

THE WORK OF THE PROPHET 1 SAMUEL 3

1 Samuel 3:19 And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground. **1 Samuel 3:20** And **all** Israel **from** Dan even **to** Beersheba knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the LORD. **1 Samuel 3:21** And the LORD appeared again in Shiloh: for the LORD revealed himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the LORD.

1 Samuel 7:16 And he went from year to year in circuit to Bethel, and Gilgal, and Mizpeh, and judged Israel in **all those** places.

The work of the Prophet:

I. Hearing the Word

1 Samuel 3:1 And the child Samuel ministered unto the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; there was no open vision.

1 Samuel 3:2 And it came to pass at that time, when Eli was laid down in his place, and his eyes began to wax dim, that he could not see; **1 Samuel 3:3** And ere the lamp of God went out in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was, and Samuel was laid down to sleep; **1 Samuel 3:4** That the LORD **called** Samuel: and he answered, Here am I. **1 Samuel 3:5** 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. **1 Samuel 3:6** And the LORD called yet again, Samuel. And Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And he answered, I **called** not, my son; lie down again. **1 Samuel 3:7** Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, neither was the word of the LORD yet revealed unto him. **1 Samuel 3:8** And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And Eli perceived that the LORD had **called** the child. **1 Samuel 3:9** Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and lay down in his place. **1 Samuel 3:10** And the LORD came, and stood, and **called** as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth.

As we begin, we must keep in mind the 3 levels / kinds of revelation:

1st: Jesus: "I say unto you"

2nd: Prophets & Apostles: "thus saith the Lord"

3rd: Pastors / Overseers / Elders: "it is written"

1 Timothy 4:13 Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

2 Timothy 4:1 I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; **2 Timothy 4:2** **Preach the word**; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

Acts 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, **to feed the church of God**, which he hath purchased with his own blood. **Acts 20:29** For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.

Acts 20:32 And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

Numbers 12:6 And he said, Hear now my words: **if** there be a prophet among you, I the LORD will make myself known unto him **in a vision**, and will speak unto him **in a dream**. **Numbers 12:7** My servant Moses is **not** so, who is faithful in all mine house. **Numbers 12:8** **With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the LORD shall he behold:** wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?

Why did Samuel struggle at first?

1. Lack of prophets & prophecies

1 Samuel 3:1 And the child Samuel ministered unto the LORD before Eli. **And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; there was no open vision.**

Proverbs 29:18 Where there is **no** vision, the people perish: **but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.**

Amos 8:11 Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD:

2. Lack of experience

1 Samuel 1:19 And they rose up in the morning early, and worshipped before the LORD, and returned, and came to their house to Ramah: and Elkanah **knew** Hannah his wife; and the LORD remembered her.

1 Samuel 2:12 Now the sons of Eli were sons of Belial; they **knew** not the LORD.

1 Samuel 3:7 Now Samuel did not yet **know** the LORD, **neither was the word of the LORD yet revealed unto him.**

1 Samuel 3:19 And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground.

3. Lack of a mentor

1 Samuel 3:6 And the LORD called yet again, Samuel. And Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And he answered, I called not, **my son**; lie down again.

1 Samuel 3:16 Then Eli called Samuel, and said, Samuel, **my son**. And he answered, Here am I.

II. Accepting / embracing the Word

1 Samuel 3:10 And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. **Then Samuel answered, Speak: for thy servant heareth.**

1 Samuel 3:11 And the LORD said to Samuel, Behold, **I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle. 1 Samuel 3:12** In that day I will perform against Eli **all** things which I have spoken concerning his house: **when I begin, I will also make an end. 1 Samuel 3:13** For I have told him that I will judge his house **forever** for the iniquity which he knoweth; **because** his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them **not. 1 Samuel 3:14** And therefore I have sworn unto the house of Eli, that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be purged with sacrifice nor offering **forever. 1 Samuel 3:15** And Samuel lay until the morning, and opened the doors of the house of the LORD. **And Samuel feared to shew Eli the vision.**

Preaching, of any kind, requires something internal of the pastor:

Acts 20:25 And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, shall see my face no more.

Acts 20:26 Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men. **Acts 20:27** **For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.**

2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word; be instant **in season, out of season**; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. **2 Timothy 4:3** **For** the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; **but** after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; **2 Timothy 4:4** And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

Ezekiel 2:3 And he said unto me, Son of man, I send thee to the children of Israel, to a rebellious nation that hath rebelled against me: they and their fathers have transgressed against me, even unto this very day. **Ezekiel 2:4** For they are impudent children and stiffhearted. I do send thee unto them; and thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD. **Ezekiel 2:5** And they, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear, (for they are a rebellious house,) yet shall know that there hath been a prophet among them.

Ezekiel 2:6 And thou, son of man, be not afraid of them, neither be afraid of their words, though briars and thorns be with thee, and thou dost dwell among scorpions: be not afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks, though they be a rebellious house.

Ezekiel 2:7 And thou shalt speak my words unto them, **whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear**: for they are most rebellious. **Ezekiel 2:8** **But thou, son of man, hear what I say unto thee; Be not thou rebellious like that rebellious house: open thy mouth, and eat that I give thee.**

John 6:59 These things said he in the synagogue, as he taught in Capernaum. **John 6:60** **Many** therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, **This is an hard saying; who can hear it?**

III. Preaching the Word

1 Samuel 3:15 And Samuel lay until the morning, and opened the doors of the house of the LORD. **And Samuel feared to shew Eli the vision. 1 Samuel 3:16** Then Eli called Samuel, and said, Samuel, my son. And he answered, Here am I. **1 Samuel 3:17** 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.**

1 Samuel 3:18 And Samuel told him every whit, and hid nothing from him. And he said, **It is the LORD: let him do what seemeth him good.**

Ezekiel 2:7 And thou shalt speak my words unto them, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear: for they are most rebellious. **Ezekiel 2:8** **But thou, son of man, hear what I say unto thee; Be not thou rebellious like that rebellious house: open thy mouth, and eat that I give thee.**

Ezekiel 3:10 Moreover he said unto me, **Son of man, all my words that I shall speak unto thee receive in thine heart, and hear with thine ears. Ezekiel 3:11** **And go, get thee to them of the captivity, unto the children of thy people, and speak unto them, and tell them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear.**