

A dramatic sunset over a body of water. The sun is partially obscured by dark, heavy clouds, creating a powerful lens flare effect with bright yellow and white rays of light streaming through the gaps. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a bright orange and yellow near the horizon. The water in the foreground is dark, reflecting the golden light from the sun. In the distance, a dark silhouette of a forested shoreline is visible against the horizon.

READY TO
LISTEN?

1 Samuel 3:1-3 The Message

The boy Samuel was serving God under Eli's direction. This was at a time when the revelation of GOD was rarely seen or heard. One night Eli was sound asleep (his eyesight was very bad – he could hardly see).

1 Samuel 3:1-3 The Message

It was well before dawn; the sanctuary lamp was still burning. Samuel was still in bed in the Temple of God, where the Chest of God rested.

1 Samuel 3:4-5 The Message

Then GOD called out, "Samuel, Samuel!"

Samuel answered, "Yes? I'm here." Then he ran to Eli saying, "I heard you call. Here I am."

Eli said, "I didn't call you. Go back to bed."

And so he did.

1 Samuel 3:6-7 The Message

GOD called again, "Samuel, Samuel!"

Samuel got up and went to Eli, "I heard you call. Here I am."

Again Eli said, "Son, I didn't call you. Go back to bed."

(This all happened before Samuel knew GOD for himself. It was before the revelation of GOD had been given to him personally.)

1 Samuel 3:8-9 The Message

GOD called again, "Samuel!" – the third time! Yet again Samuel got up and went to Eli, "Yes? I heard you call me. Here I am."

That's when it dawned on Eli that GOD was calling the boy. So Eli directed Samuel, "Go back and lie down. If the voice calls again, say, 'Speak, GOD. I'm your servant, ready to listen.'" Samuel returned to his bed.

1 Samuel 3:10 The Message

Then GOD came and stood before him exactly as before, calling out, "Samuel! Samuel!"

Samuel answered, "Speak. I'm your servant, ready to listen."