

“Shamgar. Who-gar?”
Judges 3:31
October 20, 2019

I. What did Shamgar do?

- A. He saved Israel.
- B. He did so with an ox-goad (bladed cattle prod).
- C. He struck down 600 Philistines.

II. Who was Shamgar?

- A. He was a *gentile*, likely a Hittite.

Deuteronomy 20:17–18 - ¹⁷ “But you shall utterly destroy them, the Hittite and the Amorite, the Canaanite and the Perizzite, the Hivite and the Jebusite, as the Lord your God has commanded you, ¹⁸ so that they may not teach you to do according to all their detestable things which they have done for their gods, so that you would sin against the Lord your God.

- B. He was (had been?) a servant of the false goddess Anath.
- C. Shamgar’s usage was an indictment of the faithlessness of the men of Israel.

III. Future Reflections of Shamgar, the Unlikely Deliverer

- A. Shamgar anticipates Christ’s *apparent* lack of qualifications for being the Messiah.

John 1:46a - Nathanael said to him [Phillip], “Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?”

Mark 6:3 - Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?” And they were offended by him.

Isaiah 53:2b–3 - ² ...he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. ³ He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

- B. Shamgar anticipates our *actual* lack of qualifications for Christian service.

Ephesians 2:12 - remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

1 Corinthians 1:26 - For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.

1. We are the most unlikely recipients of salvation and commission.
2. This fact magnifies the grace of our incorporation into God's kingdom.
 - a. Such grace should cause us to marvel at the significance the Lord has mercifully bestowed on each of us, freeing us from our constant striving for significance in this world.
 - b. Such grace should move us to humility in our interactions with others, desiring their exaltation rather than our own.