

Sunday Night Message

April 14, 2019

Before the Light Goes Out

Topics – Samuel; Eli

Series – *1 Samuel*

Text – 1 Samuel 3

Introduction

In chapter three, we see Samuel transitioning from the child to the prophet.

I The Light was Dim and Going Out (vs. 1 – 3)

Israel's Spiritual Light was going dim. Eli and his sons were not influencing Israel with the Word of God as they should have been. Light in the Bible is synonymous with the distribution of the Word of God. The word of the Lord was precious. Eli was not declaring the Word, and God wasn't speaking to and through him.

Note – the word, "vision" has to do with the Word of God.

"Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he." (Proverbs 29:18)

Be careful when people tell you that they have had a vision, or that God gave them a vision.

Eli's eyes were going dim – Eli was not only dim physically, he was dim spiritually.

The Lamp in the Tabernacle was about to go out.

In Israel's Tabernacle, there was one candlestick that provided light. It was located just outside of the veil that separated the Holy place from the most Holy Place (or Holy of Holies). The candlestick pictured Christ as the Light of the world, and it also was a type of the Word of God with its sixty-six bowls knobs, and flowers.

Exodus 25:31 - 40 -

"And thou shalt command the children of Israel, that they bring thee pure oil olive beaten for the light, to cause the lamp to burn always. In the tabernacle of the congregation without the veil, which is before the testimony, Aaron and his sons shall order it from evening to morning before the LORD: it shall be a statute for ever unto their generations on the behalf of the children of Israel." (Exodus 27:20-21)

"And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Command the children of Israel, that they bring unto thee pure oil olive beaten for the light, to cause the lamps to burn continually. Without the veil of the testimony, in the tabernacle of the congregation, shall Aaron order it from the evening unto the morning before the LORD continually: it shall be a statute for ever in your generations.

He shall order the lamps upon the pure candlestick before the LORD continually." (Leviticus 24:1-4)

"And Aaron shall burn thereon sweet incense every morning: when he dresseth the lamps, he shall burn incense upon it. And when Aaron lighteth the lamps at even, he shall burn incense upon it, a perpetual incense before the LORD throughout your generations." (Exodus 30:7-8)

In the Book of Revelation, we see many candlesticks, which represent the churches of Asia Minor (Revelation 1:12 – 20).

The picture that the Lord is painting here is that He did something before the light went out completely. God will always do something before the light goes out completely.

The Spiritual light is going dim in America today, but God will light a spiritual fire among some of His churches that will send some light to this lost world.

II The Lord was Declaring Himself to Samuel (vs. 4 – 10)

God had to wake up a young teenager to speak on His behalf before the spiritual light went out completely in Israel.

Samuel thought Eli was calling Him. He did not yet know the Lord personally. He knew about the Lord, but He didn't know Him.

It took three times for the old priest to figure out that God was actually speaking, and it took four calls for Samuel to finally answer the call.

III The Lord was Delivering a Message to Eli and His Sons Through Samuel (vs. 11 – 18)

A Samuel readily receives a hard message (vs. 11 – 14)

B Samuel reluctantly rehearses the message to Eli (vs. 15 – 18)

"I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry." (2 Timothy 4:1-5)

"For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake. One of themselves, even a prophet of their own, said, The Cretians are alway liars, evil beasts, slow bellies. This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that

they may be sound in the faith; Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth." (Titus 1:10-14)

IV Samuel Faithfully Delivered God's Message to Israel (vs. 19 – 21)

Conclusion

Before the light went out, God called a prophet to deliver a message to the nation of Israel. Before the Light goes out in America, God had better wake up some prophets from this church and from others like it, who will boldly declare the Truth of the Word of God.

We need to preach the gospel to lost sinners.

We need to preach the truth of God's Word to the Saints of God.

We need to be faithful to tell the it like it is.

See 1 Kings 22 for an illustration of how most people would rather hear lies, than be told the Truth.