

# Fascinating Stories of Forgotten Lives Rediscovering Some Old Testament Characters

Samuel: The Boy Who Heard God's Voice

1 SAMUEL 3:1-18



## The Heart of the Matter

Most of us can remember the pictures that hung on the walls of our Sunday school classrooms when we were children. They were usually portraits of biblical characters at crucial moments in their lives: Daniel in the lions' den, David and Goliath, blind Samson standing between the temple pillars, Moses leading the Hebrews across the Red Sea, Jonah being thrown into the stormy seas, and other familiar scenes. Almost without exception, there was another . . . perhaps the most familiar of all: the boy Samuel as he heard God's voice in the middle of the night. Have you ever wondered why God spoke to the lad? Or what God said to him that night? The scene may be familiar, but what it represents is not. Too bad. It is a message as relevant today as it was when the Lord first spoke it.



## Discovering the Way

### 1. Still Frames . . . Significant Events

The Bible is full of good stories that include suspense, discovery, and a dramatic climax.

### 2. God's Voice . . . Samuel's Response (1 Samuel 3:1-9)

God spoke to Samuel in the middle of the night with an audible voice. And Samuel listened.

### 3. God's Warning . . . Samuel's Reluctance (Deuteronomy 21:18-21; 1 Samuel 2:27-36; 3:10-18; Proverbs 19:18; Galatians 6:1)

God warned Samuel that He planned to judge Eli for Eli's sons' sin. Samuel hesitated but told Eli all of God's words.

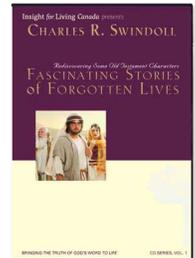


## Starting Your Journey

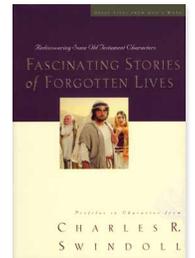
Two morals emerge from our look at Samuel and Eli. First, remember! Any family can disintegrate when it neglects God's Word or excuses sin. And second, hearing the truth isn't enough. Action is essential.



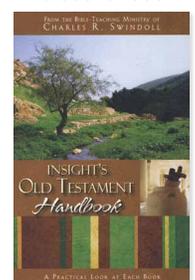
## Tools for Digging Deeper



Fascinating Stories of Forgotten Lives:  
Rediscovering Some Old Testament Characters  
by Charles R. Swindoll  
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