I Samuel 3:1-8

(1) Young Samuel was in the service of the Eternal under Eli. In those days the word of the Eternal was rare; prophecy was not widespread.

(2) One day, Eli was asleep in his usual place; his eyes had begun to fail and he could barely see.

(3) The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was sleeping in the temple of the Eternal where the Ark of God was.

(4) The Eternal called out to Samuel, and he answered, “here I am.”

(5) He ran to Eli and said, “Here I am; you called me.” But he replied, “I didn’t call you; go back to sleep.” So he went back and lay down.

(6) Again the Eternal called, “Samuel!” Samuel rose and went to Eli and said, “Here I am; you called me.” But he replied, “I didn’t call, my son; go back to sleep.”—

(7) Now Samuel had not yet experienced the Eternal; the word of the Eternal had not yet been revealed to him.—

(8) The Eternal called Samuel again, a third time, and he rose and went to Eli and said, “Here I am; you called me.” Then Eli understood that the Eternal was calling the boy.