

THE GOD OF THE UNUSUAL

1 SAMUEL 3:1-18



THE EXPERIENCE BIBLE STUDY

REV. JOHN F. KENNEY

OCTOBER 26, 2021



CONTEXT

1. 1st Samuel ushers the reader into a *transformation* that is about to take place in Israel's life.
2. There are both internal crisis (*the corruption of the temple at Shiloh by the sons of Eli*) and external crisis (*the capture of the Ark of the Covenant by the Phillistines*) existing in the backdrop of this story.
3. In the face of these crisis, we are introduced to the key figure *through whom God will work* to resolve the crisis – Samuel.

▶ BASELINE FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. God begins Israel's transformation during this time of crisis *not with* great men or supernatural events but rather with the *distress of a barren woman* (Chap 1).
2. This beginning serves as a reminder that the grace of God will sometimes take an *unusual* path.



GOD'S UNUSUAL CALL (vs.1-9)

- 1. God calls out to Samuel during a time when the "*messages (word) from the LORD were very rare, and visions were quite uncommon*".
- 2. Samuel was in a context where the "word of the LORD" not being heard on a regular, consistent basis, thus reinforcing his *unfamiliarity* with the voice of God (vs.7)
- 3. Just because Samuel served in the "presence of the LORD" doesn't mean that Samuel knew God, however, God reached out to Samuel during the *routine* of his days.
- 4. *Service to* God does not equate to *knowledge of* God!

GOD'S UNUSUAL CALL (vs. 10-14)

- 1. Samuel had a *revelatory experience with God that contradicted the context of his life* – he sleeps near the Ark, yet he didn't/couldn't perceive what God was doing due to the unusual nature of God in his midst.
- 2. Samuel's revelatory experience with God, during a time when "visions were quite uncommon", reminds us that **God is not discriminatory** when it comes to revealing Himself to humanity.
- 3. Samuel's story is one of *endings & beginnings* – God steps into his life at a time of national & spiritual despair and uses him to spearhead a new "prophetic movement".

KEY TAKEAWAY

- This was an "*evolutionary call*", as opposed to a "*revolutionary call*" - Samuel evolved in his relationship with God and more times than not, God works unusually over the long haul of our lives.



THIS WEEK

"The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results" (James 5:16, NLT)



PRAYER CALL

EVERY THURSDAY @ 7AM
SUNDAYS @ 9AM
(1ST & 4TH)

(712) 775-7035 CODE: 290035#

WWW.THIRDBAPTISTHAMPTON.ORG

PURPLE REIGN SUNDAY

OCTOBER 31 2021

Domestic Violence Awareness

11AM



THIRD BAPTIST CHURCH | 1214 Victoria Blvd Hampton, VA 23661
www.thirdbaptisthampton.org

THIRD BAPTIST CHURCH

invites you to

Hallelujah Night

Fellowship,
Food,
Family,
& FUN!

SUNDAY
OCTOBER 31ST
6 PM - 7:30PM

Truck or Treat



1214 Victoria Blvd | Hampton, VA 23661

TBC NEWS



SCAN IMAGE WITH CELLPHONE AND CLICK LINK

Let's Pray!

- Almighty & Omnipresent God, we recognize that You are involved in every detail of our lives. There is no part of our existence where You are not present, so help us to embrace the unusual ways You work, especially in the routininess of our lives. In Jesus name, Amen.