

# Call of Samuel

## *Messaging Child through Parent*

Dr. Goodluck Ofoegbu  
Prof. Oby Ofoegbu  
Banking Blessings Ministry  
San Antonio, Texas  
USA

# What We Will Learn

- God calls Samuel to prophecy
  - A lesson on parent child relationships
  - Messaging child through parent
- Contrast call of Samuel and other calls
  - Moses, Isaiah, and Jeremiah
  - Samuel under parental supervision
  - Parent child relationships affected interactions at call of Samuel
- 1 Samuel 3 and other passages

# Three Alerts to Samuel

- To introduce Samuel
- To his role as prophet
- God alerted Samuel three times
- Until Eli understood the alert and directed Samuel on how to respond
- God spoke to Samuel on the fourth time
- 1 Samuel 3:1–10

# 1 Samuel 3 (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.

# 1 Samuel 3 (NIV)

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.

# 1 Samuel 3 (NIV)

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.

# 1 Samuel 3 (NIV)

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.

# 1 Samuel 3 (NIV)

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

Then Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.”



# How God Alerted Samuel

- God called Samuel in clear human voice
  - Did not show himself physically
  - Or reveal himself in any way
  - Until Eli stepped in
- After third alert
  - Eli realized it was God calling Samuel
  - Directed Samuel on how to respond
  - Delivered message of alert to Samuel
  - Gave parental permission

# The Contrast

- God called Samuel but did not reveal himself to Samuel (until Eli stepped in)
- In contrast
  - God revealed himself to Moses
  - Isaiah
  - And Jeremiah
- When he called each of them

# The Call of Moses

- God revealed his nature through miracle
- Bush emitting flames but did not burn
- Called Moses in a clear voice
- Moses knew it was God
- And responded accordingly
- Moses was an independent adult
- Shepherd for father-in-law
- Exodus 3:1–6

## Exodus 3 (NIV)

1 Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.

2 There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up.

## Exodus 3 (NIV)

3 So Moses thought, “I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up.”

4 When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!”

And Moses said, “Here I am.”

## Exodus 3 (NIV)

5 “Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.”

6 Then he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.” At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

# The Call of Isaiah

- God had previously sent messages to Isaiah in visions
- Revealed himself physically to Isaiah
- And spoke to him in a clear voice
- Isaiah knew it was God
- And responded accordingly
- Isaiah 6:1–8

## Isaiah 6 (NIV)

1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple.

2 Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying.



## Isaiah 6 (NIV)

3 And they were calling to one another:

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty;  
the whole earth is full of his glory.”

4 At the sound of their voices the doorposts  
and thresholds shook and the temple was  
filled with smoke.

5 “Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a  
man of unclean lips, and I live among a people  
of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the  
King, the Lord Almighty.”

## Isaiah 6 (NIV)

6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar.

7 With it he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.”

8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?”  
And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”

# The Call of Jeramiah

- God spoke to Jeremiah in a clear voice
- He knew it was God talking to him
- And responded accordingly
- Jeremiah 1:4–9

# Jeremiah 1 (NIV)

4 The word of the Lord came to me, saying,

5 “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”

6 “Alas, Sovereign Lord,” I said, “I do not know how to speak; I am too young.”

# Jeremiah 1 (NIV)

7 But the Lord said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am too young.’ You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you.

8 Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you,” declares the Lord.

9 Then the Lord reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, “I have put my words in your mouth.

# Special to Call of Samuel

- Samuel lived under parental supervision
- Needed parental approval
- Before his commission as prophet
- God used the call of Samuel
  - To emphasize respect for parental authority
  - And role of parent as channel for God's messages to a child

# Parental Authority and Role as Channel for Message

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 [1 Samuel 3:9].

- Informed Samuel God wanted to talk to him
- Directed Samuel on how to respond
- Granted approval for Samuel to take the important step of talking to God directly

# Receiving Parental Messaging

- Samuel was respectful
- Attentive and obedient to Eli
- His priest, teacher, and “parent”
- He received God’s message through Eli
- His call to present himself
- To be commissioned as prophet
- God sent the message to him
- Through his parent



# What We Learned

- Interactions at call of Samuel
  - Emphasize respect for parental authority
  - And role of parent as channel for God messaging a child
  - God revealed himself to Samuel
  - After Eli informed him God was calling
  - And directed him on how to respond
- That is, granted him parental permission