

Former Prophet
1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli.
The word of the LORD was rare in those days;
visions were not widespread.

2 At that time Eli,
whose eyesight had begun to grow dim
so that he could not see,
was lying down in his room;

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

4 Then the LORD called,
'Samuel! Samuel!'
and he said,
'Here I am!'

5 and ran to Eli, and said,
'Here I am, for you called me.'

But he said,
'I did not call; lie down again.'

So he went and lay down.

6 The LORD called again, 'Samuel!'
Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said,
'Here I am, for you called me.'
But he said,
'I did not call, my son; lie down again.'

7 Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD,
and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.

8 The LORD called Samuel again, a third time.
And he got up and went to Eli, and said,
'Here I am, for you called me.'

Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy.

9 Therefore Eli said to Samuel,
'Go, lie down;
and if he calls you, you shall say,
"Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening." '

So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

10 Now the LORD came
and stood there,
calling as before,
'Samuel! Samuel!'

And Samuel said,
'Speak, for your servant is listening.'

11 Then the LORD said to Samuel,
'See, I am about to do something in Israel
that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle.

12 On that day
I will fulfil against Eli
all that I have spoken
concerning his house,
from beginning to end.

13 For I have told him
that I am about to punish his house for ever,
for the iniquity that he knew,
because his sons were blaspheming God,
and he did not restrain them.

Gospel
John 1:43-51

¹⁴Therefore I swear
to the house of Eli
that the iniquity of Eli's house
shall not be expiated
by sacrifice or offering
for ever.'

¹⁵Samuel lay there until morning;
then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD.

Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli.

¹⁶But Eli called Samuel and said,
'Samuel, my son.'

He said,
'Here I am.'

¹⁷Eli said,
'What was it that he told you?
Do not hide it from me.
May God do so to you and more also,
if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.'

¹⁸So Samuel told him everything
and hid nothing from him.

Then he said,
'It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him.'

¹⁹As Samuel grew up,
the LORD was with him
and let none of his words fall to the ground.

²⁰And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew
that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD.

²¹The LORD continued to appear at Shiloh,
for the LORD revealed himself to Samuel at Shiloh
by the word of the LORD.

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee.
He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.'

⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida,
the city of Andrew and Peter.

⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him,
'We have found him about whom Moses in the law
and also the prophets wrote,
Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.'

⁴⁶Nathanael said to him,
'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?'

Philip said to him, 'Come and see.'

⁴⁷When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him,
he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite
in whom there is no deceit!'

⁴⁸Nathanael asked him,
'Where did you come to know me?'

Jesus answered,
'I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.'

⁴⁹Nathanael replied,
'Rabbi, you are the Son of God!
You are the King of Israel!'

⁵⁰Jesus answered, 'Do you believe
because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree?
You will see greater things than these.'

⁵¹And he said to him, 'Very truly, I tell you,
you will see heaven opened
and the angels of God ascending and descending
upon the Son of Man.'

Reading the Former Prophet This Week

For May 2021 text notes and audio of Fox's 2014 translation:

<http://www.hereticslikeus.com/2021/05/i-samuel-3.html>

Early in Samuel's transition from judges to priest/prophet/king
Eli's old at Shiloh's shrine, sons Hophni and Phineas corrupt,
Hannah's child Samuel still a boy, and Eli's ward
He curses Eli's house, will anoint Saul (then David)

Blithely used in modern glib liberal circles as a model of 'call'
religious experience of any person listening for God with them
the tale will serve a purpose – but not likely the original one!
In successions of 2024, who will be legitimated by whom?

Eli & Samuel may be the last 'judges' amid loose anarchy
Samuel may be the first type of a biblical prophet to power
Why is power legit: violence, charismatic personality?
How do we navigate succession of power?

Judges were one model of leadership,
Part warrior, part inspired seer,
Rising up in anarchy to call tribes together,
And leading against external enemies

Samuel is neither judge, priest, warrior, nor king
He's the archetype of a prophet
Inspired by God to cut off Eli, anoint Saul (then David)

Neither old Eli nor child Samuel recognizes initial call
3-part tale reaches contact & transmission
Then Samuel builds credibility over years
What social locations do you recognize, ours and others?

Reading the Gospel This Week

John's version of the disciples call won't fit the synoptics:

Andrew is a disciple of John the Baptizer, (Jn 1:29-42)
Sent by John to check out Jesus,
in turn inviting his brother Simon to come
whom Jesus immediately renames Cephas here

'The next day' (v43 as v29) Jesus, leaving for Galilee,
calls Philip and Nathanael, Bethsaida Gallilean boys –
but down near Jordan and Jerusalem for this tale -
Jesus finds Philip and says the classic 'follow me'
But it's Philip who recruits Nathanael to 'come see'
As Andrew did his brother Simon Peter

Nathanael is skeptical about Nazarene origins,
And Philip echoes the 'come and see' of the previous day story
Jesus wows him with recognizing him from under a fig tree
-a bit of cultural reasoning unfamiliar to us

Nate tries on a big label: 'King of Israel'
Jesus trumps it & promises more:
spitting skies, angels running messages to & from heaven

Can you disentangle these 'call' stories
from the synoptic Jesus calling fishers from boats
and come fresh to these first four, according to John?

Regardless of which tradition is factual,
what truth does each tradition convey,
about Jesus, John and disciples,
in the origins of Jesus and church
and about our own call or evangelism?

Bonus Epistle
I Corinthians 6:12-20

12 'All things are lawful for me',
but not all things are beneficial.

'All things are lawful for me',
but I will not be dominated by anything.

¹³Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food',
and God will destroy both one and the other.

The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord,
and the Lord for the body.

¹⁴And God raised the Lord
and will also raise us by his power.

¹⁵Do you not know
that your bodies are members of Christ?

Should I therefore take the members of Christ
and make them members of a prostitute? Never!

¹⁶Do you not know
that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her?
For it is said, 'The two shall be one flesh.'

¹⁷But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him.

¹⁸Shun fornication!

Every sin that a person commits is outside the body;
but the fornicator sins against the body itself.

¹⁹Or do you not know that your body
is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you,
which you have from God,
and that you are not your own?

²⁰For you were bought with a price;
therefore glorify God in your body.

Bill's translation (2006)
I Corinthians 6:12-20

*"I can do anything I want", you say -
but not every thing is good for me.*

*"I can do anything I want", you say -
but no thing will be the boss of me.*

*"Feed your appetites – appetites are best fed.
In the long run, we're all dead." So you say.*

*This carcass is not made for Porn, but for Kyrie
And Kyrie for this commune.*

*And Theos raised Kyrie
and will also raise us by Theo-power.*

*Don't you get how your carcasses
are part of Christness?*

*Do you want me to take parts of Christness
and make them participants in Porn? Never!*

*Don't you get
how anybody participating in Porn
is being part of that commune?
They say, 'The two shall be one flesh.'*

*But anybody part of Kyrie shares one Spirit, with Kyrie.
Forget Porn!*

*What we get wrong is beyond the commune
But participating in Porn is against the commune.*

*Or do you not know that your carcass
is your sanctuary of Holy Spirit?
You get it from God,
It is not your own possession to waste!*

*You are bought and paid for;
So show God off in your carcass.*