

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1)	06 December. 2026.....	1Samuel 01-02	Prayer
2)	13 Dec.....	1Samuel 03-04	Calling
3)	20 Dec.....	Luke 02	(Christmas) Savior
4)	27 Dec.....	1Samuel 05-07	Supremacy
5)	03 January 2027	1Samuel 08-14	King Demanded
6)	10 Jan.....	1Samuel 15.....	Obedience
7)	17 Jan.....	Psalms 139.....	Value of Life
8)	24 Jan.....	1Samuel 16.....	Anointed
9)	31 Jan.....	1Samuel 17.....	Victory
10)	07 Feb.....	1Samuel 18-21	Friendship
11)	14 Feb.....	1Samuel 22-24	Respect
12)	21 Feb.....	1Samuel 25.....	Discernment
13)	28 Feb.....	1Samuel 26-31	Guidance

INTRODUCTION

- In this passage we see God establishing Samuel as a "confirmed" Prophet
- How do church leaders confirm their calling from God today?
 - ☐ By their seminary degrees?
 - ☐ By the number of souls saved, disciplined, or counseled?
 - ☐ By their subjective warm fuzzies, dreams, or visions from the Lord?
- Since God now speaks to us by His Son (i.e., His Word) and not by "divers means" (Hebrews 1:1-2), such as by visions, dreams, and angelic visitations, what does a "calling" from God look like these days? Is it objectively verifiable or more subjective in nature?
- Does someone need a "calling" from God to go into ministry, or can they just have a desire to go into the ministry?1Timothy 3:1

Passage	Comments
1Samuel 3:1-15	Samuel is Called by God - v1. Direct revelation and visions from God were rare in those days. Similar to what Gideon would echo a few hundred years later, "Where are the miracles of God which our fathers told us about?"Judges 6:13 - If God is the same yesterday, today, forever, why isn't God consistent? Remember...God's character never changes, but He does change His ways in different time periods (dispensationalism)Hebrews 1:1 Note. Since God creates everybody uniquely with different character, traits, and background, He works with us at our own pace, and He knows how to get our attention. - vv2-15. Samuel was around 12 years old, and God "came and stood" before him (a possible Christophany) - v13. God has no problem letting problems trouble His saints if they fail to deal with known sins in their lives and within their family. The only way to break generational curses (from parents to kids) is to submit humbly to God. - Therefore, be diligent in our walk with God to prevent our kids inheriting our issues (e.g., bad parenting, etc.)
3:16-21	Eli Acknowledges, and God confirms God's Call on Samuel - vv17-18. Eli puts pressure on a young kid to get him to fess up, and Eli perceives the truth of what Samuel received. - Should we manipulate or pressure people to give us what we want, when we want it? - When is it appropriate to pressure people? ☐ Never ☐ To prevent sin ☐ To get money out of them ☐ Other - vv19-21. What God calls, God takes responsibility. In Samuel's case (as well as for all of God's prophets), God did not let any prophecies go unfulfilled - What would be the ramification if even one prophecy fails?
4:1-11	God Relinquishes His Attachment on His Possessions - vv1-8. Israel saw God and the ARK as a lucky rabbit's foot. - What is most precious to God? ☐ God's Holy name? ☐ The heart of His people? ☐ Temple and artifacts? "Remember Shiloh" – God used the capture of the ARK, and eventually, the destruction of Shiloh, God's temporary temple compound, to get His people to repent in Jeremiah's day or else God would destroy them along with Solomon's Temple. But they didn't, so He did.....Jer 7:12-15 - God eventually destroyed and removed Israel from their promised land for the sake of His holy name Ezek 20:44

Passage	Comments
	- vv9-11. Positive Thinking. Positive thinking saved the day for Israel's enemies... "BE STRONG, BE MEN, & FIGHT!" - Even without knowing God, people can accomplish a great deal with positive thinking, positive words, and positive affirmation because that is how God has got us all wired. "As a man thinks in his heart, so is he".....Prov 23:7 - BUT, if we trust in our own positive "mantras", and not in God, we will live a very shallow life.
4:12-22	God's Glory Departs from Israel - Look at the name Eli's daughter-in-law gives to her newborn son, "Ichabod" – 'No Glory'. She was in a fit of depression. - She should have thought more positively, and named him "Hadar", which means "glory", for God always has His eyes on His people for His glory.

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- Being "called" into ministry TODAY is somewhat subjective as people seemingly observe God's hand moving behind the scenes to guide their career path rather than receiving direct revelation. While OT prophets, prophetesses, kings, judges, and NT Apostles had more objective evidence to validate their calling.
- BUT, God gives every Christian specific callings or appointments, and these are objectively verifiable as assuredly as Christ is raised from the dead, and here are just a few of our specific callings:
 - Acts 13:48 We are appointed/called to eternal life
 - Romans 1:7 We are called to be saints
 - 1Corinthians 7:15 We are called to peace
 - Galatians 1:6 We are each called by the grace of Christ
 - Galatians 5:13 We are called to freedom
 - 2Timothy 1:9 We are called with a holy calling
 - 1Peter 2:20-21 We are called to suffer for Christ
 - 1Peter 3:9 We are called to inherit blessings
- Other appointments/callings (e.g., Pastors) are more subjective:
 - 1Cor 12:28 God has appointed/called in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers (i.e., Pastors/Elders). **Note:** Apostles and prophets have ceased, else the word of God would still be growing beyond the current 66 books of the Bible.
 - 1Timothy 3:1 If a man desires the office of a bishop/pastor/elder, he desires a good work. **Note:** No specific calling here.
- Also, churches (often through the Holy Spirit) can call people to fill certain positions, such as for Pastors, Deacons, and missionaries..... Acts 13:2
 - Acts 6. The church chose (called) certain honest men, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom the Apostles appointed to serve the weaker members (widows) within the body.

NEXT WEEK: Luke 2. We revisit the Christmas message. This chapter takes us from Jesus' birth to 12 years of age. How much would we whine and complain if our kids were born under such 3rd-world conditions?

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson



Breaking the news to Eli of his sons deaths, and the Ark stolen.. could have gone better. **1 Sam 4:14-18**