow so dim
3. **Before** the lamp of God went out in the Tabernacle
4. **While** you're Following after the Lord
5. **When** Things Seem Difficult and Hard
6. **Before** it's too Late – God will Act!!!

Ezekiel 22:30

"So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.

# "Hearing the Call of God for Your Life"

## 2.) *How can I know God's call for me?* vv. 4b-8

### a.) *When you're still before Him*

#### **Verse 4b-5**

4b And he answered, "Here I am!" 5 So he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." And he said, "I did not call; lie down again." And he went and lay down.

Isaiah 55:6

Seek the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near.

## Practice His Presence Daily

Joshua 22:5

...Love the Lord and follow his plan for your lives. Cling to him and serve him enthusiastically."

### *How can I know God's call for me?*

### b.) *When the call persists*

#### **Verse 6**

And the LORD called yet again, "Samuel!" So Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." And he answered, "I did not call, my son; lie down again."

Jonah is a Good Example of God's Persistence to Call a Man

### *How can I know God's call for me?*

### c.) *When the call is personal*

#### **Verse 7**

(Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, nor was the word of the LORD yet revealed to him.) 8 And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. Then he arose and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you did call me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD had called the boy.

There was a direct correlation between him personally knowing the Lord and His service to the Lord

We Cannot Really Serve God - Without Personally Knowing God

## **Paul's Personal Experience**

Galatians 1:15-18

But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, 16 to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, 17 nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. 18 Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days.

## **This was Paul's Life**

John 16:2

**"They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service.**

## **It Will Be Like Giving Birth to a New Life**

You will be overwhelmed by the Call  
(it must conquer you & and consume you)

You Mustn't Seek After the Office - The Office is to Seek  
After You

## **The Heart of the True Call**

1 Corinthians 9:16-18

For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel! 17 For if I do this willingly, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have been entrusted with a stewardship. 18 What is my reward then? That when I preach the gospel, I may present the gospel of Christ without charge, that I may not abuse my authority in the gospel.

## **"Hearing the Call of God for Your Life"**

**3.) What will His call sound like?**

**vv. 9-14**

**a.) You'll know the words**

### **Verse 9-10**

9 Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and it shall be, if He calls you, that you must say, 'Speak, LORD, for Your servant hears.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. 10 Now the LORD came and stood and called as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel answered, "Speak, for Your servant hears."

**"Speak, Your servant is listening."  
What Lord / Where Lord / When Lord**

**b.) It will sound wonderfully strange**

**Verse 11**

Then the LORD said to Samuel: "Behold, I will do something in Israel at which both ears of everyone who hears it will tingle.

**God Tells Men His Plans**

Habakkuk 1:5

"Look among the nations and watch-- be utterly astounded! For I will work a work in your days which you would not believe, though it were told you.

A.W.Tozer

"God Tells The Man Who Cares"

**God Loves to Talk to His Own**

John 10:27

"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

I Kings 19:11-13

Then He said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the LORD." And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; 12 and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice. 13 So it was, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly a voice came to him, and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

**What will His call sound like?**

**c.) It will sound as an alarm**

**Verse 12-14**

"In that day I will perform against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. 13 "For I have told him that I will judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knows, because his sons made themselves vile, and he did not restrain them. 14 "And therefore I have sworn to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be atoned for by sacrifice or offering forever."

Romans 11:29

For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.

# "Hearing the Call of God for Your Life"

## 4.) What will the call be like?

vv. 15-18

Jeremiah 15:16

Your words were found, and I ate them, and Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; for I am called by Your name, O LORD God of hosts.

## a.) It Will be Compelling

### Verse 15

So Samuel lay down until morning, and opened the doors of the house of the LORD. And Samuel was afraid to tell Eli the vision.

You'll have no message  
*You must get one*

You will have no direction  
*You must find one*

You will have no protection  
*You must trust Him*

2 Corinthians 11:23-28

Are they ministers of Christ?-- I speak as a fool-- I am more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. 24 From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; 26 in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; 27 in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness-- 28 besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.

Acts 20:22-24

"And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, 23 "except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. 24 "But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

## We Must Be Compelled

## What will the call be like?

### **b.) It will be Supernatural**

#### **Verse 16-17a**

16 Then Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son!" And he answered, "Here I am." 17 And he said, "What is the word that the LORD spoke to you?"

Amos 3:7

Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.

Ephesians 3:16-21

that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height-- 19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. 20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, 21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

### ***It will be Supernatural***

## **MY PERSONAL PRAYER JOURNAL RECORDS;**

For Ten Years I Have Prayed This Prayer **"Lord, Please Take My Life and Use It to Your Glory, That I Might Be Used by You"**

Well, that prayer was enlarged to **"Lord I also ask that you would use this home bible study group to be used to your glory, that we might be used by you"**

That prayer was enlarged again to **"Lord take this church of 300 people and use it to your glory, that we might be used by you"**

And Last Sunday before the services I prayed again **Lord, take now these thousands of people and us - - and use us to your glory. Lord do something with us so awesome, grand, and honoring to you, that everyone will know it was impossible for any one of us to have done it.**

## **Personally - I Know My Calling**

And though I fail at it – Even if I cannot Keep Up With It – If Others can and will do it better – I have been called to this

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