

### **I. THE SILENCE OF GOD (vv1-3)**

**“the word of the Lord was rare in those days; there was no frequent vision.” (v1b)**

- God was silent in those days, not because He was not there, but because no one wanted to listen to Him. (“everyone did what was right in their own eyes”)

**Psalm 81:11-12 (ESV)- <sup>11</sup> But my people did not listen to my voice; Israel would not submit to me. <sup>12</sup> So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts, to follow their own counsels.**

### **II. THE CALL OF SAMUEL (vv4-18)**

**“Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord...” (v7a)**

- This doesn't mean that Samuel didn't know God, but rather he didn't recognize God's voice because **“the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him.” (v7b)**

**“calling as at other times, ‘Samuel! Samuel!’” (v10)**

- God had done this before at significant moments in redemptive history (Abraham- Gen. 22:11, Jacob- Gen. 46:2, Moses- Exod. 3:4). God is doing something significant here with Samuel, establishing the office of prophets who will speak the words of God.

**Deuteronomy 18:15, 18 (ESV)- <sup>15</sup> The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen... <sup>18</sup> I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.**

**“... the iniquity of Eli's house shall no be atoned for by sacrifice or offering forever.” (v14b)**

- Eli's sons were scorning the very means that God had provided (sacrificial system) for atonement. To reject God's means of atonement is to be without hope for forgiveness of sins.

- The prophet of God **MUST** speak the Word of God, no matter what. **(vv17-18)**

### **III. THE WORD OF GOD (vv19-21)**

- The story began with the word of God being “rare in those days”, to now being readily available through His prophet Samuel at Shiloh.

#### **BIG PICTURE:**

- This did not last. **Amos 8** speaks of a famine coming upon the people of God, where they will no longer hear the word of God. For 400 years (intertestamental period) God was again silent, until John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus (whom Samuel was a pointer to).

**Acts 3:22-24 (ESV)- <sup>22</sup> Moses said, ‘The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you. <sup>23</sup> And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people.’ <sup>24</sup> And all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and those who came after him, also proclaimed these days.**

- Peter is declaring that the promised prophet is ultimately Jesus

#### **Samuel as a pointer to Jesus**

- miraculous conception
- growing in “stature and in favor with the Lord and with people”
- spoke only the Word of God

## Jesus as the better Samuel

\* Unlike Samuel, Jesus didn't simply speak the word of God, He IS the Word of God. (John 1:14)

\* Unlike Samuel, Jesus didn't come speaking a word of condemnation for sin, but rather He came to take the condemnation we deserved for our sins, *for us*.

Because of Christ, God is NOT silent anymore, and He never will be. He speaks through His Word, which reveals Christ

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. "The word of the Lord was rare in those days" because people did not want to listen to God. In what ways is this true of your own heart? Are there any areas in your life that you are not listening to what God has to say? What *is* God saying (in His Word) about these areas in your life? What steps can you take this week to repent of these areas in your life?

2. Samuel, as a prophet of God was called to speak all the words of God and hide nothing. In what ways have you personally hidden or withheld certain words of God that are particularly difficult to hear? Why did you do this? What steps can you take to avoid doing this?

3. The judgement upon Eli's house was severe because they scorned and rejected the very means that God provided for atonement. The same is true for those who scorn and reject Christ. Who in your life is God calling you to pray for and urge to believe in the gospel? Have you been doing so? Why or why not? Are there any steps you can take to be more proactive in this?

4. How often are you reading the Word of God? Describe your attitude / posture when approaching the Word of God (Checklist? Duty? Or seeking to know and to listen to God?) What steps can you take to grow in approaching the Word of God the right way?