

## Key to Understanding THE JUDGES:

Judges 2:2 “And ye shall make no league with the inhabitants of this land; ye shall throw down their altars: but ye have not obeyed my voice: why have ye done this?”

Judges 2: 10-11 “And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the Lord, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel. And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served Balaam:”



Ron Singleterry The Judges-part 3-Adult Bible Study  
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## The Judges-part3

### Judges Chapter 3:31

Judges 3:31 “And after him was Shamgar the son of Anath, which slew of the Philistines six hundred men with an ox goad: and he also delivered Israel.”

### Shamgar, Third Judge of Israel

Shamgar lived in a time when the Philistines were growing more powerful in the region. Some historians say that the Hittites first forged iron from some meteorites they found in the region and the Philistines conquered them and took this technology using it to gain dominance.

This may or may not be true, but in other parts of the Old Testament we have evidence that the Philistines did dominate the iron and restrict others from getting it.

Since the Philistines had the best weapons in the region, they had a great advantage. In a sword fight would you rather have an iron sword or a softer bronze sword? Well, it could be worse: you could go to battle with only a stick!

### **A stick and God in the Fight**

An ox goad is nothing more than a stick about the size of a hoe handle. Shamgar, for some reason, seemed to be compelled to go to battle with nothing more than a stick against an army with the latest technology, and because of it, God took that stick and brought about a victory for the children of Israel.

Shamgar, armed with this stick, defeated 600 of the best equipped Philistine soldiers.

Did Shamgar defeat them all at once time? I don't know! Our logic would make us want to say that it was spread out over time.

- **Othniel** – He was surrounded by great men of faith and found that he too had the faith that God was looking for in a time of great need. **The need today is great and God is looking for people of faith!**
- **Ehud** – A man that most would look right past when searching for a leader. Even his name is not very inspiring. We know little about his past, we know that he was a common man from the smallest tribe of Israel, and he was left-handed. **However, he understood that he could do something and try to make a difference.**
- **Shamgar** – In a time when the Philistines had the weapons of iron and kept them from the Jews, it would have been easy to say “I don't have what I need to do the job”, but **he rose up and fought with what he had. In doing so, he brought glory to the Lord more than to himself.**

## **When God is in charge, the things that don't seem reasonable become reality!**

Any church as a group should set up a budget, organize by-laws, and plan things in a logical way. But, there are times when God sends his Holy Spirit and asks for people to "exercise" their faith so a skeptical world can see that God is still in control and moving among us.

### **No Praise for Shamgar's Skills**

We never learn about Shamgar's skills. We don't hear of him commanding an army or of him being a great leader. All we know is that when God said "get up", Shamgar got up and fought rather than make excuses about what he didn't have.

We need to first spend time on our knees and in God's Word so that we get in tune with God. We should then be willing to follow the leadership of the Holy Spirit; even if it seems to be more than we can do.

*Next segment, we will see an illustration of how to balance our life between being practical and being Spirit filled. We will see God raise up two judges, Deborah and Barak, that were as different as night and day, but God put them together and brought deliverance to Israel.*

### ***Trail Tips:***

*When God is in control, the impossible becomes reality, not just possible.*

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*When you get the opportunity to serve God; bring Him the glory, never yourself.*