



## Open Vision

*And the child Samuel ministered to the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was rare in those days; there was no open vision. I Sam. 3:1*

The word of the Lord was rare in Israel during the time of the corrupt Eli priesthood. There was NO OPEN VISION. The word 'open' in Hebrew, 'nifratz', has to do with vision bursting or breaking out. The word of the Lord comes with vision, not intellect. When vision is lost, the intellect/ mind takes over. Since the word of the Lord is the expression of the Lord Himself, if He is not present in the word, something is wrong. The word of the Lord ought to manifest with His divine presence and not intellectual reasoning. When His living word proceeds out from His mouth, we know He is present and we experience Him.

I believe that through these scriptures in I Samuel 3, the Lord showed me that there is a blindness in the Greek Orthodox Church that has caused them to make icons, to help them see. If they had seen Him, they would not need icons and they would know that what they are doing is wrong. There is a blindness in much of His Ecclesia as well because intellect has spuriously and subtly replaced the open vision. There is no replacement for seeing the Lord in the Spirit. There is no replacement for experiencing Him in the Spirit. A man-made icon cannot replace a living relationship with the Living God, nor can intellectualism replace genuine vision and insight through the Spirit.

God raised up Samuel, a prophet-seer, to bring Israel back to the Living Word and to His presence. God wants to raise up a new breed, not only in the Greek Orthodox Church, but in the Body of Christ worldwide, a generation that know Him face to face, that know His voice, like Samuel. This is the generation of seekers, those who seek His face. *Psalms 24:6*. But first the sin in the priesthood must be dealt with, even as it was in Eli's family. Where there is no presence of the Lord, we can be sure that sin has separated us from Him. He has promised to dwell in His temple, even in our bodies, the temple of the Holy Spirit. If He is absent or silent, there is a reason. We can make all the excuses we want, but if He's not there, there is a reason. We can make all the noise we want, like the prophets of Baal during the time of Elijah. *I Kings 18:26-29*. We can jump up and down, cry out all day long and cut ourselves as they did, but if the real fire doesn't come, all our activities are in vain. If He's not there, we need to stop and examine ourselves to see if we are TRULY IN THE FAITH.

Faith is not positive thinking and/ or positive confession. It is the SUBSTANCE of things hoped for, the EVIDENCE of things not seen. *Heb. 11:1*. It is the existence/ substance (*Gk: hypostasis*) of the unseen world revealed to our spirit man through our spiritual senses. We declare His written word, but this does not replace the living faith that enters into an intimate spirit to Spirit relationship with Him. God created us with spiritual eyes to see Him and spiritual ears to hear Him. He who has eyes to see..... He who has ears to hear..... Let him see! Let him hear!

*And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for Your servant hears. I Sam. 3:10*

As God woke up Samuel in the middle of the night, He too wants to awaken His Church in this night season to hear, to see and to experience Him in a living way. He wants to speak a present word of righteousness that will no longer tickle the ears of His Body, but will transform it into the mature stature of Christ.

Samuel heard the living voice of God. The Lord stood behind Him. His presence was tangible as He met with Samuel and spoke a clear word to him. God came to Samuel as the Righteous Judge to pronounce judgment upon the corrupt Eli family priesthood because it was hindering the presence of God in the temple. The sin of the priests corrupted the people and there was NO OPEN VISION.

*And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves. Math. 21:12*

*Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that he will not hear. Isaiah 59:1-2*

The connection between Isaiah 59 and Jesus overthrowing the tables in the temple is clear. Jesus was passionately removing every hindrance that was separating Him from the people and preventing them from coming directly to Him. The Pharisaical leaders, like the priests in Eli's day, were sinning and causing a separation between God and His people and Jesus came to remove the hindrances.

*And said to them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but you have made it a den of thieves. Math. 21:13*

The Holy Spirit desires to remove all the hindrances in His House in this hour so that His presence will be all and in all. His house will once again be called the house of prayer for all people to come and receive from Him salvation and deliverance.

*And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple; and he healed them. Math. 21:14*

After Jesus cleansed the temple, turning over everything that hindered, the people came into the temple to be healed. The Lord is cleaning up His house for He desires to open the way for blind eyes to be opened, and the lame to walk, both spiritually and physically. He desires to restore His present word with open vision to His Ecclesia.

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