

This morning/afternoon we'd like to see the book of 1 Samuel 3:1-21 under the title of "Rare Word."

Q1. In verse 1, "Now 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," why was the word of the Lord rare or no revelation in those days? (sins; not diligently seek God's heart/word)

Q2. In verse 6, "Then the LORD called yet again, "Samuel!" So Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." He answered, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." " why did the Lord call the boy Samuel again rather than Eli, the high priest?

Q3. In verse 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," what were Eli's sin and his sons' sin?

(Background)

1 Samuel & 2 Samuel were likely written by Samuel in 930 BC in light of 1 Chronicles 29:29, "Now the acts of King David, first and last, indeed they *are* written in the book of Samuel the seer, in the book of Nathan the prophet, and in the book of Gad the seer, "

The period towards dynasty: *Judges 17:6; 21:25* "In those days *there was* no king in Israel; everyone did *what was* right in his own eyes."

Eli was the high priest and prophet, and his sons were priests. The priests stole offerings before people's offering to the Lord. Israel was in great spiritual decline.

The Sin of Eli's sons (1 Samuel 2:15) Also, before they burned the fat, the priest's servant would come and say to the man who sacrificed, "Give meat for roasting to the priest, for he will not take boiled meat from you, but raw." (1 Samuel 2:17) Therefore the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD, for men abhorred the offering of the LORD.

The Sin of Eli – failure to discipline his sons (1 Samuel 2:29-30) Why do you kick at My sacrifice and My offering which I have commanded *in My dwelling place*, and honor your sons more than Me, to make yourselves fat with the best of all the offerings of Israel My people?' ³⁰ Therefore the LORD God of Israel says: 'I said indeed *that* your house and the house of your father would walk before Me forever.' But now the LORD says: 'Far be it from Me; for those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed.

Hannah was barren, making vow praying to the Lord (1 Samuel 1:11) "Then she made a vow and said, "O LORD of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head." "

Samuel (1 Samuel 1:20) "So it came to pass in the process of time that Hannah conceived and bore a son, and called his name Samuel, *saying*, "Because I have asked for him from the Lord."

Hannah performed according to her vow (1 Samuel 1:27-28) "For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition which I asked of Him. ²⁸ Therefore I also have lent him to the LORD; as long as he lives he shall be lent to the LORD." So they worshiped the LORD there."

Samuel became a servant to Eli in the temple of Shiloh. Eli was the high priest, his sons were priests, and Samuel was an assistant to Eli.

<p>¹ Now the boy Samuel ministered to the LORD before Eli. <u>And the word of the LORD was rare in those days; there was no widespread revelation.</u></p> <p>² And it came to pass at that time, while Eli <i>was</i> lying down in his place, and <u>when his eyes had begun to grow so dim that he could not see,</u></p>	<p>1=Q1 the word of the LORD was rare [precious]; no revelation [vision, 15] (Sins; prophets were not seeking the Lord; no relationship with the Lord ¹<i>Isaiah 59:1-2</i>; revelation through vision, dream ²<i>Mat 1:20</i>, still small voice ³<i>1 Kings 19:12</i>, donkey ⁴<i>Numbers 22:28</i>, etc. ⁵<i>Acts 10:17; Acts 16:9</i>; Satan's counterfeit ⁶<i>Mat 24:5-6; Psalm 42:1; Rom 8:20; 2 Thes 2:9-12; 2 Tim 3:1-5</i>)</p> <p>2= grow so dim...could not see (he was old ⁷<i>Isaiah 40:7-8</i>)</p>
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¹ *Isaiah 59:1-2* Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. ² But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.

² *Mat 1:20* "But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit"

³ *1 Kings 19:12* and after the earthquake a fire, *but* the LORD *was* not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.

⁴ *Numbers 22:28* Then the LORD opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam, "What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?"

⁵ *Acts 10:17* Now while Peter wondered within himself what this vision which he had seen meant, behold, the men who had been sent from Cornelius had made inquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate; *Acts 16:9* And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." (God can reveal His word through many ways. But Satan has a counterfeit fore everything that God does; visions/dream/ any spiritual experiences should be discerned by God's Word)

⁶ *Mat 24:5-6* For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. ⁶ And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all *these things* must come to pass, but the end is not yet.; *Psalm 42:1* As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God.; *Rom 8:20* For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected *it* in hope;; *2 Thes 2:9-12* The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, ¹⁰ and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. ¹¹ And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, ¹² that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.; *2 Tim 3:1-5* But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ² For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴ traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

⁷ *Isaiah 40:7-8* The grass withers, the flower fades, Because the breath of the LORD blows upon it; Surely the people *are* grass. ⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever."

<p>³ and <u>before the lamp of God</u> went out in the tabernacle of the LORD where the ark of God <i>was</i>, and while Samuel was lying down,</p> <p>⁴ that <u>the LORD called Samuel</u>. And he answered, “Here I am!” ⁵ So he ran to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me.”</p> <p>And he said, “I did not call; lie down again.” And he went and lay down.</p> <p>⁶ Then <u>the LORD called yet again, “Samuel!”</u></p> <p>So Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” He answered, “I did not call, my son; lie down again.” ⁷ (Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, nor was the word of the LORD yet revealed to him.)</p> <p>⁸ And <u>the LORD called Samuel again the third time</u>. So he arose and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you did call me.”</p> <p>Then Eli perceived that the LORD had called the boy.</p> <p>⁹ Therefore Eli said to Samuel, “Go, lie down; and it shall be, if He calls you, that you must say, ‘<u>Speak, LORD, for Your servant hears.</u>’” So Samuel went and lay down in his place.</p> <p>¹⁰ Now the LORD came and stood and called as at other times, “Samuel! Samuel!”</p> <p>And Samuel answered, “<u>Speak, for Your servant hears.</u>”</p> <p>¹¹ Then the LORD said to Samuel: “Behold, I will do something in Israel at which both ears of everyone who hears it will <u>tingle</u>. ¹² In that day I will <u>perform against Eli</u> all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end.</p>	<p>3= before [ere] the lamp of God (it’s getting towards morning)</p> <p>6=Q2 the LORD called yet again, “Samuel !” (not Eli, who was experienced, old, and had high priest position; God honors those who honor God/commit their lives to the Word of God, regardless of outward appearance – age, money, race, gender, education, etc. ⁸Heb 11:6, e.g. England’s churches⁹ John 4:23)</p> <p>9= you must say (Eli instructed Samuel based upon Eli’s experience)</p> <p>11= tingle (ring with awe)</p>
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⁸ Heb 11:6 But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. (God’s heart/will/word/love)

⁹ John 4:23 ut the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.

<p>¹³ For I have told him that I will <u>judge his house forever</u> for <u>the iniquity which he knows</u>, because <u>his sons made themselves vile</u>, and he did <u>not restrain them</u>.</p> <p>¹⁴ And therefore I have sworn to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be <u>atoned</u> for by sacrifice or offering forever."</p> <p>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. ¹⁶ Then Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son!"</p> <p>He answered, "Here I am."</p> <p>¹⁷ And he said, "What <i>is</i> the word that <i>the LORD</i> spoke to you? <u>Please do not hide it from me. God do so to you, and more also, if you hide anything</u> from me of all the things that He said to you."</p> <p>¹⁸ Then Samuel told him everything, and hid nothing from him. And he said, "<u>It is the LORD. Let Him do what seems good to Him.</u>"</p> <p>¹⁹ So Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him and <u>let none of his words fall to the ground.</u> ²⁰ And all Israel <u>from Dan to Beersheba</u> knew that Samuel <i>had been</i> <u>established as a prophet of the LORD.</u> ²¹ Then the LORD appeared again in Shiloh. For the LORD revealed Himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the LORD.</p>	<p>13=Q3 judge his house forever (God's justice/righteousness); his sons .. vile; he knows + not restrain them (Eli's failure to discipline his sons with actual knowledge of their sin)</p> <p>14= atoned (forgiven)</p> <p>17= Please do not hide <i>it</i> from me. God do so to you, and more also, if you hide anything (Eli's harsh word with conditional curse to the boy Samuel)</p> <p>18= <i>It is</i> the LORD. Let Him do what seems good to Him (no repentance, but Eli just accepted it ¹⁰ Rev 2:5)</p> <p>20= from Dan to Beersheba (Dan was one of the farthest north cities; Beersheba was one of the farthest south cities); established as a prophet of the LORD (Samuel was recognized by all Israelites in the land to be a prophet of the Lord)</p>
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¹⁰ Rev 2:5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.