

1 Samuel 3 : 1-21—Memory Verses, 8-10.

Golden Text—Speak, Lord ; for thy servant heareth.—1 Samuel 3 : 9.

1 And the child Sam'uel ministered unto the LORD before E'ti. And the word of the LORD was precious in those days ; *there was* no open vision.

2 And it came to pass at that time, when E'ti *was* laid down in his place, and his eyes began to wax dim, *that* he could not see :

3 And ere the lamp of God went out in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God *was*, and Sam'uel was laid down to sleep ;

4 That the LORD called Sam'uel : and he answered, *Here am I*.

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.

6 And the LORD called yet again, Sam'uel. And Sam'uel arose and went to E'ti, and said, *Here am I* ; for thou didst call me. And he answered, *I called not*, my son ; lie down again.

7 Now Sam'uel did not yet know the LORD, neither was the word of the LORD yet revealed unto him.

8 And the LORD called Sam'uel again the third time. And he arose and went to E'ti, and said, *Here am I* ; for thou didst call me. And E'ti perceived that the LORD had called the child.

9 Therefore E'ti said unto Sam'uel, Go, lie down : and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, *Speak, LORD ; for thy servant heareth*. So Sam'uel went and lay down in his place.

10 And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, Sam'uel, Sam'uel. Then Sam'uel answered, *Speak ; for thy servant heareth*.

11 And the LORD said to Sam'uel, Behold, I will do a thing in Is'rael, at which both the ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle.

12 In that day I will perform against E'ti *all things* which I have spoken concerning his house : when I begin, I will also make an end.

13 For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth ; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not.

14 And therefore I have sworn unto the house of E'ti, that the iniquity of E'ti's house shall not be purged with sacrifice nor offering for ever.

15 And Sam'uel lay until the morning, and opened the doors of the house of the LORD. And Sam'uel feared to shew E'ti the vision.

16 Then E'ti called Sam'uel, and said, Sam'uel, my son. And he answered, *Here am I*.

17 And he said, What is the thing that the LORD hath said unto thee ? I pray thee hide it not from me : God do so to thee, and more also, if thou hide *any* thing from me of all the things that he said unto thee.

18 And Sam'uel told him every whit, and hid nothing from him. And he said, *It is the LORD* : let him do what seemeth him good.

19 And Sam'uel grew, and the LORD was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground.

20 And all Is'rael from Dan even to Beer-she'ba knew that Sam'uel *was* established to be a prophet of the LORD.

21 And the LORD appeared again in Shi'loh : for the LORD revealed himself to Sam'uel in Shi'loh by the word of the LORD.

THE LESSON RETOLD

There lived once in Israel a good old high priest named Eli ; but he had two sons who were very wicked men, although they, also, were priests in God's holy tabernacle. And God was displeased with Eli because he did not punish his sons for their wickedness ; and sent a prophet to tell him that they would both die in one day.

Now Eli had helping him in the tabernacle a little boy called Samuel, who had been set apart by his mother to the service of the Lord, when he was a baby. One night, when Eli had lain down to rest in the tabernacle, Samuel lay down also ; and he heard a voice calling him. He thought it was Eli, and at once got up and ran to him, saying, " Here I am ".

But Eli answered, " I did not call you, go and lie down again ". So Samuel went and lay down ; and again he heard the voice, and went to Eli and said, " Here I am, for thou didst call me ". And Eli answered, " No, my son, I did not call you ; go and lie down again ". And Samuel heard the voice a third time, and once more went back to Eli saying, " Here I am, for I am sure thou didst call me ".

Then Eli knew that it was the Lord who had called the child ; so he told him what he should do. " Go and lie down ", he said, " and if He call thee again, say, ' Speak Lord, for Thy servant heareth ' ". So Samuel went and lay down again ; and the Lord came and called as before, " Samuel, Samuel! "