

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

1 SAMUEL 3

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Chapter three gives us the dramatic sequence of events and conversations between the young boy Samuel and the old man Eli, pronounced, "EL, EE" not "EE, LIE" It means "My God." The people had been in the land of their inheritance four hundred years and God was not speaking to or revealing Himself as he did during the days now gone. This also happened during a four-hundred-year period between the prophecy of Malachi and the announcement of the birth of John the Baptist and the announcement of the birth of Jesus. Samuel had never heard the voice of God, so when God called his name, he did not recognize it as the voice of God, but thought it was Eli calling out for him. God spoke to Samuel and three times he ran to his leader Eli and Eli not understanding what was going on, sent him back to his bed each time. Finally, Eli perceived that God was calling out to Samuel and so Eli instructed Samuel to go back to his bed as before, but this time he said, "If He calls you, then you must say, "Speak, your servant hears."

Notice it says that God came and stood and called as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" and Samuel answered, "Speak, for your servant hears." God began to tell Samuel what He was about to do among His people. God told Samuel that what the "Man of God" had told Eli earlier concerning his household and especially his sons was about to come to pass. God was displeased with Eli, because his sons "made themselves vile and he (Eli) did not restrain them." Samuel lay down until the morning hours. Can you imagine what could have gone through his young mind? Eli called for Samuel and inquired as to what the LORD had spoken to him in the night. Eli warned Samuel that if he held back anything God had told him that he would receive what they were going to get. Samuel spoke the words of God to Eli. So Samuel grew and the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel *had been* established as a prophet of the Lord.

Prayer and Action Steps

Ask God to help you listen for His voice as your read the Scriptures today .

Date _____ Scripture _____

- *Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.*
- *Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.*
- *Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.*

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

What is the Context? Old Testament? New Testament? What is the writer speaking or writing about? To whom is he writing?

Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context?

Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act?

Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions?

Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible?

