

Prophets Profit (1 Samuel 3: 1- 4:1a)

- Light for God's people comes when the Word has free course among them
- Old Testament holds the same assumption, the difference was how it came
- The Old Testament prophets were the conduits or vessels bringing the Word
- It is with the call of Samuel that this usual pattern becomes the norm for Israel

I. Grace in the Prophet's Presence (3:1, 19-4:1a)

- Vs 1, a vision was one of the ways God communicated with his prophets
- The Word of the Lord was rare, this means that words from the Lord were rare
- Men cannot coerce, manufacture or manipulate God, or produce that Word
- The Word of the Lord is His gift, & in Shiloh time it was seldom given
- The reason for God's silence was his judgment for corrupt priests (1 Sam 7: 3-4)
- The absence of God's Word is a clear sign of His judgment (Amos 8: 11-12)
- The good news of 1 Samuel 3 is that God is breaking his silence & speaking again
- We still have this problem today by the fact that people don't heed God's Word

II. The Kindness of the God of the Prophet (3: 2-10)

- "On that day" (v2)- text describes Eli's eyesight (2b) temple light is still burning
- Samuel is getting ready to sleep (3b) main verb "then the Lord called Samuel (4a)
- "Lord calls" (x11 in vs 4-10) it is so clear Samuel thought it was Eli every time
- Vs 7 tells why Samuel didn't get what was happening, "he didn't know the Lord"
- Eli's sons didn't know the Lord, Samuel had no direct experience with the Lord
- We learn here that God is kind, gentle and very patient with His servant Samuel
- God is like that with us, He moderates His instruction to our condition (Jhn 16:12)

III. The Tension in the Prophet (3: 11-18)

- Samuel's ear "buzzing" word, (11) from God about judgment on Eli's sons (12)
- Samuel dreaded having to tell Eli (15b); doubtless he loved the elderly man
- Eli compelled Samuel to speak under threat of a curse to the young boy (17)
- Tension of God's Word, true messenger of God will speak the truth in love

IV. Responsibility for the Prophet's Word (3: 19- 4:1a)

- The prophet not only spelled out God's grace but also Israel's responsibility
- Samuel was different to Moses in that he established prophetic succession
- Prophecy, now a regular feature for Israel until the perfect prophet arrived: Jesus