

The literary structure of 1 Samuel 3:1b-4:1a

Samuel and the word of the Lord

A. The word of the Lord; vision: And the word of the Lord was rare in those days; there was no frequent vision.

B. Eli and Samuel (eyesight): 2 At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his own place. 3 The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was.

C. God calls to Samuel/the word of the Lord

a) God's call: 4 Then the Lord called Samuel, and he said, "Here I am!" 5 and ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again."

b) Samuel lays down: So he went and lay down.

a¹) God's call: 6 And the Lord called again, "Samuel!" and Samuel arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again."

Samuel and the word of the Lord: 7 Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him.

C1. God calls to Samuel/the word of the Lord

a) God's call: 8 And the Lord called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. 9 Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down, and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant hears.'"

b) Samuel lays down: So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

a¹) God's call: 10 And the Lord came and stood, calling as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant hears."

Samuel and the word of the Lord: 11 Then the Lord said to Samuel, "Behold, I am about to do a thing in Israel at which the two ears of everyone who hears it will tingle. 12 On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. 13 And I declare to him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. 14 Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be atoned for by sacrifice or offering forever."

B1. Eli and Samuel (vision): 15 Samuel lay until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. And Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. 16 But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." And he said, "Here I am." 17 And Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also if you hide anything from me of all that he told you." 18 So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. And he said, "It is the Lord. Let him do what seems good to him."

A1. The word of the Lord/the Lord appeared:

a) Samuel's words/all Israel: 19 And Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. 20 And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established as a prophet of the Lord.

b) Lord appeared/Shiloh: 21 And the Lord appeared again at Shiloh,

b¹) Lord revealed/Shiloh: for the Lord revealed himself to Samuel at Shiloh by the word of the Lord.

a¹) Samuel's words/all Israel: 4:1 And the word of Samuel came to all Israel.