

Eli: The Non-Confrontational Priest of God (Part 2)  
1 Samuel 3:1-21

Thesis Statement:

*Passivity and non-confrontation about sin in my relationship with God and others, and sin in others' relationship with me and God can lead to God and His Name being disgraced and devalued for the sake of my feelings and/or the sake of others' feelings.*

- *“And the Word of the LORD was rare in those days; there was no frequent vision....”*
  - Hophni and Phinehas (1 Samuel 2:12,17,22,25) were reflective of the overall condition of the nation of Israel during this time (1 Samuel 7:3). Due to the spiritual condition of the people, the Word of the LORD was rare (1 Samuel 2:27). *“Behold the days are coming, declares the Lord God, when I will send a famine on the land—not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD. They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, to seek the word of the LORD, but they shall not find it”* (Amos 8:11-12).
  - We must also remember that repentance and reconciliation come by the hearing of the Word of God.... *“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the Word of Christ”* (Romans 10:17). *“Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of scripture, to exhortation, to teaching....Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by doing so you will save both yourself and your hearers”* (1 Timothy 4:13,16).
- *“The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD....”*
  - The lamp of God is the golden lampstand described in Exodus 25:31-40. It was in the holy place and was outside of the Most holy place where the ark of the covenant was and where only the High Priest was able to enter once a year (Hebrews 9:1-7). There were six branches on the lampstand and the main light which made seven; the main light was to never go out (Exodus 27:20-21). Traditionally, the number 6 was the number of man because man was created on the 6th day and the number 7 pointed to completion or the number of God. Everything in the temple pointed to the work of Christ. Some possibilities of what the lampstand pointed to was that: 1) Christ is the light of the world (John 8:12; 9:5). 2) Christ is the only way of salvation or into the presence of God (John 14:6). 3) Or that the Messiah would be fully God and fully man (Colossians 1:19; Philippians 2:6-11; 1 John 4:2-3).
- *“Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not been revealed to him.”*
  - Some scriptures to consider: 1 Samuel 2:11-12,18-19,21,25-26
  - *“Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying, Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations”* (Jeremiah 1:4-5). *“But when He who had set me apart before I was born and who called me by His grace, was pleased to reveal His Son to me, in order that I might preach Him among the Gentiles”* (Galatians 1:15-16).
- *“And the Lord came and stood, calling as at the other times, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “Speak for your servant hears....”*
  - A *theophany* is a manifestation of God in the Bible that is tangible to the human senses. In its most restrictive sense, it is a visible appearance of God in the Old Testament period, often, but not always, in human form (Genesis 12:7-9; 18:1-33; 32:22-30; Exodus 3:2-4:17; 24:9-11; Deuteronomy 31:14-15; Job 38-42). We also believe that when “the angel of the Lord” appeared it was Christ revealing Himself in the Old Testament (Genesis 16:7-14; Genesis 22:11-18; Judges 5:23; 2 Kings 19:35).
  - God called Abraham (Genesis 22:11), Moses (Exodus 3:2-4), and Paul (Acts 9:3-5) in a very similar way.

(continued →)

**Worship:** Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken (Indelible Grace Music)

Holy Holy Holy (Sovereign Grace Music)

**Service Times:** Sundays: Revelation Class 4/Prayer 4:30/Church 5:30; Tuesdays: (In-Home) Bible Study: Women 6:30/Men 6:30 & 7;

Thursdays: Prayer 6:20/Church 7

- *“And Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli...”*
  - Samuel’s very first task after being called by God was to confront Eli’s sins. God provides the Words we are to speak and then we are to speak them. We must afflict the comfortable and comfort the afflicted. *“If I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, in order to save his life, that wicked person shall die for his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, or from his wicked way, he shall die for his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul. Again, if a righteous person turns from his righteousness and commits injustice, and I lay a stumbling block before him, he shall die. Because you have not warned him, he shall die for his sin, and his righteous deeds that he has done shall not be remembered, but his blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the righteous person not to sin, and he does not sin, he shall surely live, because he took warning, and you will have delivered your soul” (Ezekiel 3:18-21).*
- *“It is the LORD. Let Him do what seems good to Him.”*
  - Eli believed that God would always do right (Deuteronomy 32:4) and God is always good (Psalm 145:9). Eli believed that God was a righteous Judge (Psalm 7:11) and was going to rest in God’s sovereignty (Psalm 115:3).

*“So shall My word be that goes out from My mouth; it shall not return to Me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it” (Isaiah 55:11). “And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith” (Acts 6:7).*