

MESSAGE RECEIVED

By Rod

This sketch is based on 1 Samuel Chap 3 where the Lord speaks to the boy Samuel.

CAST

Narrator

Eli *An 'old' man*

Samuel *Ideally played by a boy*

God *Need not appear on stage. Could simply speak into a remote microphone so voice alone is heard.*

Narrator is to one side (could be in pulpit), Samuel and Eli start on stage.

Narrator The story of Eli and Samuel.
 A long time ago, in a galaxy far far away. Rebel spaceships have attacked the armies of the Galactic empire.. ..[*Other actors look puzzled*]
 Oh sorry, I seem to have the wrong script. Let's start again:
 The story of Eli and Samuel.
 A long time ago, in the land of Israel, the boy Samuel was serving in the house of the Lord under the direction of Eli. [*Eli points as if giving Samuel instructions. Samuel goes off to collect laptop/ipad*]
 In those days there were hardly any visions, and very few messages from the Lord. [*Samuel looks at laptop/ipad*]

Eli Any messages Samuel?

Samuel No, just one about PPI.

Eli How disappointing. I was hoping for something from the Lord. He seems to have forgotten us.

Narrator Eli was almost blind and was sleeping in his own room. Samuel was sleeping in the house of the Lord itself. [*Eli and Samuel lie down to sleep in separate places. Samuel keeps ipad by bed*]
 In the middle of the night the Lord called Samuel.

God Samuel.

Samuel Here I am. [*Gets up and goes to Eli*] You called me, Eli. What do you want?

Eli Do you realise what time it is? I didn't call you. Go back to bed, Samuel. *[Samuel returns]*

God Samuel

Samuel Here I am. *[Gets up and goes to Eli]* You called me, Eli. What do you want?

Eli What are you playing at lad? I didn't call you. Now go back to bed and let me get some sleep. *[Samuel returns]* Stupid boy.

God Samuel.

Samuel Here I am. *[Gets up and goes to Eli]* You called me, Eli. What do you want?

Eli *[Sitting up]* Look, for the last time, I didn't call you so go back to... *[Realising]* Oh, it's me that is the stupid boy. Of course! I didn't call you, but I know who did.

Samuel Who?

Eli The Lord. Go back to bed, Samuel, and if He calls you again say "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening".

Samuel Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening".

Eli That's it. Now off you go. *[Samuel returns to bed]*

God Samuel.

Samuel Speak; your servant is listening.

God You missed out the Lord bit.

Samuel Oh, sorry Er Lord.

God I'll forgive you. After all, you do seem to be the only one around here who is actually listening to me. And I have a message for you to deliver that will make the ears of those who hear it tingle.

Samuel *[Clutching ears]* Tingle?

God Yes, because it concerns Eli and his family.

- Samuel Are they entitled to compensation for mis-sold PPI?
- God No, the message is this:
 “His sons have done terrible things, and Eli has not stopped them. So I will punish Eli and his whole family. End of message.”
 Goodbye Samuel, and don’t forget to deliver my message.
- Samuel Goodbye.. er.. er ..Lord. *[Slowly returns to sleeping position, but tosses and turns during start of next bit from narrator.]*
- God That’s better.
- Narrator Samuel did not sleep well during the rest of the night because of the message he had received from the Lord. When he got up the next morning he was afraid to tell Eli the message. *[Eli and Samuel get up. Eli has ipad]*
- Eli Samuel, did the Lord call you again last night?
- Samuel *[Evasive. Perhaps playing game on ipad.]* He might have done.
- Eli *[Grabbing ipad]* And what message might He have given you?
- Samuel Er.. it was quite complicated.
- Eli Don’t keep anything from me, Samuel. The Lord will not be pleased if you do not deliver His message.
- Samuel OK. *[Screwing up his eyes and speaking very fast]* He said your sons have done terrible things, and you have not stopped them. So He will punish you and all your family. End of message. *[Opens eyes and looks at Eli to gauge his reaction]*
- Eli *[Puts arm around Samuel]* He is the Lord, He will do whatever seems best to Him.
- Narrator Eli’s family were punished, as the Lord had said through Samuel. *[Eli hangs head in shame. Samuel steps aside from Eli.]* And the Lord continued to speak through Samuel. And so the whole nation learned that whenever Samuel spoke, they would do well to listen. Not such a stupid boy after all. *[Samuel looks across at Eli]*

THE END