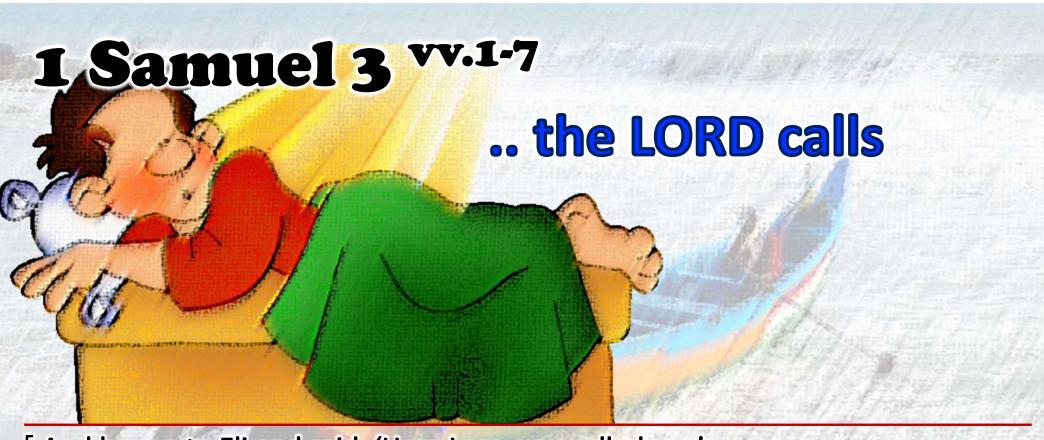


The boy Samuel ministered before the Lord under Eli. In those days the word of the Lord was rare; there were not many visions. ² One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place.



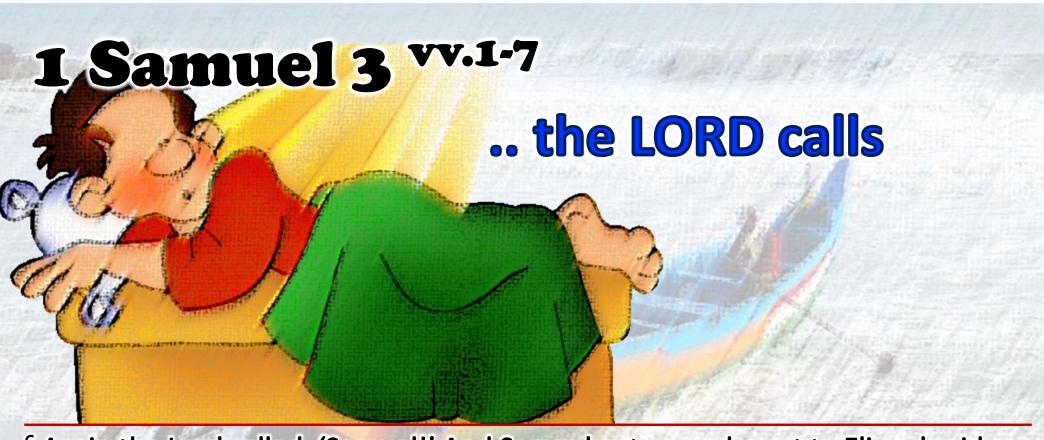
³ The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the Lord, where the ark of God was.

⁴ Then the Lord called Samuel. Samuel answered, 'Here I am.'



⁵ And he ran to Eli and said, 'Here I am; you called me.'

But Eli said, 'I did not call; go back and lie down.' So he went and lay down.



⁶ Again the Lord called, 'Samuel!' And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am; you called me.'

'My son,' Eli said, 'I did not call; go back and lie down.'



⁷ Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord: the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him.



⁹ So Eli told Samuel, 'Go and lie down, and if He calls you, say, "Speak, LORD, for Your servant is listening"'