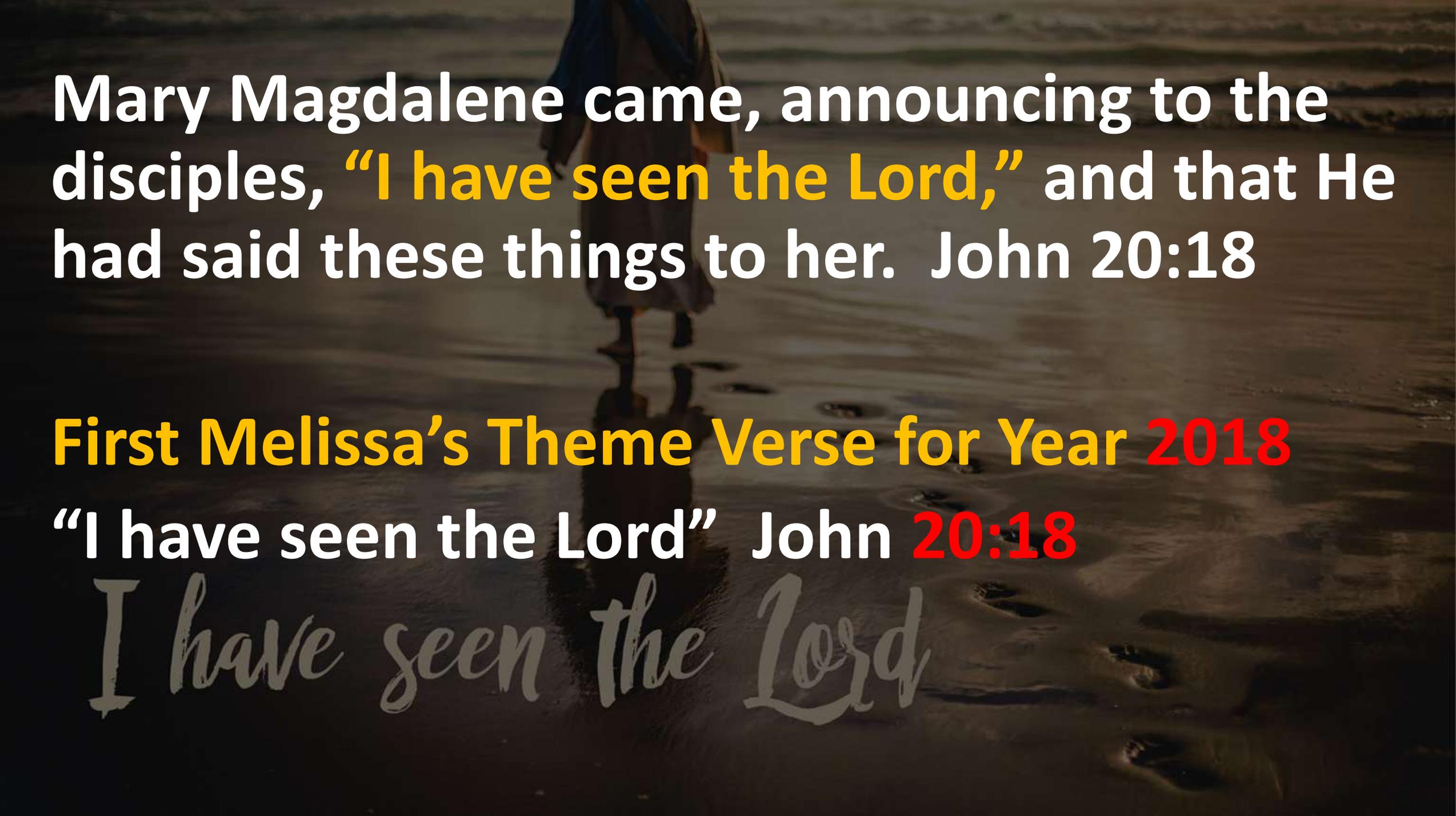


A person wearing a long, light-colored robe and a blue head covering is walking away from the camera on a wet beach. The sand is dark and reflective, showing a clear reflection of the person. The ocean waves are visible in the background, and the sky is a warm, golden color, suggesting sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

I have seen the Lord

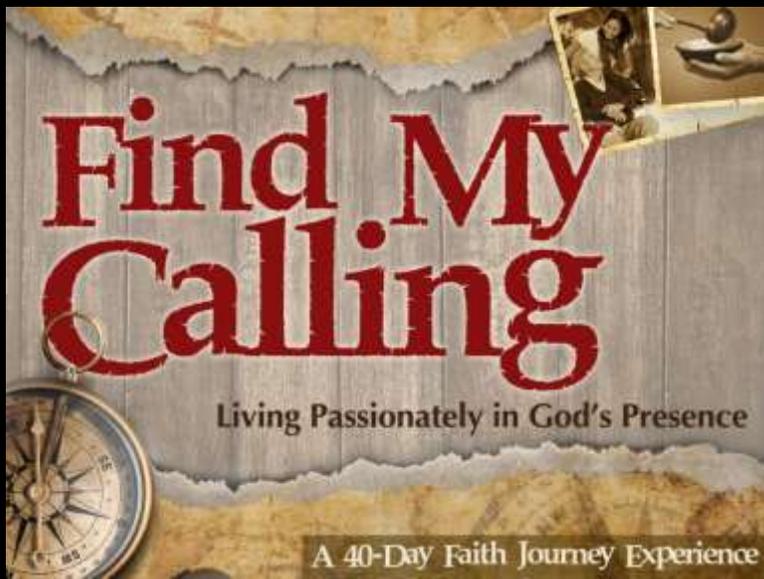


Mary Magdalene came, announcing to the disciples, **“I have seen the Lord,”** and that He had said these things to her. John 20:18

First Melissa’s Theme Verse for Year 2018

“I have seen the Lord” John 20:18

I have seen the Lord



January 2014



January 2015

**40 Days
of FAITH**



January 2016



January 2017

HEAR HIS VOICE

January 2018



Why 40 Days?

**Forty is mentioned 146 times in
Scripture.**

**It symbolizes trial and testing,
probation, or the fulfillment of
promises.**

40 Days in the Bible

- **Moses was on the mountain with God for 40 days.
(TWICE) (Exodus 24:18 & 34:28-29)**
- **Moses' face shone after 40 days on the mountain.
(Exodus 34:29)**

Source: http://www.40day.com/40_in_the_bible.html and <http://www.ecclesia.org/truth/40.html>



Last week... Deuteronomy 6

HEAR HIS VOICE

**"Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our
God, the Lord is one!"**

Deuteronomy 6:4

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל, יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, יְיָ אֶחָד.

Sh'ma Yisra-eil, Adonai Eloheinu Adonai Echad.

There is no biblical Hebrew word for "obey."

English word translated "obey" is the Hebrew word "shema."

Today, before we obey, we usually go through a 3 part process...

- 1) We hear what God says
- 2) We evaluate the command based on our understanding
- 3) We make a choice to obey based on our evaluation

What does God require from us?

He's looking for **shema levot...for hearing hearts**. A hearing heart is intent on or committed to doing whatever God commands... whatever He asks from us. Most importantly a hearing heart is rooted in love (Deuteronomy 10:12; John 14:15; 1 John 5:3).

שְׁמָעָה **Shema** in other Bible Verses

About Us

“Now then, if you will indeed **obey** My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine” Exodus 19:5

“They have ears, but they cannot **hear**” Psalm 115:6

“The **hearing** ear and the seeing eye, the Lord has made both of them.”
Proverbs 20:12

About God

“**Hear**, O Lord, when I cry with my voice, and be gracious to me and answer me.” Psalm 27:7

SHEMA

Calling of Samuel

HEAR HIS VOICE





Israel in the days of the Old Testament

Who was Samuel?

- A prophet who ruled Israel at the end of the period of the judges and anointed the first two kings.
- He is the dominant figure at the beginning of the first of the two books of the Bible that bear his name.
- His father, Elkanah, was an Ephraimite from the village of Ramathaim-zophim.
- His mother, Hannah, who had been unable to conceive a child before his birth, had prayed for a child during a visit to the tabernacle at Shiloh, promising to devote him to the service of the Lord (1 Samuel 1).
- The young Samuel grew up in Shiloh under the tutelage of Eli, the chief priest.
- Samuel assumed national leadership after a disastrous battle in which the Israelites were routed by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4). Having driven out the enemy and pacified the entire land (1 Samuel 7:13-14), he began periodic visits to a circuit of cities where he passed judgment on cases brought before him (1 Samuel 7:15-17).
- In his old age the men of Israel approached him to request a king (1 Samuel 8). Though angered, he acted on God's instructions and, after warning the people of the burdens a king would impose on them (1 Samuel 8:11-18), he acceded to the request.
- Samuel anointed Saul king during a private audience in Samuel's home town (1 Samuel 9:1-10:16).
- Samuel was also the agent of Saul's rejection as king. Because he did not carry out God's instructions as conveyed by Samuel, Saul's kingship was condemned. Samuel prophesied that he would be removed from office in favor of a new king (1 Samuel 13:7-14; 15:10-29).
- God sent Samuel to Bethlehem, where he anointed David (1 Sam. 16:1-13). -Harper's Bible Dictionary



"Samuel Learning From Eli"
By John Singleton Copley (1738-1815)

Priests needed no divine call to office, because they were born into priestly families. Prophets, on the other hand, received individual calls, direct experiences of God.

– New Bible Commentary

The Jewish Tabernacle



Hebrew מִשְׁכָּן mishkan

Means "residence" or "dwelling place"

Hebrew Names

El is one of the names of God, from אֱלֹהִים Elohim

Israel ישראל means "struggles with God"

Michael מיכאל means "who is like God?"

Daniel דניאל means "God is my judge"

Nethanel נתנאל means "gift from God"

Samuel שמואל means "God has heard"

It came about in due time, after Hannah had conceived, that she gave birth to a son; and she named him Samuel, saying, "Because I have asked him of the Lord." 1 Samuel 1:20

SHEMA

1 Samuel 3:1-21

HEAR HIS VOICE

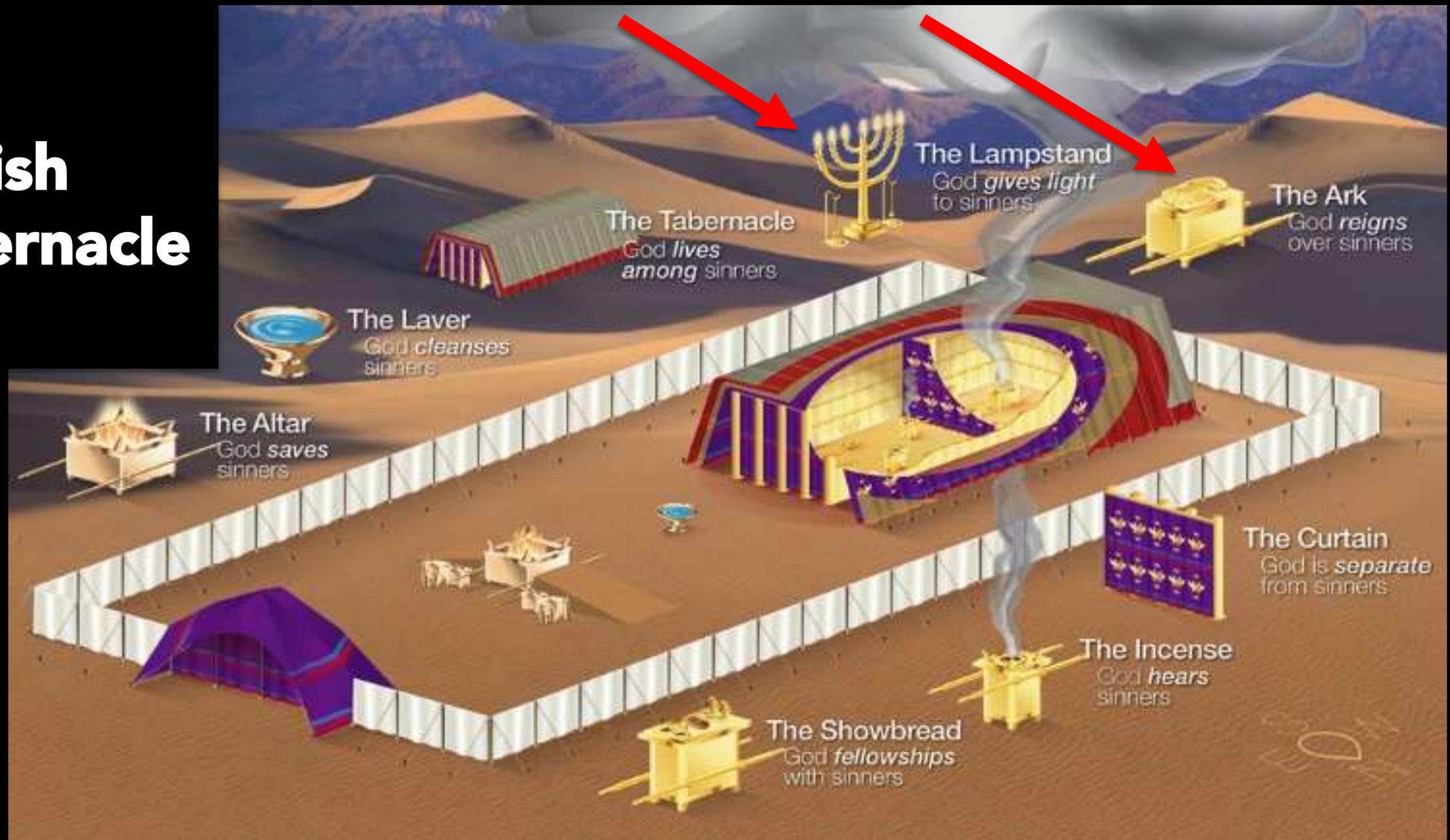


Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord before Eli. And word from the Lord was rare in those days, visions were infrequent. 1 Samuel 3:1

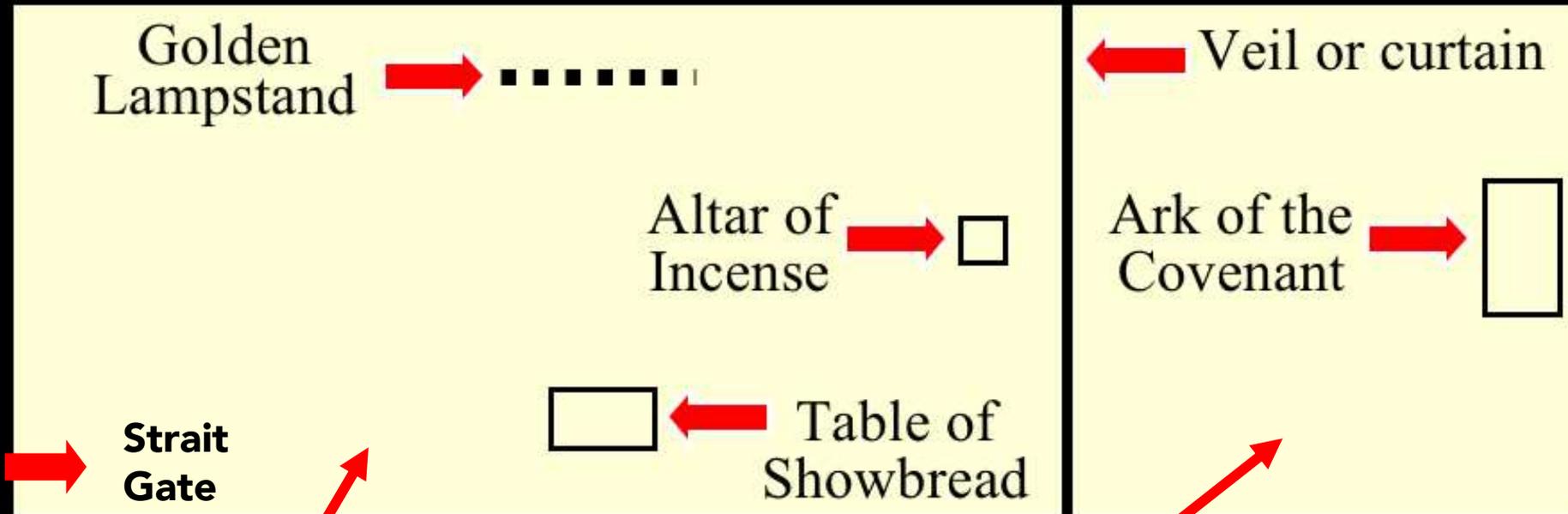
***The **word of the Lord** and **visions** were the two types of divine gift to prophets. There are two reasons for telling us that both were rare (literally 'precious') at that time. First, the statement draws attention to Israel's serious need for prophetic guidance. Secondly, it explains in advance why Samuel and Eli were both taken by surprise when the Lord called aloud to Samuel. –New Bible Commentary**

It happened at that time as Eli was lying down in his place (now his eyesight had begun to grow dim and he could not see well), and the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord (tabernacle) where the ark of God was, that the Lord called Samuel; and he said, "Here I am." Then he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, lie down again." 1 Samuel 3:2-5

The Jewish Tabernacle



Inside the Tabernacle Tent



Holy Place

**Most Holy Place
(Holy of Holies)**



The Lord called yet again, "Samuel!" So Samuel arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he answered, "I did not call, my son, lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, nor had the word of the Lord yet been revealed to him. So the Lord called Samuel again for the third time. And he arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli discerned that the Lord was calling the boy. And Eli said to Samuel, "Go lie down, and it shall be if He calls you, that you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for Your servant is listening.' " So Samuel went and lay down in his place. 1 Samuel 3:6-9

God's 4th Calling of Samuel

Then the Lord **came** and **stood** and **called** as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for Your servant is listening." 1 Samuel 3:10

*It should seem that God spoke the fourth time in a way somewhat different from the other; though the call was, as at other times, a call to him by name, yet now He stood and called, which intimates that there was now some visible appearance of the divine glory to Samuel. Now also the call was doubled—Samuel, Samuel, as if God delighted in the mention of his name, or to intimate that now he should be made to understand who spoke to him.

– Matthew Henry's Bible Commentary

HEAR HIS VOICE

The Lord said to Samuel, "Behold, I am about to do a thing in Israel at which both ears of everyone who hears it will tingle (shudder). In that day I will carry out against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. For I have told him that I am about to judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knew, because his sons brought a curse on themselves and he did not rebuke them. Therefore I have sworn to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be atoned for by sacrifice or offering forever." 1 Samuel 3:11-14

***Young people have commonly a great curiosity to be told their fortune, but God came to Samuel, not to gratify his curiosity, but to employ him in His service and send him on an errand to another person. –Matthew Henry's Commentary**

So Samuel lay down until morning. Then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. But Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. Then Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." And he said, "Here I am." He said, "What is the word that He spoke to you? Please do not hide it from me. May God do so to you, and more also, if you hide anything from me of all the words that He spoke to you." So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. And he (Eli) said, "It is the Lord; let Him do what seems good to Him."

1 Samuel 3:15-18

Thus Samuel grew and the Lord was with him and let none of his words fail. All Israel from Dan even to Beersheba knew that Samuel was confirmed as a prophet of the Lord. And the Lord appeared again at Shiloh, because the Lord revealed Himself to Samuel at Shiloh by the word of the Lord.
1 Samuel 3:19-21



SHEMA

What happens in our lives if we SHEMA the Lord?

What happens in others' lives if we SHEMA the Lord?

What happens in God's kingdom if we SHEMA the Lord?

SHEMA LESSONS FROM SAMUEL'S LIFE

Then the Lord came and stood and called as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for Your servant is listening." 1 Samuel 3:10

SHEMA LESSONS FROM SAMUEL'S LIFE

- **Doing things for God** is not the same as **listening to God**
- We are tempted to confuse God's voice with the voices of other people
- To hear God requires me to distinguish His voice
- Other lovers of God can encourage me to listen to God's voice
- Others lovers of God will notice when I am a faithful hearer of God's voice
- God's speaking to me is not a "one and done"
- Listening to God **is not limited** by age or gender or family heritage or official position
- Listening to God **is limited** by my unwillingness and by external interference
- Listening to God is a skill that can and should be **learned**
- Effective service later in God's kingdom often begins at a young age

SHEMA LESSONS FROM SAMUEL'S LIFE

- I need to learn to listen to simple messages from God before complex ones
- Sometimes, when God speaks to me, I need to **wait** and **ponder** before I share
- After hearing the word of the Lord, I should continue to serve God and others
- Listening to God does not guarantee the absence of struggle or pain
- If I listen to God, other people still might not listen to me
- Messages from the Lord are **always right** and **sometimes troubling**
- Sometimes God speaks **to me** but the message is not **for me**
- When God gives me a word **for other people**, I am to deliver it humbly and completely and honestly
- From **Eli's life...** I should want to know God's truth, even if it will be painful or convicting

SPEAK AND SHEMA

I will stand on my guard post and station myself on the rampart; and I will keep watch to see what **He will speak to me**, and how I may reply when I am reproved.

Habakkuk 2:1

God wants to speak to me. Am I ready to listen?

SPEAK AND SHEMA

Moses and Aaron were among His priests, and Samuel was among those who called on His name; they called upon the Lord and **He answered them. Psalm 99:6**

God listens to those who listen to Him.

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל, יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, יְיָ אֶחָד.

Sh'ma Yisra-eil, Adonai Eloheinu Adonai Echad.

Hear, O Israel, Adonai is our God, Adonai is One!

בָּרוּךְ שֵׁם כְּבוֹד מַלְכוּתוֹ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד.

Baruch sheim k'vod malchuto l'olam va-ed.

Blessed is God's glorious majesty forever and ever.

"Speak, for Your servant is listening."