



The account of Samuel is found in 1 Samuel 1, 3.

Jehovah Calls

By Diane L. Mangum

Each night young Samuel slept inside the tabernacle at Shiloh. An oil lamp was supposed to burn all night long in the tabernacle. Eli, the priest, was old and his eyesight was too poor to make sure the lamp was always burning. It was Samuel's job to make sure the lamp never went out.

Samuel had lived at the tabernacle since he was very young. He saw his parents just once a year when they came to the tabernacle to offer sacrifices and to bring him a new set of clothes. Samuel's parents had

promised the Lord that they would have Samuel serve Him in the tabernacle. The old priest Eli taught Samuel to love and serve Jehovah.

One night Samuel was fast asleep. Then he heard a soft voice call his name: "Samuel, Samuel."

Samuel thought Eli must need something. He went to Eli's room. "Here am I," Samuel said. Eli stirred from his sleep, surprised to see Samuel. He had not called the

boy. Eli sent Samuel back to his bed.

Samuel returned to his bed and laid his head down to sleep. Everything in the tabernacle was quiet. Suddenly, a voice again called, "Samuel."

The boy jumped from his bed and ran back to Eli's room. He was

certain he had heard someone call his name. Samuel asked Eli what he wanted. Puzzled, Eli said he had not called Samuel. Once again, he told the boy to lie back

What Was the Tabernacle at Shiloh?

The tabernacle was a portable temple. When the children of Israel were at Mount Sinai with the prophet Moses, Jehovah commanded them to build a place to worship and offer sacrifices. They took the tabernacle with them as they traveled from place to place. After they got to the promised land, the first permanent home for the tabernacle was in the town of Shiloh.

Samuel



Jehovah is another name for Jesus Christ. He is Heavenly Father's oldest son. Heavenly Father asked Him to create the world and to help people return to Heavenly Father's presence. When Jehovah speaks to people, He is usually representing Heavenly Father. In the Old Testament, Jehovah is usually referred to as LORD. After He was born in Bethlehem, He was known as Jesus Christ.

God, our Heavenly Father, is the father of our spirits. He loves and watches over us always. We worship Him and pray to Him.

As Samuel grew, Jehovah continued to teach him, and Samuel continued to listen. When Eli died, Samuel became the prophet. He was a great

down and go to sleep.

Samuel obeyed. Then he heard a voice call his name a third time. When Samuel went back to the priest, Eli finally realized who had been calling the boy. Eli told Samuel it was Jehovah calling his name. He said Samuel should go back to his bed. When Jehovah called again, Samuel should say, "Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth."

Samuel did as Eli told him. He went back to his bed to lie down and listen.

The voice spoke again, "Samuel, Samuel."

This time Samuel answered, "Speak, for thy servant heareth."

Then Jehovah spoke to Samuel. Jehovah explained that Eli's sons were not worthy priests. Samuel would be called to become a prophet. Even though Samuel was just a boy, Jehovah knew his name and had a plan for him.

leader, priest, and judge in Israel for many years. ♦

Did you know that a lamp can represent God's eternal presence?

