

GOD'S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson Twenty-One

GOD CALLED SAMUEL

1 Sam. 1:2b, 8-28; 2:11, 18, 21, 26; 3:1, 4-10, 19-21; 7:3-17)

Burden to Impart:

In this lesson we see how God called a young child named Samuel to serve Him. It all began with Samuel's mother who asked God for a son, and promised to give him back to the Lord all the days of his life. God answered her prayer. Thus, as a child, Samuel was brought to the Lord's house and raised up and trained as a priest to minister to the Lord. When he was still a child the Lord revealed Himself to Samuel and called him in a personal way. Samuel treasured up the Word of the Lord within him. Later he spoke forth God's Word as a prophet. Finally, he was a judge of God's people, expressing God's authority and decisions to them. Likewise, God has called all of those children who are born in His house. He wants all of us to learn to minister to Him, to receive His Word, to know Him, and to speak for Him.

Memory Verse: "And that from a babe you have known the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 3:15).

Facts to Teach:

1. Samuel was born because his mother Hannah prayed to God to have a son. After his birth Hannah gave him to the Lord to serve Him (1 Sam. 1:2b, 8-28).
 - a. Hannah had no children.
 - b. While in Shiloh at the Lord's house she prayed to God for a son and vowed to give him to the Lord all the days of his life.
 - c. The Lord answered her prayer and she had a son. She kept Samuel at home until he was able to eat and take care of himself as a "child."
 - d. She brought the child Samuel to the Lord's house to the priest in charge (Eli) and told him that she had "loaned her child to the Lord; as long as he liveth, he shall be loaned to the Lord." So Samuel stayed in the house of the Lord in Shiloh under the care and training of the priest Eli.
2. Samuel grew up in the house of the Lord (1 Sam. 2:11, 18, 21, 26; 3:1).
 - a. Samuel did not wait until he was an adult to serve the Lord; even as a child Samuel ministered unto the Lord before Eli. This means that Samuel listened to Eli and learned from Eli how to minister to the Lord.

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Lesson Twenty-One (Continued)

- b. Samuel grew before the Lord. The Lord was always beholding this young child-priest whose heart was so pure and loving toward the Lord. The Lord knew how important Samuel would be for Him and for God's people when he grew older.
 - c. Samuel was in favor both with God and with men. He was so proper as a boy that not only God watched him growing up, all those around realized that this was a very special child and respected him.
3. God called Samuel and he answered God's call (1 Sam. 3:4-10).
- a. Although Samuel had been serving and growing up in the Lord's house for some time, the Lord had not yet been revealed to him in a personal way.
 - b. One night when the Lord called Samuel, although he awoke from sleep, he did not know who had called him. He thought it was Eli so he asked Eli what he called him for.
 - c. After this happened three times, Eli perceived that the Lord was calling Samuel. So he gave him the proper instructions, "It shall be, if He call thee that thou shalt say, Speak, Lord, for Thy servant heareth."
 - d. The Lord called Samuel and awoke him the fourth time. This time Samuel did not run to Eli. He asked the Lord to speak to him and told the Lord that he was listening to him, that he was the Lord's servant.
4. The Lord was with Samuel, spoke to him, and he became a prophet and a judge, speaking the word of God and praying for God's people (1 Sam. 3:19-21; 7:3-17).
- a. Samuel listened to the Lord's words very carefully. He did not allow any to "fall to the ground." He treasured them all up in his heart.
 - b. Samuel spoke God's word to the people. All of the people recognized that Samuel was a prophet, one who spoke for God.
 - c. Samuel also prayed for God's people and judged them for forsaking Him. He told them to turn back to the Lord or God would not deliver them from their enemies. Samuel was a judge of the children of Israel. He expressed God's authority and judgment to them.