



GOD OF THE FATHERLESS

The Story Of God
& Samuel



Yes, No & Maybe

1. I'm a better parent than most of the people in the world today.
2. I have had a strained relationship with at least one of my parents.
3. I was raised by someone who was not my biological parents.
4. There are certain big rules of the church that God does not mind us breaking.
5. Not many people receive visions from God nowadays.

Dig Deeper

➤ READ 1 Samuel 3:1-14 (NIV)

1 The boy Samuel ministered before the Lord under Eli. In those days the word of the Lord was rare; there were not many visions.

2 One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. 3 The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the Lord, where the ark of God was. 4 Then the Lord called Samuel.

Samuel answered, "Here I am." 5 And he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

But Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." So he went and lay down.

6 Again the Lord called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

"My son," Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down."

7 Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord: The word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him.

8 A third time the Lord called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

Then Eli realized that the Lord was calling the boy. 9 So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

10 The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!"

Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

11 And the Lord said to Samuel: "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of everyone who hears about it tingle. 12 At that time I will carry out against Eli everything I spoke against his family—from beginning to end. 13 For I told him that I would judge his family forever because of the sin he knew about; his sons blasphemed God,[a] and he failed to restrain them. 14 Therefore I swore to the house of Eli, 'The guilt of Eli's house will never be atoned for by sacrifice or offering.'"

WHERE SAMUEL CAME FROM:

➤ **CHAPTERS 1&2 - (1:1):** Father, Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite. Mother, Hannah, could not bear any children like Elkanah's other wife Peninnah. **(1:10-11):** Hannah's greatest desire is to have a son so Peninnah will stop provoking her to be sad. Hannah prays for a son and promises to give him up to work as a Nazarite in the temple.

➤➤ **(2:19-21)** Samuel saw his mother once each year when she come for the sacrifices. She would bring make him a new robe and bring it to him. After Samuel's birth, she had 3 sons and 2 daughters.

• Why do you think God answers prayers like Hannah's, even though it was for selfish reasons, and would result in causing a lonely, orphan-like experience for the child Samuel?

Dig Deeper... Continued

IN THE WRONG PLACE, AT THE RIGHT TIME:

» **3:1** *In those days the word of the Lord was rare; there were not many visions* - It was a time when people did not strive to listen for a message from God. People did not have a desire for the direct revelations of God--including the religious leadership of the priesthood.

» **3:3** *The lamp of God had not yet gone out* - God still hadn't given up on them, even though the selfishness even of the priests was representing God as the opposite of His character. The "lamp of God" was symbolized in the temple with the lampstand (or menorah), and represented the light that God brought to the people.

- What does it tell you about God's character that even though people ignore Him, He does not ignore them? Is this different from how God was presented to you when you were younger?

» **3:3** *Samuel was lying down in the house of the Lord, where the ark of God was* - Samuel was sleeping in the Most Holy Place, next to the ark. He was doing something inappropriate, but this comes as no surprise, because Eli's sons were also known for doing very inappropriate things.

- Why do you think Samuel was sleeping next to the ark? And what does it say about God that he would choose to speak to Samuel while he was doing something deemed inappropriate?

» **3:7** *The word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him* - God calls to Samuel three times, but the boy cannot recognize that this is coming from God, because this is the first time that it has happened to him.

- How difficult is it to recognize God's voice, and how can you tell the difference between God's voice and your inner thoughts?

» **3:11** *Will make the ears of everyone who hears about it tingle* - A common Hebrew phrase that meant "this is not going to be good news."

- Why do you think God chose to share this bad news through the conduit of a young boy?

- What does this story reveal to us about God's character?

My Prayer...

1. How am I still viewing myself as an orphan, instead of a child of God?
2. Where does God need me to be to be receptive of His words and calling?
3. What new aspect of God's character does He want me to know?

