

**COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
FIRST AND SECOND SAMUEL
LESSON 3
ELI'S CONDEMNATION – SAMUEL'S CONFIRMATION
1 SAMUEL 2:11 – 1 SAMUEL 4:1a
WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 27 – OCTOBER 2**

Our study last week concluded with Hannah's dedication of Samuel in the temple at Shiloh to serve Yahweh as long as he lives. After her joyful prayer of praise and worship of the Lord in **1 Samuel chapter 2:1-10**, Hannah and Elkanah leave Samuel at the temple with Eli to minister to Yahweh (**verse 11**). This week the narrative shows the great contrast of character and devotion to the Lord between Samuel and the sons of Eli. Rather than hearing and obeying the Word of God, Eli and his sons "*did what was right in their own eyes*". **Chapter 2** concludes with the pronouncement of judgment against Eli's sons and his household.

Chapter 3 marks the beginning of a new era for the nation of Israel. Unlike Eli and sons, Samuel sought to hear from God's word when he responded to God's call "*Speak Lord for your servant hears*." Yahweh selected and called His prophet, Samuel, to faithfully proclaim the word of God to His people and usher in the age of the kings, pointing ultimately to the perfect and eternal King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Jesus Christ.

Read 1 Samuel 2:11-26 Contrast of Samuel and Son's of Eli

1. How are Eli's sons described in **verses 11-17** and **verse 22**?
2. Contrasted with Eli's family, how is Samuel and his family described in **verses 18-21** and **verse 26**?
3. Describe Eli's rebuke of his sons in **verses 23-25** and the response of his sons.
4. Hophni and Phinehas stubbornly persisted in their sinful practices and wickedness. Read **Exod. 9:12** and **Romans 1:18-28** and explain how God deals with the hardened, unrepentant, rebellious sinner.

Read 1 Samuel 2:27-36 Prophecy of Judgment against Eli and Sons

5. In **verse 27**, an unidentified man of God (prophet) comes to Eli. What are the charges Yahweh brings against Eli in **verses 27-30**?
6. What is God's pronouncement of judgment against Eli and his household in **verses 31-36**?
7. What phrase in **verse 35** points to Messiah? How does this reference provide hope for God's redeemed?

Read 1 Samuel 3:1-10 Yahweh Calls and Samuel Responds

8. From **1 Samuel 3:1b** and **Amos 8:11-12** what is said about the Word from Yahweh?

“The absence of the word of God was a sign of the judgment of God, of Yahweh's withdrawing the light of his word and allowing Israel to wander in the darkness she apparently preferred. 1 Samuel, Dale Ralph Davis, pg 42

9. Describe the setting and the details of the Lord's call to Samuel in **verses 2-10**.

10. How did Samuel ultimately respond to God's call?

11. How does Samuel's response challenge you?

12. Read **2 Peter 1:17-20**. What does Peter say about hearing God's voice compared with reading His written word?

Read 1 Samuel 3:11-21 Samuel's Prophetic Ministry Begins

13. What did God reveal to Samuel in **verses 11-14**? Having received this prophetic word from God, what burden or pressure did Samuel face in **verse 15** and how did he respond?

14. How is Samuel's prophetic ministry confirmed in **verses 19-21** and in **1 Samuel 4:1a**?

15. How does **Deut. 18:15-22** help explain the phrase in **1 Samuel 3:19** “*let none of his words fall to the ground.*”?

Concluding Applications:

Are you eagerly and daily opening God's Word to humbly ask “*Speak Lord for your servant is listening*”? If not, what must change in your life to make that daily practice a reality?

From James **1:22-25**, what shows that we are really listening to God's Word?