

Boy Samuel Called by the Lord

1 Samuel 3

The Lord came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth. 1 Samuel 3:10

When Samuel was a young boy, he served in the temple at Shiloh with Eli, the elderly priest (see 1 Samuel 3:1–2).

One night after Samuel had gone to bed, the Lord called, “Samuel.” Samuel answered, “Here am I” (1 Samuel 3:4), then ran to Eli because he thought Eli had called him. But Eli said he had not called and sent him back to bed. (See 1 Samuel 3:5.)

Again the Lord called, “Samuel,” and once more Samuel answered, “Here am I” (1 Samuel 3:6). The boy ran to Eli, who answered, “I called not, my son,” and sent him back as before (see 1 Samuel 3:6).

The third time this happened, Eli knew that the Lord had been calling Samuel (see 1 Samuel 3:8). He told the boy to go back to bed and, if the voice called again, to say, “Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth” (1 Samuel 3:9).

When the Lord called, “Samuel, Samuel” again, the boy answered as Eli had told him (see 1 Samuel 3:10). Then the Lord talked to Samuel, “and Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him. . . . And all Israel . . . knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the Lord” (1 Samuel 3:19–20).

Summary

The child Samuel served in the temple with Eli, the high priest. One night while Samuel was sleeping, the Lord called to him by name. Samuel answered, “Here am I,” and ran to Eli, believing he had called. Eli told Samuel he had not called him and to go lie down again. The Lord called Samuel two more times, and each

time Samuel went to Eli. Eli now realized that the Lord must be calling Samuel and told the boy to answer. When the Lord called a fourth time, Samuel answered and then listened to His words. The Lord was with Samuel as he grew, and all the people knew he was a prophet.

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