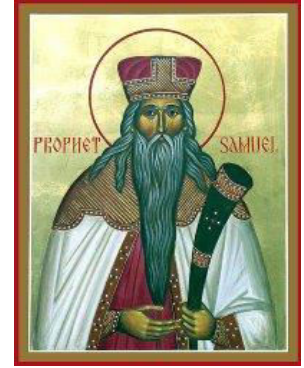


Old Testaments Characters

SAMUEL: Hearing God's Voice (1 Samuel 3)

January 26, 2022



Introduction: *Amid the hustle and bustle of daily life, we often find it hard to hear God's voice. Many "voices" shout for our attention – deadlines to meet, bills to pay, meetings to attend, phone calls, text, emails, and family to care for. We try to read our Bible but struggle to be still and to receive a word from God.*

In the days of Samuel few people were listening to or for the voice of God. Politically and spiritually, Israel was in terrible shape as the "has no king" and "everyone did as they saw fit" (Judges 21:25). In this study we observe Samuel as a young man, hearing the word of the Lord for the first time and beginning his prophetic ministry.

1. How do verses 1-3 set the stage for the events in 1 Samuel chapter 3?
2. Why do you think Samuel has difficulty distinguishing Eli's voice from God's?
3. What do you think Samuel thought and felt as he listened to Eli and returned to bed?
4. Why is the attitude "speak, for your servant is listening" in v.10 important to hear from God?
5. What does God say to Samuel?
6. Why would this have been particularly hard for Samuel to hear?
7. What is Samuel tempted to do with the vision?
8. How does Samuel's obedience affect his relationship to God and his future ministry?

For reflection:

In what ways does God speak to you/us today?

When is it hard for you to hear God's voice?

In what ways does Samuel provide an example for you in your relationship with God?

What practical steps can you take to be more attentive to God's voice?

Now or Later: Read Mark 1:21-39, noting a typical day in the life of Jesus. *What was the key for him to hear the Father?*

A time of prayer: Pray that God will open your spiritual ears and eyes to hear and see God clearer.