

FINAL STUDY NOTES – *1 Samuel Chapters 3 - 5* 7/21-22/2025

CLASSROOM LOCATION AND ZOOM – SIGN IN INFORMATION:

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NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE ONLINE (ZOOM) STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada)
THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY WILL BE MEETING ON ZOOM ONLY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

MEETING ID - 878 5864 4763 Passcode: 087484

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TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada).

- TUES MORNING MTG PLACE: 1201 KEY WEST, CORONA DEL MAR (shown as 1201 KW, Corona del Mar, CA 92625) on Global Positioning System (GPS) in automobiles. For driving directions, suggest using *WAZE* (waze.com/live-map) or *MapQuest* (mapquest.com),
- AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!

MEETING ID# - 853 0915 0746 - Passcode: 715340

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OPENING PRAYER

1 SAMUEL – Chapter 3 – Samuel’s First Prophecy (vs. 1-21); Chapter 4 - The Ark of God Captured - (vs. 1-11); Death of Eli – (vs. 12-18); – Ichabod – (vs. 19-22); Chapter 5 – The Philistines and the Ark – (vs. 1-12).

- **Last week, we saw that the nation of Israel was in a state of great spiritual decline. God was seeking for a man that might lead this nation in a spiritual renewal.** There was none to be found. So, God caused a woman by the name of Hannah to be barren. When she went to Shiloh to the feast with her husband, there praying before God, she made a vow. She said, “*God, if you’ll just give me a man child, I will give him back to you all the days of his life.*” She came into harmony with God.
- **God wanted a man. So, God gave to her a son.** And true to her vow, and once little Samuel, which means “asked of God,” was weaned, she brought him back to Eli the priest. She said, “*For this child I prayed. God heard my prayer, and now I am giving him back to God all the days of his life.*” Samuel will minister as a Priest-Prophet!

The LORD Calls Samuel – 1Sa 3:1 *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.*

- **“Rare” in the sense of scarce.** The nation was at such a state that they were not really seeking God. Thus, God was not speaking to them. There was no real prophet of God to bring God’s Word to the people. The Word of the LORD was rare. There were no revelations of God, no visions.

1Sa 3:2-3 *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, and while Samuel was lying down,*

- *Before the lamp of God went out,* would indicate that it was getting toward morning. It was the time when the oil was just about spent in the lamps. They were to burn all night long. The oil was replenished in the morning. So, in the early morning hours, Samuel was asleep.

1Sa 3:4-7 *that the LORD called Samuel. 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. [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.” [7] (Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, nor was the word of the LORD yet revealed to him!!)*

- **Samuel was just a child.** He had not yet had any real revelation from God. This was all the beginning of a new experience for him. As God was now going to begin to minister to him, and ultimately through him, bringing His Word to the nation. This was his first encounter with God speaking to him.

1Sa 3:8-11 *And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. So 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. [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’ (is listening).” So Samuel went and lay down in his place.*

- **Speak, LORD, for Your servant hears.** This is a wonderful thing! The idea is tell me anything and I’ll do it! Do not wait till He tells you what He is asking of you, to agree to it. When God speaks because He is so wise and so good that when He begins to speak, you can unfailingly say to Him, Lord, I agree to obey you in whatever you are going to say, even before you say it! (**Psa 85:8**) *I will hear what God the LORD will speak, For He will speak peace To His people and to His saints; But let them not turn back to folly. (Hab 2:1) I will stand my watch And set myself on the rampart, And watch to see what He will say to me, And what I will answer when I am corrected.*
- **May that be my heart every time, before I open up my Bible, that I will agree to obey Your Word, even before I receive it; whatever it is that You will tell me!**

1 Sa 3:10-11 *Now the LORD came and stood and called as at other times, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel answered, “Speak, for Your servant hears.” [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.*

- **Both ears of everyone who hears it will tingle.** Your ears will ring. Ring as though they have been slapped on both sides and you get ringing ears. It is not a tingle with excitement; it is sort of tingling with awe, with having been struck on both sides and your ears are ringing. The Word that God has for Samuel is actually for Eli the priest and the judgment that is going to come upon his house because of his sons and their wicked behavior, and Eli’s failure to discipline them.
- **Here is perhaps a warning unto fathers. The necessity of disciplining your sons.** Eli, it seems, was a fairly good man himself. The Scripture does not really indicate that there was anything wrong with Eli and his relationship with God. But his sons were vile. His sons abused the privileges of their office as priests. They were so vile that they caused the people to abhor the sacrifices of God! Eli would not correct them. He did not stop them: the sin of Eli, and the judgment that is to come upon Eli for his failure to discipline his sons.
- **Now, in verse 1, “the Word of the LORD was rare, there was no widespread, revelation (visions) in those days:”** God oftentimes spoke through visions. But there were no visions at this time. Throughout the Old Testament, we find God speaking through people in visions. In the New Testament times God also spoke through visions. Paul the apostle speaks of the vision. He does not

recount them in detail but he just speaks of many visions that he had. That capacity to see and to perceive in the spiritual dimension.

- **David said in (Psa 42;1-2a) As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God. [2a] My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.** David was not talking about an experience that was unique to himself. David was talking about an experience that every man has. The experience of his soul thirsting after God, for the living God.
- **There is, universally, that thirst in man's soul for God**, that was created by God when He made men, as we are told in **(Rom 8:20) For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope;** When God created us, He created in us that need for God in order to be complete. No man is complete without a meaningful relationship with God. Before you have a meaningful relationship with God, your spirit is dead. You are living in the body conscious realm, which is the animal realm. Men were aware of the missing ingredient. They did not know what it was.
- **The LORD began to speak to Samuel.** He said, "I am going to do a thing in Israel. When the people hear of it, their ears will tingle."

1Sa 3:12 In that day I will perform against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end.

- **In other words, What I start, I am going to finish!** In **(1Sa 2:27-29,31) Then a man of God came to Eli and said to him, "Thus says the LORD: 'Did I not clearly reveal Myself to the house of your father when they were in Egypt in Pharaoh's house? [28] Did I not choose him out of all the tribes of Israel to be My priest, to offer upon My altar; to burn incense, and to wear an ephod before Me? And did I not give to the house of your father all the offerings of the children of Israel made by fire? [29] 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? That is, Eli let them get by with wickedness. [31] Behold, the days are coming that I will cut off your arm and the arm of your father's house, so that there will not be an old man in your house.**
- **Then he prophesied concerning Jesus, (1Sa 2:35) Then I will raise up for Myself a faithful priest who shall do according to what is in My heart and in My mind. I will build him a sure house, and he shall walk before My anointed forever.**
- **The LORD is saying to Samuel, "I'm going to do it to Eli!"** It is coming. I am going to perform against him all the things that I spoke about concerning his house! What I started, I am going to finish! I am going to cut them off."

1Sa 3:13-14 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."

- **In other words, there is no sacrifice, there is no changing this judgment at this point.**

1Sa 3:15-17 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!" He answered, "Here I am." [17] And he said, "What is the word that the LORD spoke to you? Please do not hide it from me, God do so to you, and more also, if you hide anything from me of all the things that He said to you."

- **Then Eli did a rather harsh thing.** He said, "God do so to you, and more also, if you hide anything from me of all the things that He said to you." Eli put Samuel under a curse. "If you don't tell me everything, God do so to you, and more also, if you hide anything, all that God said."

1Sa 3:18 Then Samuel told him everything, and hid nothing from him. And he said, "It is the LORD. Let Him do what seems good to Him."

- **It is interesting that Eli shows no sign of repentance.** You wonder about this. When he hears the Word of the LORD, he says, "Well, it is the LORD. Let Him do what He wants." Rather than repenting and at least trying to correct things at this point, he just accepts it. It probably gives an interesting insight to that man's character and nature.

1Sa 3:19 So Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground.

- He began to speak the prophecies, and they were coming to pass. Everything Samuel said with divine authorization came true. This fulfillment of Samuel's word proved that he was a true prophet of God!

1Sa 3:20-21 And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel had been established as a prophet of the LORD. [21] Then the LORD appeared again in Shiloh. For the LORD revealed Himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the LORD.

(1Sa 3:7) (Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, nor was the word of the LORD yet revealed to him.)

- God began to work through this young man whom God raised up to be a prophet and priest in Israel.
- **How frequently am I receiving the LORD's revelation by the word of the LORD? Yearly, monthly, daily, hourly?**

The Philistines Capture the Ark – Israel Goes to Battle Without Consulting Samuel

1Sa 4:1 And the word of Samuel came to all Israel.

- We see God's intention that as He revealed Himself through His word to Samuel, that it was to be passed on to the nation of Israel!
- **The word of Samuel came to all Israel! How is my witness in this area? Am I being faithful in passing on His word to others?**

1Sa 4:2 Now Israel went out to battle against the Philistines, and encamped beside Ebenezer; and the Philistines encamped in Aphek. [2] Then the Philistines put themselves in battle array against Israel. And when they joined battle, Israel was defeated by the Philistines, who killed about four thousand men of the army in the field.

- Again, just to give us insight to the confusion of those days. The men again blamed God for their defeat. Rather than getting on their faces and seeking the LORD, repenting before God, they just blamed God for their calamity. "Why has God done this to us?" They do not want to examine themselves; they just want blame God. They want to accuse God for the wrong things that are happening in their lives. **Is this my tendency to often blame God?**
- Had they come to Samuel and said, "Samuel, seek the LORD for us; and find out if God wants us to go to battle against the Philistines," then surely the LORD would have directed them. If they had a time of national repentance and prayer, seeking God, He would have, no doubt, directed them and they would not have experienced defeat.
- It is interesting that people who do not really want anything to do with God, to seek the guidance of God. They do not want to submit their lives to God. They want to blame God!

1Sa 4:3 And when the people had come into the camp, the elders of Israel said, "Why has the LORD defeated us today before the Philistines? Let us bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD from Shiloh to us, that when it (a box, not the Ark of the Covenant) comes among us it may save us from the hand of our enemies."

- Now, someone got the idea, rather than seeking the LORD, of repenting and turning to God, they were going to take this religious artifact, the Ark of the Covenant: "Let's bring it out of Shiloh, let's bring it here." It did represent the presence of God, and the relationship with Him! They were longing for the presence of God, but they were seeking it in the wrong way. They were using this religious artifact as kind of a fetish, a giant rabbit's foot, a good luck charm, a magic kind of religious thing that brings us power.' As though the presence of the Ark of the Covenant with them would suddenly bring to them some kind of magical powers over their enemies. They were forgetting the Covenant part! They confused the symbol of His presence with His actual presence. In this way, their understanding of God resembled that of the Philistines.
- There are people today who look to objects for power within them, rather than looking for the power of God. The objects many times are reminders of God, but we should never worship objects, even though they are reminders of God. But such is the nature of man.
- The Ark of the Covenant is not some kind of magical charm, though they were looking at it as such. "Just its presence will save us from our enemies." It is the presence of God that we need.
- **Am I quite clear in my Christian walk that what I need is God's presence, not using "the Ark of the Covenant: as an "it" or a box, as a rabbit's foot or a good luck charm? Something that can be captured by the enemy. Are we seeking the LORD before battle?**

1Sa 4:4 So the people sent to Shiloh, that they might bring from there the ark of the covenant of the LORD of hosts, who dwells between (or above) the cherubim. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God.

- They took it out of the holiest of holies. You might know that the two wicked sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the Ark of the Covenant of God. They decided that they would come and bring the Ark of the Covenant.

1Sa 4:5-9 And when the ark of the covenant of the LORD came into the camp, all Israel shouted so loudly that the earth shook. [6] Now when the Philistines heard the noise of the shout, they said, "What does the sound of this great shout in the camp of the Hebrews mean?" Then they understood that the ark of the LORD had come into the camp. [7] So the Philistines were afraid, for they said, "God has come into the camp!" And they said, "Woe to us! For such a thing has never happened before. [8] Woe to us! Who will deliver us from the hand of these mighty gods? These are the gods who struck the Egyptians with all the plagues in the wilderness. [9] Be strong and conduct yourselves like men, you Philistines, that you do not become servants of the Hebrews, as they have been to you. Conduct yourselves like men, and fight!"

- It had a reverse effect: the Philistines got frightened. The adrenaline started flowing, and they said, "We better fight for our lives." They became ferocious. They were like men possessed. And they began to smite the men of Israel, and they defeated them with a tremendous slaughter. Their hope should have been in the God of the Covenant!

1Sa 4:10-11 So the Philistines fought, and Israel was defeated, and every man fled to his tent. There was a very great slaughter, and there fell of Israel thirty thousand foot soldiers. [11] Also the ark of God was captured; and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, died.

The Death of Eli – 1Sa 4:12 *Then a man of Benjamin ran from the battle line the same day, and came to Shiloh with his clothes torn and dirt on his head.*

- A sign of tremendous mourning. To get a real emotional experience, you would always rip your clothes and put dirt on your head. They knew it was bad news.

1Sa 4:13 Now when he came, there was Eli, sitting on a seat by the wayside watching, for his heart trembled for the ark of God. And when the man came into the city and told it, all the city cried out.

- He knew that was wrong to take the ark of God into the field of battle!
- All the city cried out. This was a calamity to all Israel, especially to Shiloh, and the ruin of that place. Though the ark was soon rescued from the Philistines, yet it never returned to Shiloh again! Now God forsook the tabernacle of Shiloh, and the tribe of Ephraim, which had for 340 years been blessed with the presence of the ark in it, lost the honor. Later it was transferred to the tribe of Judah.

1Sa 4:14-18 When Eli heard the noise of the outcry, he said, "What does the sound of this tumult mean?" And the man came quickly and told Eli. [15] Eli was ninety-eight years old, and his eyes were so dim that he could not see. [16] Then the man said to Eli, "I am he who came from the battle. And I fled today from the battle line." And he said, "What happened, my son?" [17] So the messenger answered and said, "Israel has fled before the Philistines, and there has been a great slaughter among the people. Also your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, are dead; and the ark of God has been captured." [18] Then it happened, when he made mention of the ark of God, that Eli fell off the seat backward by the side of the gate; and his neck was broken and he died, for the man was old and heavy. And he had judged Israel forty years.

- Note that when he hears that his sons have died in the battle, it produces no reaction in him, because that had already been prophesied. He knew they were going to die as a part of God's judgment somewhere. But what he did not ever expect was that the Ark of the Covenant, the great symbol of Israel, would be taken captive. That really wiped him out!

- Then this old ninety-eight-year-old man *fell off the seat backward by the side of the gate; and his neck was broken and he died!* So, the ignominious death of Eli the priest: as God had said through Samuel that judgment was coming quickly upon his family. God was going to cut it off. Now, we find the fulfillment of that prophecy.

1Sa 4:19-21 Now his daughter-in-law, Phinehas' wife, was with child, due to be delivered; and when she heard the news that the ark of God was captured, and that her father-in-law and her husband were dead, she bowed herself and gave birth, for her labor pains came upon her. [20] And about the time of her death the women who stood by her said to her, "Do not fear, for you have borne a son." But she did not answer, nor did she regard it. [21] Then she named the child Ichabod (no glory), saying, "The glory has departed from Israel!" because the ark of God had been captured and because of her father-in-law and her husband.

- She named the child *Ichabod*, which means no glory, that the glory has departed from Israel because the Ark of God had been captured and her father-in-law and her husband had been killed.

1Sa 4:22 And she said, "The glory has departed from Israel, for the ark of God has been captured."

- So, this word '*Ichabod*:' "*the glory of God has departed from Israel*," is a word, really, of judgment. I am afraid it is a word that should be put over the door of a lot of churches. '*Ichabod*:' "*the glory of God has departed from the assembly of the people*."
- ***Ichabod – The glory of God has departed! This reminds us of Alexis de Tocqueville's famous 1835 speech, "Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits flame with righteousness did I understand the greatness and genius of America. America is great because America is good. If America ever ceases to be good America will cease to be great!"***

The Philistines and the Ark – *1Sa 5:1-2 Then the Philistines took the ark of God and brought it from Ebenezer to Ashdod. [2] When the Philistines took the ark of God, they brought it into the house of Dagon and set it by Dagon.*

- Now the Philistines have the Ark of the Covenant and their problems are just starting!
- a male torso and head, along with a fish tail and body. He was worshipped by the Philistines. Just like you would see a mermaid with a fish's tail, this came from Dagon, who had a fish tail bottom with the head and torso of a man. The idol of Dagon was sitting in the temple of Dagon. They made the mistake of setting the Ark of the Covenant of God next to this pagan idol.
- They put the ark of God, the God of defeated Israel, as a trophy of Dagon's victory, symbolizing the superiority of Dagon over the LORD.

1Sa 5:3 And when the people of Ashdod arose early in the morning, there was Dagon, fallen on its face to the earth before the ark of the LORD. So they took Dagon and set it in its place again.

- ***Fallen on his face before the Ark of the LORD.*** In the Hebrew, it is very interesting because here Dagon has fallen off of his pedestal and is face down in front of the Ark of the Covenant, a position of worship in the Hebrew! The language is very picturesque when they open up the door, they see their fish god on his face before the Ark of the Covenant. They must have thought that they had interrupted a worship service. The most embarrassing time when our god is worshipping the God of Israel!

1Sa 5:4 And when they arose early the next morning, there was Dagon, fallen on its face to the ground before the ark of the LORD. The head of Dagon and both the palms of its hands were broken off on the threshold (or pedestal); only Dagon's torso was left of it.

- They came in the next day and it was the same thing. This is not a good trend that is going on here. But there is the additional thing where Dagon's head is broken off from the image and also his hands! God is communicating to the Philistines that their god is without wisdom! His head is broken off (wisdom less!) His hands are broken off too, ***He is powerless!*** In the great temple of Dagon in Ashdod the very place of his greatest strength and power! Dagon is completely defenseless before the LORD!

- God is trying to get through to them that they are worshipping the wrong god! That is just because you defeated My people out there, you only defeated them because of their own sin and you did not defeat Me when you defeated them.
- God is also trying to convict them of their own sin. They have done something wrong to God here, taking the symbol of His presence, bringing it into their unholy temple, placing it at the feet of their god. He is also going to plague them for the same reasons.
- **As we look carefully at our lives, are there any gods which we are worshipping, giving our attention to (ministry, health, spouse, children, current events?), other than the one true and living God? The God of the Bible, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob?**

1Sa 5:5 Therefore neither the priests of Dagon nor any who come into Dagon's house tread on the threshold of Dagon in Ashdod to this day.

- It became a superstitious thing: Do not step on the threshold because that is where the head and the hands were broken off. It was not what God wanted them to take away from the situation!
- It is amazing how many people will allow themselves to be continually disappointed and even damaged by the wisdom lessness of their god and the powerlessness of their god. Instead of looking at a scene like this, or looking at the catastrophe of their life and say I better find another, the true God!
- The great lesson God was trying to get through to them is you are wasting time worshipping this thing. Worship the God of the children of Israel, Yahweh, Jehovah! Let us make Him our God too! This is what they should have been picking up from all of this!

1Sa 5:6 But the hand of the LORD was heavy on the people of Ashdod, and He ravaged them and struck them with tumors, both Ashdod and its territory.

- God physically smites the Philistines in this particular instance. He has already judged His people for their sin out in the battlefield. Now He smites and judges the Philistines again, because of their great sin and blasphemy that they have committed against the LORD in bringing Him into that temple, putting Him at the feet of Dagon.

1Sa 5:7-9 And when the men of Ashdod saw how it was, they said, "The ark of the God of Israel must not remain with us, for His hand is harsh toward us and Dagon our god." [8] Therefore they sent and gathered to themselves all the lords of the Philistines, and said, "What shall we do with the ark of the God of Israel?" And they answered, "Let the ark of the God of Israel be carried away to Gath." So they carried the ark of the God of Israel away. [9] So it was, after they had carried it away, that the hand of the LORD was against the city with a very great destruction; and He struck the men of the city, both small and great, and tumors broke out on them.

- God is really coming against the cities of the Philistines!

1Sa 5:10 Therefore they sent the ark of God to Ekron. So it was, as the ark of God came to Ekron, that the Ekronites cried out, saying, "They have brought the ark of the God of Israel to us, to kill us and our people!"

- Ekron, the third of the Philistine cities were not at all happy to see the ark, but they would not submit to the God of Israel!

1Sa 5:11 So they sent and gathered together all the lords of the Philistines, and said, "Send away the ark of the God of Israel, and let it go back to its own place, so that it does not kill us and our people." For there was a deadly destruction throughout all the city; the hand of God was very heavy there.

- Let us get rid of this thing! It is interesting that God began to bring the judgment against the Philistines because they had in their possession this sacred instrument of God. They had enough sense to realize, "Hey, we better get rid of this thing before we are all dead!" (**My sin; your sin?**)
- So, the heavy judgment of God came upon the three cities of the Philistines that harbored this Ark of the Covenant.

1Sa 5:12 And the men who did not die were stricken with the tumors, and the cry of the city went up to heaven.

- Many drop down dead among them. Many more are raging ill of the tumors.

- As we move into chapter 6, we will see their getting rid of this Ark of the Covenant, sending it back to Israel and the interesting things that surround it. They are sending the ark back.
- The Bible warns us that (2Ti 3:1-2) *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.* The Bible warns us about all of these things that we see beginning to happen to us in the world today!
- The Bible tells us (Mat 24:24) *For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect!* Thank God, that is not possible. But it will be a strong delusion that Satan will bring. And if you are the child of God, you are apt to be deluded and tried by the things that are going to transpire. We are seeing the beginning of a tremendous surge.
- If you are not a child of God, you have no real defense or buffer against these things that are going to come. If ever there was a time where we needed to make a real commitment of our lives to Jesus Christ, and a real commitment to the Word of God, it is today!
- *Speak LORD, for Your servant hears! (1 Sa 3:11b) Now the LORD came and stood and called as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel answered, "Speak, for Your servant hears."*

SUMMARY

- **May that be my heart every time, before I open up my Bible, that I will agree to obey Your Word, even before I receive it; whatever it is that You will tell me! (1Sa 3:7)**
- **How frequently am I receiving the LORD's revelation by the word of the LORD? Yearly, monthly, daily, hourly? (1Sa 3:21)**
- **The word of Samuel came to all Israel! How is my witness in this area? Am I being faithful in passing on His word to others? (1Sa 4:1)**
- **Am I quite clear in my Christian walk that what I need is God's presence, not using "the Ark of the Covenant: as an "it" or a box, as a rabbit's foot or a good luck charm? Something that can be captured by the enemy. Are we seeking the LORD before battle?**
- (1Sa 4:3)
- **Ichabod – The glory of God has departed from Israel! This reminds us of Tocqueville's statement, "Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits flame with righteousness did I understand the greatness and genius of America. America is great because America is good. If America ever ceases to be good America will cease to be great!" (1Sa 4:22)**
- **As we look carefully at our lives, are there any gods which we are worshipping, giving our attention to (ministry, physical condition, spouse, children, current events?), other than the one true and living God? The God of the Bible, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob? (1Sa 5:4)**

(1 Sa 3:10c) And Samuel answered, "Speak, for Your servant hears."

SPEAK, LORD, IN THE STILLNESS (IN THE QUIET HOUR) – E. Grimes/H. Green (229-232)

1 Speak, Lord in the stillness, While I wait on Thee; Hushed my heart to listen in expectancy.

2 Speak, O blessed master, In this quiet hour, Let me see Thy face, Lord, Feel Thy touch of pow'r.

3 For the words Thou speakest, "They are life" indeed; Living Bread from heaven, Now my spirit feed!

4 All to Thee is yielded, I am not my own; Blissful, glad surrender, I am Thine alone.

5 Fill me with the knowledge Of Thy glorious will; All thine own good pleasure to my life fulfill.

6 Like "a watered garden" Full of fragrance rare Lingering in Thy presence Let my life appear.

CLOSING PRAYER

NEXT WEEK: Study 1 Samuel, Chapters 6-8!