

Samuel's First Prophecy I Sam. 3:1-18

Thesis: To help us learn obedience from this first prophecy of Samuel.

Introduction:

- A. Samuel begins his prophecies at an early age.
 - 1. He is dedicated to the temple when he was just a child.
 - 2. Samuel's first prophecy came as he ministered to the Lord in the temple.
 - 3. His last prophecy came after his death (II Sam. 28).

- B. In this lesson, we will notice the first prophecy of Samuel and learn some valuable lessons from it.

I. Notice what has happened in the life of Samuel up to this point.

A. Hannah had no children and prayed to God that He would give her a male child (I Sam. 1:1-18).

- 1. Because of this, Elkanah's other wife, Peninnah, provoked Hannah (1:1-7).
- 2. Hannah was so distraught over this that she prayed for God to give her a son (1:8-11).
- 3. She made a vow that if God gave her a son, she would dedicate him to the Lord all the days of his life (through the Nazirite vow) (1:11).
- 4. Eli, the priest, saw her praying, and condemned her because he thought that she was drunk (1:12-14).
- 5. Upon realizing that she was not drunk, he blesses her (1:15-18).

B. When Samuel is born, Hannah weans Samuel and then takes him to the temple to dedicate him to God (1:19-28).

- 1. Hannah conceives and bears Samuel (1:19-20).
- 2. Hannah stays in her hometown and does not go up to make the yearly sacrifice until she has weaned Samuel (1:21-23).
- 3. Hannah takes Samuel to the temple and dedicates him to the Lord (1:24-28).

C. Samuel is in the temple with Eli ministering before the Lord (2:18-21).

- 1. The next time we see Samuel, he is in the temple serving before the Lord.
- 2. Hannah had fulfilled her vow, and now Samuel was working for God.
- 3. She would come and visit him each year and bring him a little robe.
- 4. When she came to the temple, Eli would bless her that her descendants would be multiplied.
- 5. Hannah and Elkanah had three sons and two daughters.

II. God comes to Samuel during the night (3:1-14).

A. God calls to Samuel three times during the night (3:2-9).

1. Each time, Samuel thinks that it was Eli that called him.
2. The first two times, Eli tells Samuel to go back and lay down because he did not call him.
3. The third time Eli realizes that it was God who was calling Samuel, and so he tells Samuel to answer back.
4. One of the remarkable things about the word of God coming to Samuel is that the word of God was rare in those days (3:1).

B. Notice the prophecy that God reveals to Samuel (3:10-14).

1. The prophecy was that Eli's house would be removed from the priesthood.
2. The reason for this was because of the wickedness of Eli's sons and the fact that he did not restrain them (3:13).
3. Also, because of their wickedness, Eli's house could not buy back the priesthood; they had lost their opportunity to serve (3:14).

C. The next morning, Eli wants to know what the Lord had said.

1. Samuel tells Eli all that God had told him.
2. Incidentally, this was the same prophecy that God had told Eli some time previously (2:31-36).

Practical Application:

III. Notice some lessons that we can learn from this first prophecy of Samuel.

A. We are responsible for how we handle the word of God.

1. The sons of Eli (Hophni and Phinehas) knew what to do, but they did not do it.
 - a. They knew how God wanted them to serve as priest.
 - b. Even though there was no widespread revelation of the word of God, they still knew what to do from the law of Moses.
 - c. Even though they knew what to do, they did not do it.
 - d. They had committed great sin before God (I Sam. 2:22-36).
 - 1) Eli tells his sons that the things that they are doing as priest are wrong (2:22-25).
 - 2) However, he refuses to restrain them (3:13).
 - 3) Because of this, God is going to remove the priesthood from Eli and his family (2:27-36).
2. Today, we know what God wants us to do.
 - a. Today, God has told us what we must do to obtain salvation.
 - b. He has given us His word that we can read and study.
 - c. It is that word that tells us what to do to be saved.
 - d. It is that word that tells us that Christ will return.

B. The word of God will always be fulfilled.

1. God had told Eli of the punishment that He was going to bring on him and his sons.
 - a. Now God tells Samuel the punishment that He will bring on them.
 - b. God fulfilled this punishment (4:1-18).
 - 1) I Sam. 4:1-11 – Hophni and Phinehas die in battle; and the ark of the Lord is captured.
 - 2) I Sam. 4:12-18 – Eli falls over backwards and breaks his neck when he hears that his sons have died and the ark has been captured.
2. Today, the word of God will be fulfilled.
 - a. He has said that there will be a day of judgment (II Cor. 5:10).
 - b. He has said that there is a heaven and hell.
 - c. He has said that He will send His Son to take those who are His to heaven (I Thes. 4:13-18).
 - d. Because He has said these things, we know that they will come to pass.

Conclusion:

God is going to fulfill His word concerning eternity.

Therefore, we must be obedient to Him while we have the opportunity.