 Common English Bible
Isaiah 6:8 /

I heard the Lord's voice saying, "Whom should I send, and who will go for us?"

I said, "I'm here; send me."

 I Samuel 2: 18

Samuel was serving the Lord. He was a young boy, clothed in a linen priestly vest.

 I Samuel 3: 1-12, 15-17 (to 1st .), 18

Now the boy Samuel was serving the Lord under Eli. The Lord's word was rare at that time, and visions weren't widely known.

2 One day Eli, whose eyes had grown so weak he was unable to see, was lying down in his room. 3 God's lamp hadn't gone out yet, and Samuel was lying down in the Lord's temple, where God's chest[a] was.

4 The Lord called to Samuel. "I'm here," he said.

5 Samuel hurried to Eli and said, "I'm here. You called me?"

"I didn't call you," Eli replied. "Go lie down." So he did.

6 Again the Lord called Samuel, so Samuel got up, went to Eli, and said, "I'm here. You called me?"

"I didn't call, my son," Eli replied. "Go and lie down."

(7 Now Samuel didn't yet know the Lord, and the Lord's word hadn't yet been revealed to him.)

8 A third time the Lord called Samuel. He got up, went to Eli, and said, "I'm here. You called me?"

Then Eli realized that it was the Lord who was calling the boy.

9 So Eli said to Samuel, "Go and lie down. If he calls you, say,

‘Speak, Lord. Your servant is listening.’” So Samuel went and lay down where he’d been.

10 Then the Lord came and stood there, calling just as before,
“Samuel, Samuel!”

Samuel said, “Speak. Your servant is listening.”

11 The Lord said to Samuel, “I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of all who hear it tingle! 12 On that day, I will bring to pass against Eli everything I said about his household—every last bit of it!

Samuel lay there until morning, then opened the doors of the Lord’s house. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. 16 But Eli called Samuel, saying: “Samuel, my son!”

“I’m here,” Samuel said.

17 “What did he say to you?” Eli asked. “Don’t hide anything from me.

So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him.

18 “He is the Lord,” Eli said. “He will do as he pleases.”



I Samuel 16: 1-13

The Lord said to Samuel, “How long are you going to grieve over Saul? I have rejected him as king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and get going. I’m sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem because I have found[a] my next king among his sons.”

2 “How can I do that?” Samuel asked. “When Saul hears of it he’ll kill me!”

“Take a heifer with you,” the Lord replied, “and say, ‘I have come to make a sacrifice to the Lord.’ 3 Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will make clear to you what you should do. You will anoint for me the person I point out to you.”

4 Samuel did what the Lord instructed. When he came to Bethlehem, the city elders came to meet him. They were shaking with fear. “Do you come in peace?” they asked.

5 “Yes,” Samuel answered. “I’ve come to make a sacrifice to the Lord. Now make yourselves holy, then come with me to the sacrifice.” Samuel made Jesse and his sons holy and invited them to the sacrifice as well.

6 When they arrived, Samuel looked at Eliab and thought, That must be the Lord's anointed right in front.


7 But the Lord said to Samuel, "Have no regard for his appearance or stature, because I haven't selected him. God[b] doesn't look at things like humans do. Humans see only what is visible to the eyes, but the Lord sees into the heart."

8 Next Jesse called for Abinadab, who presented himself to Samuel, but he said, "The Lord hasn't chosen this one either."

9 So Jesse presented Shammah, but Samuel said, "No, the Lord hasn't chosen this one." 10 Jesse presented seven of his sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord hasn't picked any of these." 11 Then Samuel asked Jesse, "Is that all of your boys?" "There is still the youngest one," Jesse answered, "but he's out keeping the sheep."

"Send for him," Samuel told Jesse, "because we can't proceed until he gets here." [c]

12 So Jesse sent and brought him in. He was reddish brown, had beautiful eyes, and was good-looking. The Lord said, "That's the one. Go anoint him." 13 So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him right there in front of his brothers. The Lord's spirit came over David from that point forward.

 Psalm 62:11, 12 (to -)

God has spoken one thing—

make it two things—

that I myself have heard:

that strength belongs to God,

12 and faithful love comes from you, my Lord,

 Psalm 91:9-12

Because you've made the Lord my refuge,


the Most High, your place of residence—

10 no evil will happen to you;

no disease will come close to your tent.

11 Because he will order his messengers to help you,
to protect you wherever you go.

12 They will carry you with their own hands
so you don't bruise your foot on a stone.

 Exodus 23: 20, 21 (to 2nd .), 22

I'm about to send a messenger in front of you to guard you on your way and to bring you to the place that I've made ready.

21 Pay attention to him and do as he says. Don't rebel against him.

22 But if you listen carefully to what he says and do all that I say, then I'll be an enemy to your enemies and fight those fighting you.

 Genesis 32: 1, 2, 9-13 (to 1st .), 23-30

Jacob went on his way, and God's messengers approached him. 2 When Jacob saw them, he said, "This is God's camp," and he named that sacred place Mahanaim.

Jacob said, "Lord, God of my father Abraham, God of my father Isaac, who said to me, 'Go back to your country and your relatives, and I'll make sure things go well for you,' 10 I don't deserve how loyal and truthful you've been to your servant. I went away across the Jordan with just my staff, but now I've become two camps.

11 Save me from my brother Esau! I'm afraid he will come and kill me, the mothers, and their children. 12 You were the one who told me, 'I will make sure things go well for you, and I will make your descendants like the sand of the sea, so many you won't be able to count them.'"

13 Jacob spent that night there.

But Jacob stayed apart by himself, and a man wrestled with him until dawn broke. 25 When the man saw that he couldn't defeat Jacob, he grabbed Jacob's thigh and tore a muscle in Jacob's thigh as he wrestled with him. 26 The man said, "Let me go because the dawn is breaking."

But Jacob said, "I won't let you go until you bless me."

27 He said to Jacob, "What's your name?" and he said, "Jacob."

28 Then he said, "Your name won't be Jacob any longer, but Israel,[c] because you struggled with God and with men and won."

29 Jacob also asked and said, "Tell me your name."
But he said, "Why do you ask for my name?" and he blessed
Jacob there. 30 Jacob named the place Peniel,[d] "because I've
seen God face-to-face, and my life has been saved."



Psalm 103:20-22

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SH 89:20–21

Spirit,

Scientific
improvisation

21 God, is heard when the senses are silent.

SH 308:14

The Soul-inspired patriarchs heard the voice of Truth,

15 and talked with God as consciously as man talks with man.

SH 308:16

Jacob was *alone*, wrestling with error, — struggling
with a mortal sense of life, substance, and intelligence

18 as existent in matter with its false pleasures
and pains, — when an angel, a message from
Truth and Love, appeared to him and smote the sinew,
21 or strength, of his error, till he saw its unreality; and
Truth, being thereby understood, gave him spiritual
strength in this Peniel of divine Science. Then said
24 the spiritual evangel: "Let me go, for the day breaketh;"
that is, the light of Truth and Love dawns upon thee.
But the patriarch, perceiving his error and his need
27 of help, did not loosen his hold upon this glorious light
until his nature was transformed. When Jacob was
asked, "What is thy name?" he straightway answered;
30 and then his name was changed to Israel, for "as a prince"

Wrestling
of Jacob

had he prevailed and had “power with God and with men.” Then Jacob questioned his deliverer, “Tell me,

- 1 I pray thee, *thy* name;” but this appellation was withheld,
for the messenger was not a corporeal being, but a name-
3 less, incorporeal impartation of divine Love to man, which,
to use the word of the Psalmist, *restored* his Soul, — gave
him the spiritual sense of being and rebuked his material
6 sense.

SH 589:4

JACOB. A corporeal mortal embracing duplicity, repentance, sensualism. Inspiration; the revelation of

- 6 Science, in which the so-called material senses yield to the spiritual sense of Life and Love.

SH 224:22

A higher and more practical Christianity, demonstrating justice and meeting the needs of mortals in sickness

- 24 and in health, stands at the door of this age, knocking for admission. Will you open or close the door upon this angel visitant, who cometh in the quiet of meekness, as he
27 came of old to the patriarch at noonday?

SH 332:9–11 Christ

- 9 Christ is the true idea voicing good, the divine message from God to men speaking to the human consciousness.

SH 46:7

The divine Spirit, which identified Jesus thus centuries

- 9 ago, has spoken through the inspired Word and will speak through it in every age and clime. It is revealed to the receptive heart, and is again seen casting out evil and

Spiritual
interpretation

12 healing the sick.

SH 581:4

ANGELS. God's thoughts passing to man; spiritual intuitions, pure and perfect; the inspiration of goodness, 6 purity, and immortality, counteracting all evil, sensuality, and mortality.

SH 299:7

My angels are exalted thoughts, appearing at the door of some sepulchre, in which human belief has buried 9 its fondest earthly hopes. With white fingers they point upward to a new and glorified trust, to higher ideals of life and its joys. Angels 12 are God's representatives. These upward-soaring beings never lead towards self, sin, or materiality, but guide to the divine Principle of all good, whither every real indi- 15 viduality, image, or likeness of God, gathers. By giving earnest heed to these spiritual guides they tarry with us, and we entertain “angels unawares.”

Our angelic
messengers

SH 298:25–1

Angels are not etherealized human beings, evolving animal qualities in their wings; but they are celestial 27 visitants, flying on spiritual, not material, pinions. Angels are pure thoughts from God, winged with Truth and Love, no matter what their indi- 30 vidualism may be. Human conjecture confers upon angels its own forms of thought, marked with superstitious outlines, making them human creatures with suggestive 1 feathers; but this is only fancy.

Thought-
angels

SH 323:28–32

The effects of Christian Science are not so much seen
as felt. It is the “still, small voice” of Truth

30 uttering itself. We are either turning away
from this utterance, or we are listening to it and going
up higher.

Childlike
receptivity

Hymn. 73:2

God is Mind and holy thought is sending;
Man, His image, hears His voice.
Every heart may understand His message,
In His kindness may rejoice.
Lo, He speaks, all condemnation ending,
Every true desire with Love's will blending;
Losing self, in Him we find
Joy, health, hope, for all mankind.

Hymn. 84:2

Word of God, O Word eternal,
May we hear thy living voice,
Learn the power of Love supernal,
Learn obedience,—and rejoice;
God's commands forever heeding,
Follow where His love is leading.

Hymn. 588:3

Though I may search the deepest books,
Companion with the wisest men,
God's loving voice still calls to me,
It bids me turn and look again.