

# The Jewish Kingdom - Lesson 5

## Samuel's Call and Eli's Fall

We continue our look at the early life of Samuel. In these events we will see the Samuel grow in body and service and also the terrible state of the priesthood.

### 8. The Call of Samuel - I Samuel 3:1-18

- vs. 1 - the word of the Lord here is essentially messages from prophets.
- vs. 2 - Eli is nearly blind in his old age
- vs. 3 - Basically, this is a very picturesque way of saying it was night. For more on the lamps in the Temple, Exodus 27:21, Leviticus 24:3
- Samuel, as servant of Eli, was ready to answer the call of the old, blind, overweight priest.
- vs. 7 - How did Samuel not “know” the Lord? He knew Him in an intellectual sense, but not in a personal sense.
- vs. 11 - the terrible “thing” is the coming judgment against Eli’s house, including the coming lost battle against the Philistines and the loss of the Ark of the Covenant.
- vs. 17 - a glimpse into Eli’s character as he bullies Samuel into telling him God’s message.
- vs. 18 - knowing his fate, Eli sure humbles himself quickly.

### 9. The Rise of Samuel - I Samuel 3:19-21

- God spoke to Samuel and now God speaks through Samuel.
- “From Dan to Beersheba” - figuratively all of Israel, Dan being northernmost and Beersheba being southernmost.

### 10. Israel's Defeat and Loss of the Ark - I Samuel 4:1-11

- Ebenezer and Aphek are between Philistia and Dan, east of Ashdod.
- Taking the Ark into battle was not without precedent (Numbers 31:6, for example), however this instance seems rooted in idolatry as if the Ark were some sort of good luck charm.
- vs. 9-10 - Seems like the wrong side got motivated...
- vs. 11 - the “thing” God told Samuel about is happening.

### 11. The Fall of Eli's House - I Samuel 4:12-22

- It's not clear where the battle had been fought, but the runner made it to Shiloh the same day. I imagine the Philistines had pressed further into Israel after their previous victory and now were closer to Shiloh itself.
- Notice that Eli is only concerned for the Ark. I don't think he expected his sons to come back alive.
- vs. 20 - the birth of a son would normally have been cause for great joy.
- Ichabod means “no glory”.
- Here we close on one of the darkest days in Israel's history.