

Read 1 Sam 3

WHAT – Samuel was a very important figure in the life of Israel. This story tells about Samuels “call to ministry”. He could not be a priest because to be a priest meant you came from the tribe of Levi, but he was given to the temple by his mother because she was so grateful to God for giving her a son. In this scripture he meets God, literally, and the beginning of a powerful ministry is initiated. Samuel grew up to be one of Israel’s most important and powerful prophets, and he was responsible for anointing the first two kings of the nation of Israel.

WHY – Samuel was the first true “prophet” in the line of biblical prophets found in the books of 1&2 Samuel and 1&2 Kings. Before this period God had “judges” over Israel. In that sense Samuel was the last judge and the first prophet, a “link” as it was, between both methods of God dealing with His chosen people. He returned Israel back to God after a long period of separation. He also was big part of the life, ministry, and kingship of one of the most important figures in the Old Testament, King David.

WOW - There are a lot of small but wonderful details here. Verse 1 reminds us that “the word of the Lord was rare”. This shows how sin will separate you from God. Verse 3 says that Samuel was sleeping in the Holy of Holies, where the Ark of God was kept. That was unheard of. If you study the Old Testament, you see that NO ONE was allowed in the Holy of Holies with the Ark except the High Priest, and him only once a year to make a universal sacrifice on the “Day of Atonement” (Yom Kippur). Samuel SLEPT under the ARK! What an amazing statement about God’s grace, His true purpose for worship (relationship rather than rules) and the plan He had for Samuel’s life. Finally, in verse 10, the bible says that “God came and stood there” to talk to Samuel. WOW. God’s very presence shining upon Samuel. It is no wonder He was special.