



## The Books of Samuel Judge of Prophecy

### Interpreting the Text:

1. The stories of Eli and Samuel illustrate the tendency for families who inherit leadership roles to succumb to corruption. How does the divine removal of Eli's family line serve the objective of our Deuteronomistic historian? What is the warning from God, and the following instruction from Samuel?
2. How does the author understand the difference between a judge, like Samuel, and a king, like Saul? What are the steps needed to establish either one? What are their unique roles?
3. The story of the Ark's capture in chapter 4 feels like a cutaway scene in the story of Samuel. Why might the author be drawing our attention here? What is the significance of an enemy of Israel capturing the Ark, one of the most sacred objects for the Israelites?

### Applying the Text:

1. 1 Samuel 3 describes Samuel's call story, where he repeatedly confuses God's voice for Eli's until it becomes clear to both of them what is happening. How have you heard God's voice calling you? Have you, like Samuel, been mistaken about who is addressing you?
2. Who has more real power, the prophet or the king? Are you more inclined to trust a prophet, like Samuel, or a king, like Saul? What do these power dynamics look like in your own community?