

# THE AGE OF SAMUEL VIII

## SCHOOL OF THE PROPHETS

<sup>5</sup> “After that you will go to Gibeah of God, where there is a Philistine outpost. As you approach the town, you will meet a procession of prophets coming down from the high place with lyres, timbrels, pipes and harps being played before them, and they will be prophesying. <sup>6</sup> The Spirit of the LORD will come powerfully upon you, and you will prophesy with them; and you will be changed into a different person.

I Samuel 10:5-6

<sup>1</sup> A song of ascents. Of David. How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity! <sup>2</sup> It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron’s beard, down on the collar of his robe. <sup>3</sup> It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the LORD bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.

Psalms 133:1-3

<sup>20</sup> “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, <sup>21</sup> that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup> I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one-- <sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me--so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”

John 17:20-23

- I. Samuel's school of the prophets.
  - A. From the days of Samuel, there were schools of the prophets. (I Samuel 10:5,10;19:20)
  - B. Samuel was the seasoned prophet around whom they gathered. (I Samuel 19:20)
  - C. There were six locations where these prophetic schools, or guilds, existed: Ramah, Bethel, Gilgal, Jericho, Caramel, and Samaria.
  - D. At these locations, new generations of prophets were trained up under seasoned prophets.
  - E. Their classrooms were associated with the local centers of worship.
  - F. These were hands-on religious communities teaching Ethos, Pathos, and Logos. (truth, tone and character)
  - G. Their curriculum was:
    - 1. The law of God with the instruction given to Moses (Leviticus 10:1)  
*<sup>11</sup> “ and so you can teach the Israelites all the decrees the LORD has given them through Moses. ”*
    - 2. Sacred history (Joel 1:3)  
*<sup>3</sup> Tell it to your children, and let your children tell it to their children, and their children to the next generation.*
    - 3. Sacred music (I Samuel 10:5)  
*<sup>5</sup> “After that you will go to Gibeah of God, where there is a Philistine outpost. As you approach the town, you*

*will meet a procession of prophets coming down from the high place with lyres, timbrels, pipes and harps being played before them, and they will be prophesying.*

4. They were prepared for holy service and practical life. (“He who does not teach his son a trade, teaches him to be a thief.”)
5. They corporately experienced the miraculous.
6. They married and were productive members of society. (I Thessalonians 4:11)

*<sup>11</sup> and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you,*

7. They were inundated with scripture and a biblical worldview in which to relate everything they experienced. (II Timothy 2:2)

*<sup>2</sup> And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.*

## II. Communitas

- A. Jesus prayed for a unique, I-thou unity to exist between His people.
- B. He prayed this prayer at the last supper, pointing to a chief aspect of his work on the cross, overcoming all the divisions sown by Satan. Jesus says that this unity of Communitas is the primary proof that God is real and that we are his people!

C. The word diabolical (Greek dia bolien) means to cut, tear, or divide.

D. Satan's main strategy against God's entire kingdom is to "divide and conquer." (Luke 11:17)

*<sup>17</sup> Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them: "Any kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and a house divided against itself will fall."*

E. The one thing that Satan, the liminal criminal, cannot handle is Communitas.

### III. Bonding In-between

A. There is a difference between union and unity.

B. Communitas is a Latin word that speaks of a deep and unique social bond that develops only between members of a community who are experiencing, or have experienced, liminality (in-betweenness)

C. Each individual in Communitas has a sense of what it's like to be the other, thus forging a covenant bond unknown in mere community. (I Samuel 18:1)

*<sup>1</sup> After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself.*

D. Such unity, alone, bears the commanded blessing of God

E. It is a closed circle that Satan cannot resist or conquer; it starves him out like a healthy lawn smothers weeds.

F. Going through in-between seasons by yourself can lead to abject isolation and distress. Yet when Communitas enters

the scene, or isolation is broken, hope, healing, repair, and anticipation can surface

#### IV. The unholy trinity / Strife, doctrinal error, and sexual impurity

##### A. Strife (Proverbs 20:3)

*<sup>3</sup> It is to one's honor to avoid strife, but every fool is quick to quarrel.*

##### B. False teaching (I John 4:1; II Peter 2:1-3)

*[1Jo 4:1 NIV] <sup>1</sup> Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.*

*[2Pe 2:1-3 NIV] <sup>1</sup> But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them--bringing swift destruction on themselves. <sup>2</sup> Many will follow their depraved conduct and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. <sup>3</sup> In their greed these teachers will exploit you with fabricated stories. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping.*

##### C. Sexual impurity (Colossians 3:5)

*<sup>5</sup> Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.*

#### V. A prophecy of unity

##### A. This coming unity is what Satan is fighting about.

B. The tension is ratcheting up, because those of the in-between remnant are being placed together by God in order to march as an army, arm in arm.

C. Satan is no match for Communitas. He senses his end is near. (Revelation 12:12)

*<sup>12</sup> “Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.”*

D. Get ready for the greatest show on earth!