

# LISTENING TO GOD AND CHANGING YOUR COURSE

*Dennis Clark & Marcus Noll*

1. Does God still speak to people personally?

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2. Personal Illustration - Lamentations 3:

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3. Last audible recorded words of God the Father - Matthew 17:

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4. I Samuel 3:1-21 New Living Translation

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5. How does God speak today?

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6. Reasons He may not speak to us

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7. Possible sources of ideas or impressions

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8. Conclusions

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## **1 Samuel 3 (New Living Translation)**

### **The LORD Speaks to Samuel**

- 1 Meanwhile, the boy Samuel served the LORD by assisting Eli. Now in those days messages from the LORD were very rare, and visions were quite uncommon.
- 2 One night Eli, who was almost blind by now, had gone to bed.
- 3 The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was sleeping in the Tabernacle[a] near the Ark of God.
- 4 Suddenly the LORD called out, "Samuel!" "Yes?" Samuel replied. "What is it?"
- 5 He got up and ran to Eli. "Here I am. Did you call me?" "I didn't call you," Eli replied. "Go back to bed." So he did.
- 6 Then the LORD called out again, "Samuel!" Again Samuel got up and went to Eli. "Here I am. Did you call me?" "I didn't call you, my son," Eli said. "Go back to bed."
- 7 Samuel did not yet know the LORD because he had never had a message from the LORD before.
- 8 So the LORD called a third time, and once more Samuel got up and went to Eli. "Here I am. Did you call me?" Then Eli realized it was the LORD who was calling the boy.
- 9 So he said to Samuel, "Go and lie down again, and if someone calls again, say, 'Speak, LORD, your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went back to bed.
- 10 And the LORD came and called as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel replied, "Speak, your servant is listening."
- 11 Then the LORD said to Samuel, "I am about to do a shocking thing in Israel.
- 12 I am going to carry out all my threats against Eli and his family, from beginning to end.
- 13 I have warned him that judgment is coming upon his family forever, because his sons are blaspheming God[b] and he hasn't disciplined them.
- 14 So I have vowed that the sins of Eli and his sons will never be forgiven by sacrifices or offerings."
- Samuel Speaks for the LORD
- 15 Samuel stayed in bed until morning, then got up and opened the doors of the Tabernacle[c] as usual. He was afraid to tell Eli what the LORD had said to him.
- 16 But Eli called out to him, "Samuel, my son." "Here I am," Samuel replied.
- 17 "What did the LORD say to you? Tell me everything. And may God strike you and even kill you if you hide anything from me!"
- 18 So Samuel told Eli everything; he didn't hold anything back. "It is the LORD'S will," Eli replied. "Let him do what he thinks best."
- 19 As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him, and everything Samuel said proved to be reliable.
- 20 And all Israel, from Dan in the north to Beersheba in the south, knew that Samuel was confirmed as a prophet of the LORD.
- 21 The LORD continued to appear at Shiloh and gave messages to Samuel there at the Tabernacle.