

# Chapter

# 3

## God Calls Samuel

1 The boy Samuel served the Lord under Eli. In those days the Lord did not speak directly to people very often. There were very few visions.



2 Eli's eyes were so weak he was almost blind. One night he was lying in bed. 3 Samuel was also in bed in the Lord's Holy Tent.<sup>d</sup> The Box<sup>d</sup> of the Agreement was in the Holy Tent. God's lamp was still burning.



4 Then the Lord called Samuel. Samuel answered,

"I am here!"



5 He ran to Eli and said,

"I am here. You called me."



But Eli said,

"I didn't call you. Go back to bed."

So Samuel went back to bed.

6 The Lord called again,

"Samuel!"



Samuel again went to Eli and said,

"I am here. You called me."



Again Eli said,

"I didn't call you. Go back to bed."

7 Samuel did not yet know the Lord. The Lord had not spoken directly to him yet.

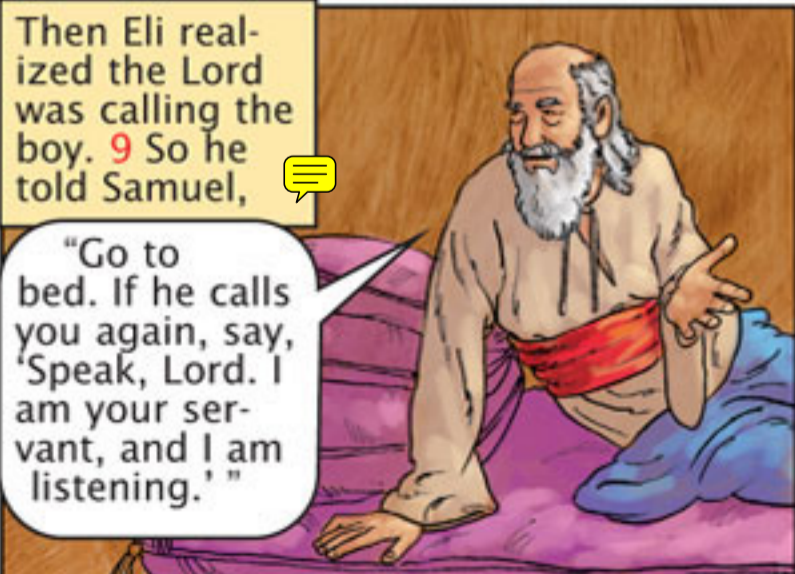
8 The Lord called Samuel for the third time. Samuel got up and went to Eli. He said,

"I am here. You called me."



Then Eli realized the Lord was calling the boy. 9 So he told Samuel,

"Go to bed. If he calls you again, say, 'Speak, Lord. I am your servant, and I am listening.'"

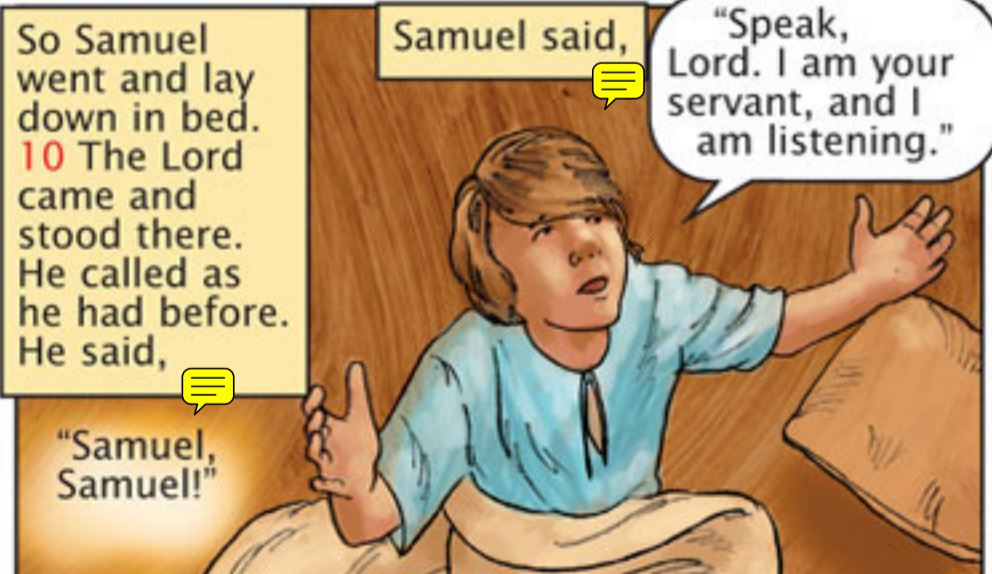


So Samuel went and lay down in bed. 10 The Lord came and stood there. He called as he had before. He said,

"Samuel, Samuel!"

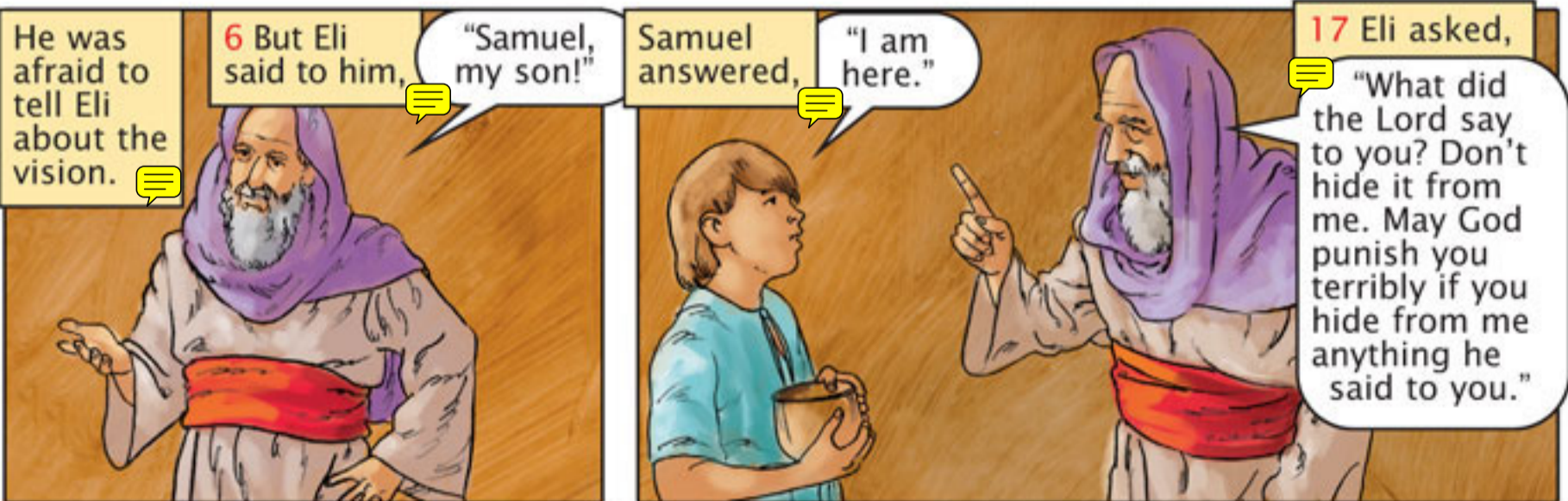
Samuel said,

"Speak, Lord. I am your servant, and I am listening."



1 Samuel 3:11-17

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18 So Samuel told Eli everything. He did not hide anything from him. Then Eli said,



"He is the Lord. Let him do what he thinks is best."

19 The Lord was with Samuel as he grew up. He did not let any of Samuel's messages fail to come true. 20 Then all Israel, from Dan to Beersheba, knew Samuel was a prophet of the Lord. 21 And the Lord continued to show himself to Samuel at Shiloh. He also showed himself to Samuel through his word.

# Chapter 4

**The Philistines Capture the Box of the Agreement**

1 News about Samuel spread through all of Israel. At that time the Israelites went out to fight the Philistines. The Israelites camped at Ebenezer, and the Philistines camped at Aphek.

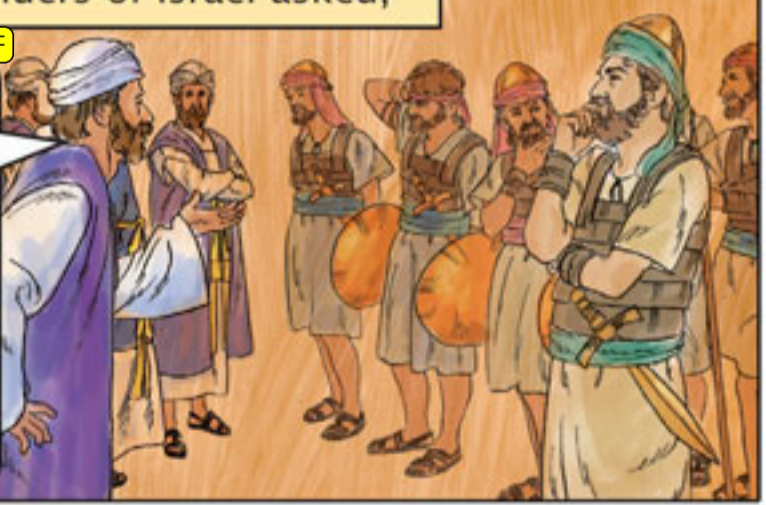


2 The Philistines went to meet the Israelites in battle. And as the battle spread, the Philistines defeated the Israelites.

They killed about 4,000 soldiers of the Israelite army.

3 Then some Israelite soldiers went back to their camp. The elders of Israel asked,

"Why did the Lord let the Philistines defeat us? Let's bring the Box of the Agreement with the Lord here from Shiloh. In this way God will go with us into battle. He will save us from our enemies."



4 So the people sent men to Shiloh. They brought back the Box of the Agreement with the Lord of heaven's armies. Eli's two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the Holy Box.



3:20 Dan to Beersheba Dan was the city farthest north in Israel. Beersheba was the city farthest south. So this means all the people of Israel.