



INTRODUCTION/SYMOPSIS:

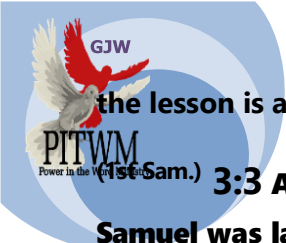
1 SAMUEL 2:22, 27-36 22Eli is now old and will be made accountable of the wickedness going on in his house. It also says that **27**God revealed Himself to Eli's ancestors **28**and had chosen and assigned them for the priestly work of sacrifices and offerings. **29**However, Eli and sons have scorned the sacrifices and offerings, and he has given more honor to his sons than to God. it was always promised that the Tribe of Levi would always be priest. **30**They were to walk before God forever, but it's ridiculous for them to think that what they're doing can continue before God and He not do anything about it. Honor brings honor, and despising God and taking Him lightly will bring dishonor, for God will surely despise them. **31**God will put an end to this, for no kinsman in Eli's house will reach old age. **32**Eli will see the distress in God's house (the Tabernacle). Good things will come to the Israelites, but not one in Eli's house will live out their days. **33**One of his descendants will be left to serve at God's Altar, and Eli will see it and weep. **34**God says to prove all this, He will cause Eli's two sons, Hophni and Phinehas to die on the same day. **35**God will raise up a faithful priest, that will do according to "His" heart and "His" mind, and God will build him (His anointed priest) a sure house and that priest will walk before His anointed forever. **36**After a while, everyone that's left (children, grandchildren and grandchildren's children) in Eli's house will come and bow down and become beggars for money and food, asking for a job among the priests, so that they will have enough to eat. And in those days, it was rare for the Lord to speak directly to people. Also, he did not give many visions.

LESSON: I. SAMUEL'S CALL FROM GOD 1 SAMUEL 3:1-9, 19-20

(1st Sam.) 3:1 **And the child Samuel ministered unto the Lord before Eli. And the word of the Lord was precious in those days; there was no open vision.** Eli's sons were wicked and reckless, for they didn't do anything God commanded and had no respect for God, but God always has a ram in the bush. And that child was Samuel, the son Hannah had prayed for because she had been barren. Then God answered, and then she gave him back to the Lord. We see in the second chapter of 1st Samuel verse 18 that Samuel ministered before the Lord as a child. Although a child, he was faithful in his continuous ministry to the Lord! Also the 26th verse "The child Samuel grew on and was in favor both with the Lord and also with men." Eli probably trained his sons as priests when they were young, but when they got older, they strayed and did the opposite. But here Samuel is still ministering unto the Lord before Eli. He did not stray from God. And in those days a message from the Lord was a rare treasure, and no frequent vision; no Prophetic Word. Why? Corrupt leaders and people. Do we think it will come a time that we cannot hear God speak? That it will get so corrupt that God will stop speaking?

(1st Sam.) 3:2 **And it came to pass at that time, when Eli was laid down in his place, and his eyes began to wax dim, that he could not see;—So, as time passes, Eli is almost blind; blind spiritually to direct God's people, and his physical eyesight is dim that he could not see, nor perceive what's about to happen. So, he lays down to sleep. This may be the time for us to pray and not so much to sleep. I think this is what**





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the lesson is about to show us.

3:3 And ere the lamp of God went out in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was, and Samuel was laid down to sleep;— This should never happen that the lamp in the temple suddenly goes out where the Ark of God rests. The Ark of God is in the Holy of Holies. This is significant: Why? Samuel also had laid down to sleep, but it's his job to see to it that the candlestick in the temple stay lit. and if God is not speaking to him, then he's in darkness and don't even know it.

Revelation 2:5 says *I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.*

It's like one season of time has ended and another is developing, for God is now about to speak to the one who had been ministering unto Him in the temple. Are we ministering unto God or to self needs?

(1st Sam.) **3:4 That the Lord called Samuel: and he answered, Here am I.** just as Samuel is about to go to sleep, the Lord Himself called Samuel by name and Samuel answers Here am I. Mind you we see that God did not call Eli.

(1st Sam.) **3:5 And he ran unto Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou calledst me. And he said, I called not; lie down again. And he went and lay down.** Samuel thought it was Eli who called him, so he ran to Eli to see what he could do to help Eli, and said Here am I. But Eli didn't call for him, and he went back and laid down.

(1st Sam.) **3:6 And the Lord called yet again, Samuel. And Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And he answered, I called not, my son; lie down again.** Well, the same thing happened again for he had heard the voice called him by name. and Samuel ran to Eli again and said Here am I. and again Eli said I didn't call you my son, lie down again.

(1st Sam.) **3:7 Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, neither was the word of the Lord yet revealed unto him.** God is getting Samuel ready to know His voice, for "*Samuel does not know the voice of the Lord, for God had not ever reveal Himself to him.*" He knew how to serve in the temple, but had no encounter with God. Our relationship has to mature.

(1st Sam.) **3:8 And the Lord called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And Eli perceived that the Lord had called the child.** Now, this is the third time the Lord calls Samuel's name. Samuel again gets up and goes to Eli and says Here am I, for I know you called me. So, now it dons on Eli, he perceives that this is the Lord calling Samuel.

(1st Sam.) **3:9 Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and lay down in his place.** So, Eli then tells Samuel to go lay down and if you hear the voice again speaking to you, I want you to say Speak, Lord, thy servant heareth. With our Holy Ghost filled selves, do we know how to take counsel from someone else when it comes to God? And Samuel goes back to lay down waiting for the next time the voice will speak.

INTRODUCTION/SYNOPSIS: NOT APART OF THE LESSON: 1 SAMUEL 3:10-18

As before, **10**the Lord called out saying Samuel, Samuel, and Samuel responded by saying Speak, thy servant heareth. That means Samuel was ready because God has his ears and heart. **11**The Lord tells Samuel that He's going to do a shocking thing in Israel, that will cause the ears of every one that hear

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will tingle, 12for He will fulfill the things He had warned and spoken of concerning the house of Eli. When **God begins**, He will also make an end to it **13**forever for the iniquity which Eli knows of because his sons **made themselves vile**, and he didn't restrain them. Whatever God revealed meant he was to obey. God is revealing His holiness. **14**Therefore, He has sworn unto the house of Eli, that the evil of Eli's family can never be wiped out by sacrifice or offering. **15**Samuel stayed in bed until morning, and then he opened the doors of the temple as usual, but he was afraid to tell Eli the vision the Lord had spoken of. **16**But Eli calls Samuel to him, and Samuel answers, **Here am I**. **17**And Eli inquires as to what the Lord had said to him and don't hide anything. **18**Samuel told Eli everything the Lord told him and hid nothing from him.

BACK TO THE LESSON SAMMUEL'S CALL FROM GOD 1 SAMUEL 3:19-20

(1st Sam.) **3:19** **And Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground.** As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him. It's not all about growing in height, but growing in maturity. The Lord made sure that all of Samuel's messages from Him came true. None of his messages fell to the ground.

(1st Sam.) **3:20** **And all Israel from Dan even to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the Lord.** All the people who lived in Israel knew that Samuel was a true prophet from the Lord. They knew this from the north of the country to the south. Everyone from Dan to Beersheba knew God had established Samuel as a prophet of the Lord. Samuel did not have to tell anyone.

(1st Sam.) **3:21** **And the Lord appeared again in Shiloh: for the Lord revealed himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the Lord.** The Lord continued to appear at Shiloh and there He revealed Himself to Samuel through His Word. God continued to show up.

INTRODUCTION/SYNOPSIS: NOT APART OF THE LESSON: 1 SAMUEL 7:1-2

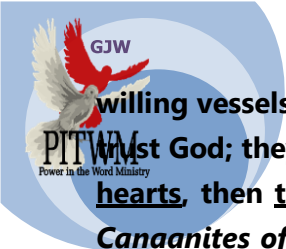
The Philistines are trying to return the Ark of the Lord in **chapter 6** back to Israel. The Ark was being delivered to the Israelite town of **Beth-shemesh**, however 70 Israelite men were killed by God after looking inside the Ark. People who sin, **cannot touch** anything holy. They were disobedient for even trying to touch, let alone see, for Numbers 4:20 says *"But they shall not go in to see when the holy things are covered, lest they die."* So, the people were afraid of God. Afterwards the people of Beth-shemesh asks the people of **Kirjathjearim** (a town of the Gibeonites on the boundary of Judah and Benjamin) to come take the Ark away. **7:1**So, the men of Kirjathjearim came, and retrieved the Ark of the Lord, and they brought it into the house of Abinadab in the hill, and sanctified Eleazar, his son to keep the Ark of the Lord. **7:2**Well, it came to pass, that the Ark remained in Kirjathjearim, for as long as twenty years, and during that time all the house of Israel were sorrowful after the Lord because the Lord had seemingly abandoned them. But, it was the fact that Israel had placed and worshiped all these foreign gods and idols before the only true God. So, where is Samuel, the prophet for 20yrs.? He had been standing in the gap for Israel; praying for mercy instead of judgment **before God**, for he had always ministered unto God. Verse 8 says *"Don't stop crying out to the LORD our God for us."*

II. SAMUEL'S MINISTRY TO ISRAEL 1 SAMUEL 7:3-5, 10-12

(1st Sam.) **7:3** **And Samuel spake unto all the house of Israel, saying, If ye do return unto the Lord with all your hearts, then put away the strange gods and Ashtaroth from among you, and prepare your hearts unto the Lord, and serve him only: and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines.** This is the time for the house of Israel to make a decision, for sorrow had gripped Israel for 20yrs. When Samuel spoke to them, he tells them if they will do something, then this will happen. They have to be

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willing vessels for God’s help. In order for God to help, they had to consider their ways and determine to trust God; they had to do what Samuel had spoken. So, if they wanted to return to the Lord with all their hearts, then they would have to put away the strange gods and Ashtaroth (*the female goddess of the Canaanites of fertility, love, and war; the female counterpart of Baal*) from among them. By preparing their hearts to serve the Lord Him, then the outcome would be that the Lord will deliver them out of the hand of the Philistines. Either you’re in or out; you repent, or you stay stuck. Repentance is always the way to God. “Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.” 1 John 5:21.

(1st Sam.) **7:4 Then the children of Israel did put away Baalim and Ashtaroth, and served the Lord only.** The children of Israel heard what Samuel instructed and they put away Baalim (*the male god of Baal set up in the temples*) and Ashtaroth and served the Lord only.

(1st Sam.) **7:5 And Samuel said, Gather all Israel to Mizpeh, and I will pray for you unto the Lord.** We all have to back up what we commit to. So, Samuel tells Israel to gather themselves together and meet at Mizpeh (*it means “watchtower” or “lookout” and is first mentioned in the Bible in Genesis 31:45–49.*). The land belongs to the tribe of Benjamin. It was at Mizpeh where the Israelites had earlier gathered to mobilize against the tribe of Benjamin (Jdgs.20:1). Samuel was appointed to judge there (7:6), and Saul, Israel’s first king was crowned there (10:7). And this is the place Samuel gathers them together and pray for the Israelites.

INTRODUCTION/SYNOPSIS: NOT APART OF THE LESSON: 1 SAMUEL 7:6-9

6 The Israelites gathered together in Mizpeh, and first they drew water, and poured it out before the LORD which became a practice at the Feast of Tabernacles, commemorating the times the Lord provided water in the wilderness (Jh.7:37-39). Second, they fasted for a day, and thirdly they confessed with their mouths, “*We have sinned against the LORD.*” Then Samuel judged the children of Israel in Mizpeh. They outwardly showed a sign of repentance and surrender. **7**¹Notice what happens immediately after they are restored before God, the enemy rises up to confront them. As soon as you become a threat to the enemy, he will be right there ready to try to destroy you. ²The Philistines have not yet learned their lesson from the heavy hand of God. When the Philistines heard this, the lords of the Philistines came against Israel, for they had assumed that Israel was gathering to revolt against Philistine oppression. What they didn’t know was that, when the children of Israel heard of it, they were afraid of the Philistines. **8** And they said to Samuel, “*Don’t stop crying out to the LORD our God for us, so he will save us out of the hand of the Philistines.*”

Samuel was a priest because he came from the tribe of Levi (1 Chronicles 6:33-38). Samuel was also a prophet because God spoke to him (chapter 3; 4:1). This day he also became the leader of the Israelites. In verse 6, the word ‘ruled’ also means ‘judged’ (see notes on 4:18). So, Samuel led the people as the judges did in the book of Judges. He was their last leader before God gave them a king.

9 Samuel did what the people asked and offered a sucking lamb for a burnt offering; and Samuel cried unto the LORD for Israel; and the Lord accepted the sacrifice, and answered the prayer for deliverance, and again saved His people.

BACK TO THE LESSON: 1 SAMUEL 7:10-12

(1st Sam.) **7:10 And as Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel: but the Lord thundered with a great thunder on that day upon the Philistines, and**

¹ <http://www.ccmanitowoc.org/Library/Guglielmo-Joe/Studies/TH/09-1SA/TH1019.HTM>

² <http://bible.org/seriespage/hands-dagon-and-hand-god-1-samuel-51-717>

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discomfited them; and they were smitten before Israel. Getting right with God may cause the enemy to attack, but it also gives you great help from God for He's right on time. The Philistines didn't want to give the Israelites a chance to get their army together, and they began to draw near to battle against Israel while Samuel is in the middle of offering up the sacrifice unto the Lord. With Samuel's prayer and his sacrifice, it was not an empty shadow, for God accepted it, and thundered with a great thunder! He moved noisily and confused the Philistines, therefore making it easy for the Israelites to win. The Philistines were struck down and defeated before Israel. God showed His allegiance to Israel in no uncertain terms.

(1st Sam.) **7:11 And the men of Israel went out of Mizpeh, and pursued the Philistines, and smote them, until they came under Bethcar.** This had given the men of Israel courage, for it says, "*...the men of Israel went out of Mizpeh*"; went out and pursued the Philistines. They were no longer afraid. They rise-up and push them all the way to "Bethcar", which means "*house of the lamb*." They literally had the advantage, rushing out and chasing after, and pursuing the Philistines, and eventually striking them down, killing them until they came to "*house of the lamb*." ³There are going to be times that God will bring about the victory all by Himself. *But there are also going to be times that we have a part in the victory, in "chasing those Philistines" out of our lives.* Samuel had sacrificed a lamb. Now they pursued the Philistines as far as the "*house of the lamb*." You see, their victory was assured with the sacrifice of the lamb, but it was not completed until they entered the house of the lamb. Our victory over the enemy began with the sacrifice of the Lamb, Jesus Christ, but the battles will continue until we go to be with Him, and enter the house of the Lamb. ⁴God gave Israel the victory, and they stood strong.

(1st Sam.) **7:12 Then Samuel took a stone, and set it between Mizpeh and Shen, and called the name of it Ebenezer, saying, Hitherto hath the Lord helped us.** ⁵In order to commemorate God's help in defeating the Philistines, Samuel set up a stone between Mizpeh and Shen and called it Ebenezer, which means "*stone of help*." This stone would become a visible reminder that God is the "*Helper*" of Israel.

SYNOPSIS: NOT APART OF THE LESSON: 1 SAMUEL 7:13-17

The Philistines' reign was over, and they were not to come near or invade the coast of Israel again. The hand of the Lord was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel. God continued to bless the nation of Israel, even the cities which the Philistines had taken from Israel were restored to Israel, and peace was gained with the Amorites, who became allies. Samuel was considered to be God's appointed leader. This chapter concludes with a note on Samuel's circuit, indicating that his authority was well-established, and that it continued throughout his life. He abode in Ramah and there he built an altar unto the Lord because there was no tabernacle.

SUMMARY:

1st Samuel is about a child ministering unto the Lord before Eli. And the word of the Lord was a rare treasure, and there was no frequent vision from God. 2So, as time passes, Eli is almost blind, and he lays down to sleep. 3It just so happens that the lamp in the temple goes out where the Ark of God rests, and Samuel also had laid down to sleep. 4Just as Samuel is about to go to sleep, the Lord Himself called Samuel by name and Samuel answers Here am I. 5Samuel thought it was Eli who called him, so he ran to

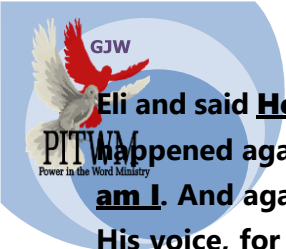
³ <http://www.calvaryfullerton.org/Bstudy/09%201Sa/2002/091Sa07-09.htm>

⁴ <http://www.ccmantowoc.org/Library/Guglielmo-Joe/Studies/TH/09-1SA/TH1019.HTM>

⁵ <http://tomhogsed.com/>

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Eli and said **Here am I**. But Eli didn't call for him, and he went back and laid down. 6Well, the same thing happened again for he had heard the voice call him by name. And Samuel ran to Eli again and said **Here am I**. And again Eli said I didn't call you my son, lie down again. 7God is getting Samuel ready to know His voice, for Samuel does not yet know the voice of the Lord, for God had not ever revealed Himself to him. 8Now, this is the third time the Lord calls Samuel's name. This time God speaks Samuel, Samuel, and Samuel again gets up and goes to Eli and says **Here am I**, for I know you called me. So, now it dons on Eli, that this is the Lord calling Samuel. 9So, Eli then tells Samuel to go lay down and if you hear the voice again speaking to you, I want you to say **Speak Lord, thy servant heareth**. And Samuel goes back to lay down waiting for the next time the voice will speak (3:1-9).

As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and He made sure that all of Samuel's messages from Him came true. All the people who lived in Israel knew that Samuel was a true prophet from the Lord. They knew this from the north of the country to the south. The Lord continued to appear at Shiloh and there He revealed Himself to Samuel through His Word (3:19-21).

The story is about the repentance of Israel and God hears their cry. Samuel is set as a judge, prophet, and priest with authority. We begin with Israel gathering to ask God's forgiveness. If they return to the Lord with all their hearts, put away the strange gods, and prepare their hearts for Him, then God will deliver them out of the hand of the Philistines (7:3-4). Obviously, this was long in coming, and Samuel initiated the place of meeting—Mizpeh (7:5) (7:3-5).

The Philistines drew near, but the Lord thundered with a great thunder upon the Philistines, confusing them, and therefore, the Israelites chased and killed the Philistines all the way to the "house of the lamb," Bethcar territory. Samuel set up a stone between Mizpeh and Shen and called it Ebenezer, which means "stone of help" (7:8-12). (7:10-12).

APPLICATION:

God has His man in place to administer justice, but God makes all things possible for the rescue of His people when they return to Him. **God's call...** (by Daniel Batarseh)

1. Is inconvenient to the flesh.
2. Needs a heart that's eager to serve.
3. Is known to a sensitive spirit.
4. Given from a merciful confirmation.
5. Will always come with a cost.
6. Should always keep us humble.
7. Will be recognized by others.

