

## Speak Master, Your Servant Is Listening<sup>i</sup>

Yisrael had been ruled by judges for over 200 years before their first king. Eli and Shemual (Samuel) were the last of those judges. Shemual was born near the end of Eli's life (about 1105BC). He grew up in the Tabernacle as a priest in training under Eli. He was well qualified, and served Yisrael as both a priest and a judge. Shemual served the Father by assisting Eli in the Tabernacle. One night after Eli had gone to bed Shemual was sleeping in the Tabernacle near the Ark of Yahuah (אֱלֹהִים). All of a sudden, the Father called out, SHEMUAL! "Yes?" "What is it?" He got up and ran to Eli. "Here I am, did you call me?" Eli said, "I didn't call you, go back to bed," so he did.

Then Yahuah (אֱלֹהִים) called again. SHEMUAL! Again, Shemual got up and went to Eli. "Here I am, did you call me"? Eli said, "I didn't call you my son, go back to bed." Shemual had never received a message from Yahuah (אֱלֹהִים) before so he didn't recognize the Father's voice yet. Yahuah (אֱלֹהִים) called a third time. Once more Shemual got up and went to Eli. "Here I am, did you call me?" Then Eli realized-it was Yahuah (אֱלֹהִים) who was calling the child. So he said to him, "Go back and lay down. If someone calls again, say-SPEAK MASTER, your servant is listening". So Shemual went back to bed. Yahuah(אֱלֹהִים) indeed called again as before, SHEMUAL! SHEMUAL! Shemual said, "SPEAK MASTER, your servant is listening." Then the Most High told Shemual of a shocking thing that he was about to do in Yisrael. Yahuah (אֱלֹהִים) had already warned Eli that he should discipline his two sons because they had done evil and wicked things **or** their sins would not be forgiven—he warned that his judgment would be against Eli's entire family—forever. What the Father had said to Shemual is that he would now carry out all his threats against Eli and his family. He was about to put an end to Eli's family so that they would no longer serve as his priest. Both his sons would die on the same day.<sup>ii</sup> All the member of his family would die before their time—none would reach old age.

The next morning when Shemual got up-he was afraid to tell Eli what the Father had said, but Eli demanded that he tell everything. So Shemual didn't hold anything back. Eli said, well, "it's the Father's will, so let him do what he think is best".

Yahuah continued to give Shemual messages, and his words went out to all the people. All of Yisrael knew that Shemual was Yah's prophet—because everything Shemual said—proved to be reliable, and the Most High Heavenly Father remained with Shemual as he grew up.

## The End

---

<sup>i</sup> Speak Master, Your Servant Is Listening, A Bedtime Story by Sandra Gill. Ref. 1Shemual 3.

<sup>ii</sup> Shemual (born about 1105BC) served Yahuah (יהוה) faithfully and Yah (יה) blessed him. Unlike Shemual, Eli's two sons Hophni and Phinehas were evil men who took advantage of people.