

PRECEPTS FOR LIFE
a Production of
Precept Ministries International
P.O. Box 182218, Chattanooga, TN 37422-7218
1-800-763-1990/ www.precept.org

The following is an actual transcript of the PRECEPTS FOR LIFE Broadcast. For the purpose of filling transcript requests quickly, they have received only light editing. If you have questions concerning the material covered in this broadcast, Kay has published a number of books explaining the Scripture in depth. These books may be ordered by contacting the telephone number or address printed above.

SERIES: I Samuel, Part 1 (The Heart of a Leader)

MONDAY

OPEN

It's an awesome thing to hear from God, to have God speak to you, to know this is the word of the Lord, this is what He said is going to come to pass; and then to find yourself having to share that with another person. When God speaks, Beloved, how well do you listen? And when He speaks are you willing to be His spokesman and to share what He said? We'll talk about it today as we look at 1 Samuel.

PART ONE

Do you realize, Beloved, how fortunate you and I are, because we have the completed Word of God? God has spoken and it is written down and it is recorded for us to listen. But that isn't the way it was in the days of Samuel. Let's go to 1 Samuel, chapter 3 and find out what is happening with Eli, Hophni, Phinehas and Samuel. In 1 Samuel, chapter 3, verse 1 it says, "Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord before Eli." (1 Samuel 3:1a) Now

once again we have a contrast. Remember He has just talked about how He is going to judge Eli and how his two sons are going to be put to death on the same day. Why? Because they were not faithful, because they despised God, and Eli despised God in the fact that he honored his sons above God. And he benefited from the sins of his sons; he ate those sacrifices with the choicest of fat in them and he consumed them when it belonged to God. Now in the midst of all this there's light and God always has a light. And it says, "Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord before Eli. And the word from the Lord, was rare in those days, visions were infrequent." (3:1) What does he want us to understand? He wants us to understand that God didn't speak very often. Now what are these days? Well, if you study the chart that's in your study guide; and I do hope that you've downloaded that study guide. And if you haven't, just go to preceptsforlife.com and download it, because we have a lot to learn and I want us to study together. I want you to have the text before you so that you will mark it up and then you can take those markings and transfer them into the Bible. But you will find a chart in your book that shows you the correlation between the days of judges and the book of 1 Samuel. And really, 1 Samuel is a continuation of the time of the judges. It's still the time of the judges and you're going to see why and it is going to be right here in the Word of God for you to discover yourself. So I don't want to tell you ahead of time. All right now, I'm going to read chapter 3 to you. And as I read chapter 3, you want to mark and highlight in yellow those things that you want to see and remember about God. The other thing you want to do is you want to mark every reference to the tabernacle or the dwelling of God or the tent or temple of God, and remember, or the house of God; and remember we're coloring that in blue. You also want to mark references to time. So in verse 1, when it says, "...And the word from the Lord was rare in those days..." (3:1b) you would put a clock around those days because this is when God was not speaking very often. Visions or revelations is what it means; were not spread abroad.

They were not frequent. In other words, God was silent. And you have to remember that they only had a small portion of God's Word. They had the Torah. They had Genesis, and Exodus, and Leviticus, and Numbers and Deuteronomy. And in all probability they had Joshua and maybe they had Judges at this time, the first part of it. I really don't know. But I know that the way that God spoke was He would speak through His prophets. Now remember we saw a man of God come and speak to Eli and we saw that in chapter 2 in verse 27. So that was a revelation from God. It wasn't a very nice revelation because Eli found out that God was going to judge him. But now in this time when God is very seldomly speaking, it says in verse 2: "[And] It happened at that time..." in those days when the visions were infrequent, "It happened at that time as Eli was lying down in his place..." and then they put in parentheses, "... (now his eyesight had begun to grow dim and he could not see well), and the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord where the ark of God was, that the Lord called Samuel; and he said, 'Here I am.' [And] Then he ran to Eli and [he] said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But [Eli] said, 'I did not call [you], lie down again.' So he went and lay down. [And] The Lord called yet again, 'Samuel!' So Samuel arose and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he answered, 'I did not call, [you] my son, lie down again.'" (3:2-6) And then it says, "Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, nor had the word of the Lord been revealed to him." (3:7) Now I want us to go back and look at how old Samuel is. There's debate about it. Some believe that Samuel must be just around 12 years old, but others believe that when it says now the boy Samuel was ministering before the Lord, to the Lord before Eli, that the word boy there, because it's the same word that's used for David, when he kills Goliath, means that he's probably a teenager. He's probably moved past 13 into his teens. At any rate we know this that Samuel has been ministering before the Lord. We have seen this word before and we have seen that he ministered to the Lord and we see that in chapter 2,

verse 11. It says, “Then Elkanah went to his home at Ramah...” remember Elkanah is the father of Samuel, “...But the boy ministered to the Lord before Eli the priest.”(1Samuel 2:11) And then we see in chapter 2, verse 18: “Now Samuel was ministering before the Lord, as a boy wearing a linen ephod.”(2:18) And then we find in chapter 3, verse 1 that he’s ministering before the Lord. So here is a boy growing in wisdom and in stature, and we know that, and in favor with God and man. Here’s a boy that, in a sense, is learning the scriptures, as 2 Timothy says, [“from a child, that are able to make him wise unto salvation.”] He knows about God, but he doesn’t know God. He knows about God, but he’s never had God speak to him up to this point, whether he’s 12 or whether he’s 16, it doesn’t matter. We know that he has not yet had God speak to him directly. In 2 Timothy, chapter 3, verse 14, as Paul writes to Timothy and it’s Paul’s final words to Timothy because he’s going to die. And he says, “You, however, continue in the things [which] you have learned and become convinced of...,” First you learn them, then you become convinced of them, “...knowing from whom you have learned them...,” And you’ve seen my example, “...and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings...,” and that’s what you’re studying is, you’re studying the sacred writings, the holy writings, “...which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”(2Timothy 3:14-15) And then he goes on to say, [“all scripture is inspired of God, so these sacred writings are God-breathed.”] (3:16) Now all they had was the Torah at this time. We know at least that they had the Torah, the first five books of the Bible. Samuel has been ministering to the Lord. And as he’s in this process he’s lying down. I want you to catch the picture. You have in your study guide you have a picture of the tabernacle, not the temple, but a picture of the tabernacle. And this tabernacle, this tent was pitched, as we know, in Shiloh and it was there for several hundred years and this is where Eli is. They’re lying down in the temple. Eli is lying somewhere in the same room it seems, as Samuel, but

not right next to him. And it says and the lamp of God had not yet gone out. So it seems that they would be in the holy place, not the holy of holies. There was a holy place and then there was a veil that separated it from the holy holies. The holy of holies was where the ark of God was kept and that was the most sacred piece of furniture that represented the throne of God. So they're lying down in the temple of the Lord where the ark of God was. So he makes it very clear that he's lying in the actual tabernacle. The lamp of the Lord had not gone out and every night they would replace the oil in the lamp. And so he's saying okay, that the light it hadn't been time yet for them to replace, but their laying down. And as their laying down there he hears, Samuel, and he thinks it's Eli. Eli of course, his eyes are very dim and God wants us to know that and he can't see well. And so Eli is in a sense, possibly so insensitive to the Lord or insensitive to the voice of the Lord, that Eli doesn't even realize that this is God that is calling Samuel. And we don't find that out until the third time. And the third time Samuel hears the voice, it says in verse 8, "So the Lord called Samuel again for the third time...."(1Samuel 3:8a) Now that's a time phrase too. So I would mark it. So you know three times now he has heard Samuel, Samuel, Samuel, "And he arose [again] and he went to Eli and [he] said, 'Here I am...you called me.' Then Eli discerned that the Lord was calling the boy. And Eli said to Samuel, 'Go lie down, and it shall be if He calls you, that you shall say, 'Speak Lord, for Thy servant is listening.'"(3:8b-9a) What an awesome, awesome response: "Speak Lord, for Your servant is listening." When you're listening to the Word of God, God is speaking. Are we listening? We'll talk about it when we come back after this break.

PART TWO

Welcome back Beloved. Do you realize that when I am reading to you the Word of God, or when you open the Bible and you begin to read that this is God speaking to you? You know so many times we think oh, if I could only

have a revelation, if only God would speak to me as He has spoken to Samuel. You have far more, Beloved, than Samuel ever had. You have the completed revelation of God. You have everything that God wants you to know for every situation of life. It is contained in these 66 books. God has spoken. The question is; are you listening? Now I know you are because you're listening to this program and I know that you are in all probability because you want to learn how to study the Word of God. You know, when I went to St. Petersburg, Russia, this person said you know, I have read all this in the Word of God and I never saw it. And they were talking about the book, *God Are You There? Do You Care? Do You Know About Me?* which is a study in the gospel of John. In fact, they had read the Bible through several times, but they read it, but they didn't stop to pause. They didn't stop, now watch, to listen, to really hear, to really think, to really hang on every word of God. Well Eli tells Samuel, go and lie down, verse 9, 1 Samuel, chapter 3, "...Go and lie down and it shall be if He calls...that you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for [Thy] servant is listening.' So Samuel went and lay down in his place. Then the Lord came and stood and called as at other times, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, [for,] for [Thy] servant is listening.' [And] The Lord said to Samuel, 'Behold, I am about to do a thing in Israel at which both ears of everyone who hears it will tingle. In that day I will carry out against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end.'" (1 Samuel 3:9-11) Now can't you imagine that young man's eyes getting wider and wider and wider? This is the first time he has had God speak to him. Remember the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. Remember he did not yet know the Lord. Now the Lord's standing there. Now the Lord's speaking to him. And what is the Lord saying. The Lord's saying, "[I'm going to do something that's going to make both ears of everyone who hears it tingle.] [I'm going to] carry out against Eli all that [I've] spoken concerning his house, from the beginning to [the] end. For I have told him that I'm about to judge his house forever....,"

time phrase, clock, “...for the iniquity which he knew...,” (3:11-13a) Now iniquity is taking God’s word and it is twisting it. So I would mark it. I mark it the same way I mark sin; I color it brown. “...because his sons...,” and remember we’re marking the references to Eli’s sons, “...because his sons brought a curse on themselves...,” Now watch, “...his sons brought a curse on themselves and he [Eli] did not rebuke them. [And] Therefore I have sworn to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli’s house shall not be atoned for by sacrifice or offering forever.”(3:13b-14) Put a clock up there. We saw in our last lesson, we saw the prophecy about God getting rid of Hophni and Phinehas and telling Eli that he would never have an old man in his house and that He would break the strength of Eli’s house. And Eli, in a sense, said okay, you know, but he passed it off and now God is saying it to Samuel. Why is God telling him something like this? He’s just a young man. Why is He telling him something like this? Well, God’s about to reveal Himself to Samuel, isn’t He? And God is going to prove to Samuel that His word is His word. So Samuel, in chapter 4 is going to see what God said come to pass. And so He’s showing him, I have spoken and what I have spoken is true and it will surely come to pass. Now Samuel laid down until morning, then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. So you want to mark the house of the Lord. Where is He laying down? He’s laying down in the holy place. What is he close to? He’s close to the lamp of God. And now he gets up and he opens the doors to the house of the Lord. But Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. “Then Eli called Samuel and said, ‘Samuel, my son.’ And he said, ‘Here I am.’ [And] He said, ‘What is the word...He spoke to you? Please do not hide it from me. May God do so to you, and more also, if you hide...from me all of the words that He spoke to you.’”(3:16-17) Anything, from all the words that he spoke to you, don’t you dare hide them from me, because I’m calling God to do so to you and more if you do this. Well now, I can imagine that Samuel’s knees were knocking. He didn’t want to tell Eli these things. Why? Because they were bad. It was

not good news for Eli. And yet, here is Samuel fearing Eli and what Eli's calling God to do. "So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. And he said..." and this is what Eli said, "...It is the Lord; let Him do what seems good to Him." (3:18) Now you've got to give him credit there. He says it's the Lord. How does he know it's the Lord? Cause the Lord's already told him this. And now it's been confirmed so to speak in the mouth of two witnesses. It came first from the man of God that comes to him when the word of the Lord is rare. Now it's come through Samuel to him and he knows that it was God calling Samuel. So he knows it is the Lord. And he says let Him do what seems good to Him. Now watch this next statement cause it's very important, "Thus Samuel grew and the Lord was with him and let none of his words," (3:19) fall to the ground, not prove themselves to be true, "[And] All Israel from Dan even to Beersheba..." look at your map. Find Dan to the north. Find Beersheba to the south and that's the way they talk about all the land. "[And] All Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel was confirmed as a prophet of the Lord." (3:20) Now, we want to mark prophet. And I mark it with a green megaphone. You'll see how I mark it in your study guide. And we're going to look at that in our next program. But it says, "And the Lord appeared again at Shiloh, because the Lord revealed Himself to Samuel at Shiloh by the word of the Lord." (3:21) Beloved, as much as you would like to have an experience like that, let me just say this, that if you'll open this book and you'll study it and you'll pause and ponder the words, and you'll cry out to the Spirit of God, and if you will say speak Lord, for Your servant is listening, you will hear the voice of God, because these words, the Bible are the words of God. So you're going to know the mind of God, and the heart of God, the will of God, the promises of God and the future, because it's all here in the Book you're studying.