



1

Question from last week

- What does it mean when God said to the house of Eli through the prophet that “those who despise me shall be despised by me”? 1 Samuel 2:30
 - God revealed that He would act in the way He often acts here in bringing sinful actions back on the unrepentant person or persons. The sons of Eli treated God with contempt and Eli was complicit in his passivity in failing to correct them. Therefore, God would treat them with contempt. (Compare Matthew 7:1; 2 Samuel 12:9-14)
 - This is consistent with the fact that God is the only one who knows how to avenge and has the sole authority to do so. (Deuteronomy 32:35; Romans 12:19; Hebrews 10:30-31)

2

The Call and Rise of Samuel 3:1-4:1

- Samuel could minister before the Lord in the Tent of Meeting because he was a Levite although it is doubtful that he had reached the age of 25 at which a Levite would normally begin his service since he is referred to up through this time as a boy. Numbers 8:23-26
- Encounters with God are always at His initiative, but sinful rebellion can diminish these encounters. (Compare Amos 8:11)

3

The Call and Rise of Samuel 3:1-4:1

- Samuel's encounter with God
 - The setting is that Samuel is sleeping in the Tent of Meeting. (Compare Exodus 33:11 where Joshua did not depart from the Tent.)
 - Samuel mistakes the source of the call of his name as from Eli
 - This was the first personal encounter of Samuel with Yahweh
 - Then, as now you can know about God without knowing Him.

4

The Call and Rise of Samuel 3:1-4:1

- Samuel's encounter with God
 - Eli through the fog of sleep and spiritual insensitivity finally realizes that it is Yahweh calling to Samuel and he instructs Samuel to receive the message from Yahweh.
 - On this fourth time not only is there the voice calling Samuel but an observable presence. 3:10

5

The Call and Rise of Samuel 3:1-4:1

- Samuel's encounter with God
 - The message
 - God is about to execute the judgment against Eli and his household that He had revealed through the prophet.
 - God will do this in shocking fashion.
 - The judgment is for the blasphemous actions of the sons and the failure of Eli to hold them to account. (See Ezekiel 22:26)

6

The Call and Rise of Samuel 3:1-4:1

- Samuel's encounter with God
 - The message
 - God is about to execute the judgment against Eli and his household that He had revealed through the prophet.
 - The judgment will be perpetual.
 - God will not accept any sacrifice to atone for their sin. (Adultery was a sin that had no provision for sacrificial atonement, the other major one was intentional homicide) (Compare Numbers 15:27-31; Psalm 51:16-17)

7

The Call and Rise of Samuel 3:1-4:1

- Samuel's encounter with God
 - The message
 - Eli inquired about the message and when Samuel revealed it to him, he reflects the consequences of a life of passivity and missed opportunities, a tired, defeated old man.

8

The Call and Rise of Samuel 3:1-4:1

- Samuel's rise to prominence.
 - Samuel matured in body and spirit.
 - Samuel passed the test of a prophet which is 100% accuracy. (Deuteronomy 18:21-22)
 - Samuel's influence is recognized throughout all of Israel, Dan to Beersheba, the northern and southern extremes of the Promised Land.

9

The Call and Rise of Samuel 3:1-4:1

- Samuel's rise to prominence.
 - Interaction with Yahweh at Shiloh which had become rare under the influence of Eli and his sons became more consistent under Samuel's influence.
 - Samuel was faithful in his work as a Levite in communicating the word of God to the people of God. (Deuteronomy 33:10)
