

## 14.07 3rd Judge, Shamgar (Judges 3:31; 5:6)

(Three of the briefly-noted judges—Shamgar, Tola, and Jair—are combined in Lesson 14.13a.)

✓ “Check” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows

[. . .] indicates a remark to the teacher that usually should not be read. It also indicates answers to questions.

### Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials.

**Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach:** Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *ox goad*: a wooden tool, approximately eight feet long, fitted with a point at one end, which was used to spur oxen as they pulled a plow or cart

### Scripture: (ESV)

Judges 3:31 After him was Shamgar the son of Anath, who killed 600 of the Philistines with an oxgoad, and he also saved Israel.

5:6 In the days of Shamgar, son of Anath, in the days of Jael, the highways were abandoned, and travelers kept to the byways.

### Introduction/Review:

Two judges and an additional two serious episodes preceded the work of the third judge. Those two judges were Othniel, who delivered Israel from the king of Mesopotamia, and Ehud, the left-handed judge who delivered Israel from the Moabites. The first episode involved Micah’s idol and priest and their being stolen for false worship for the whole tribe of Dan. The other episode involved the near extinction of the tribe of Benjamin because of serious sin.

### Story:

Shamgar was the third judge, between Ehud and Deborah. One of the two verses that tell about Shamgar also tells about Jael, the wife of Heber. We learned about Jael in our lesson about Deborah. [Teacher, see if anyone remembers Jael’s part of Deborah’s story.] She is the woman who invited Sisera, the commander of the Canaanites, into her tent, gave him some milk, and, when he had fallen asleep, slew him, giving victory to Israel.

The verse about Jael and Shamgar reads, “In the days of Shamgar . . . in the days of Jael, the highways were abandoned, and travelers kept to the byways.” Why were the highways abandoned so that travelers had to go on out-of-the-way country roads to get anywhere? The other verse about Shamgar gives a clue. It states that he slew 600 Philistines [locate Philistine territory on the Mediterranean coast]. Therefore, commentators tell us ✓the Philistines infested the highways, robbing all who traveled there. No doubt this caused quite a problem for traders and farmers who depended on the highways to get their goods to various markets.

Shamgar, ✓probably a man who plowed his fields with oxen, had had enough of this Philistine harassment. He took his eight-foot long ox goad with its sharp point at one end\* and used it as a weapon against these intruders. How many Philistines did we read that he destroyed with this long pointed stick? [Six hundred.] That’s a lot of men.

That was a sufficient number of Philistines for the problem of robbers on the highway to be solved. The Bible states Shamgar “saved Israel.” Therefore, although we know little about him and only two verses about him are recorded, he was a very important hero to Israel while he lived.

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\*“Mr. Maundrell, who saw many [ox goads] . . . found them to be eight feet long, at the bigger end six inches in circumference, at the lesser end was a sharp prickle for driving the oxen, and at the other end a small spade, or paddle of iron, for cleansing the plough from the clay” (<https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/judges-5-6.html>).

### Lessons from this lesson:

- We see Jesus:

In the New Testament, when Jesus appeared to the Apostle Paul on his way to slay Christians, Jesus called, “Why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.” Paul asked, “Who are you, Lord?” And the Lord said, “I am Jesus whom you are persecuting” (Acts 9:4, 5; 26:14, 15)

[Added information for the teacher: “[This] is a proverbial expression, taken from beasts that are goaded, who kick against the goads or pricks, and hurt themselves the more thereby; and Christ uses it, suggesting hereby, that should Saul go on to persecute him and his people, to oppose his Gospel, and the strong evidence of it, in doctrine and miracles, and notwithstanding the present remonstrances made in such an extraordinary manner; he would find himself in the issue greatly hurt by it, and could not rationally expect to succeed against so powerful a person”

(<https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/acts-9-5.html>)].

### Activities:

- Play dough: ox; ox goad
- Snack: Cheese or fruit speared with a toothpick
- Review questions: (Game: Print on cardstock the ox goads found below. A correct answer allows a student to place an ox goad in a pocket chart.)
  1. Who is the third judge? Hint: He fought against Philistine robbers. [Shamgar.]
  2. How many Philistines did Shamgar smite? [Six hundred.]
  3. What weapon did Shamgar use? [An ox goad.]

### Memory Verse[s]: (ESV)

- Acts 26:14, 15—“Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.” And I said, “Who are you, Lord?” And the Lord said, “I am Jesus whom you are persecuting.”

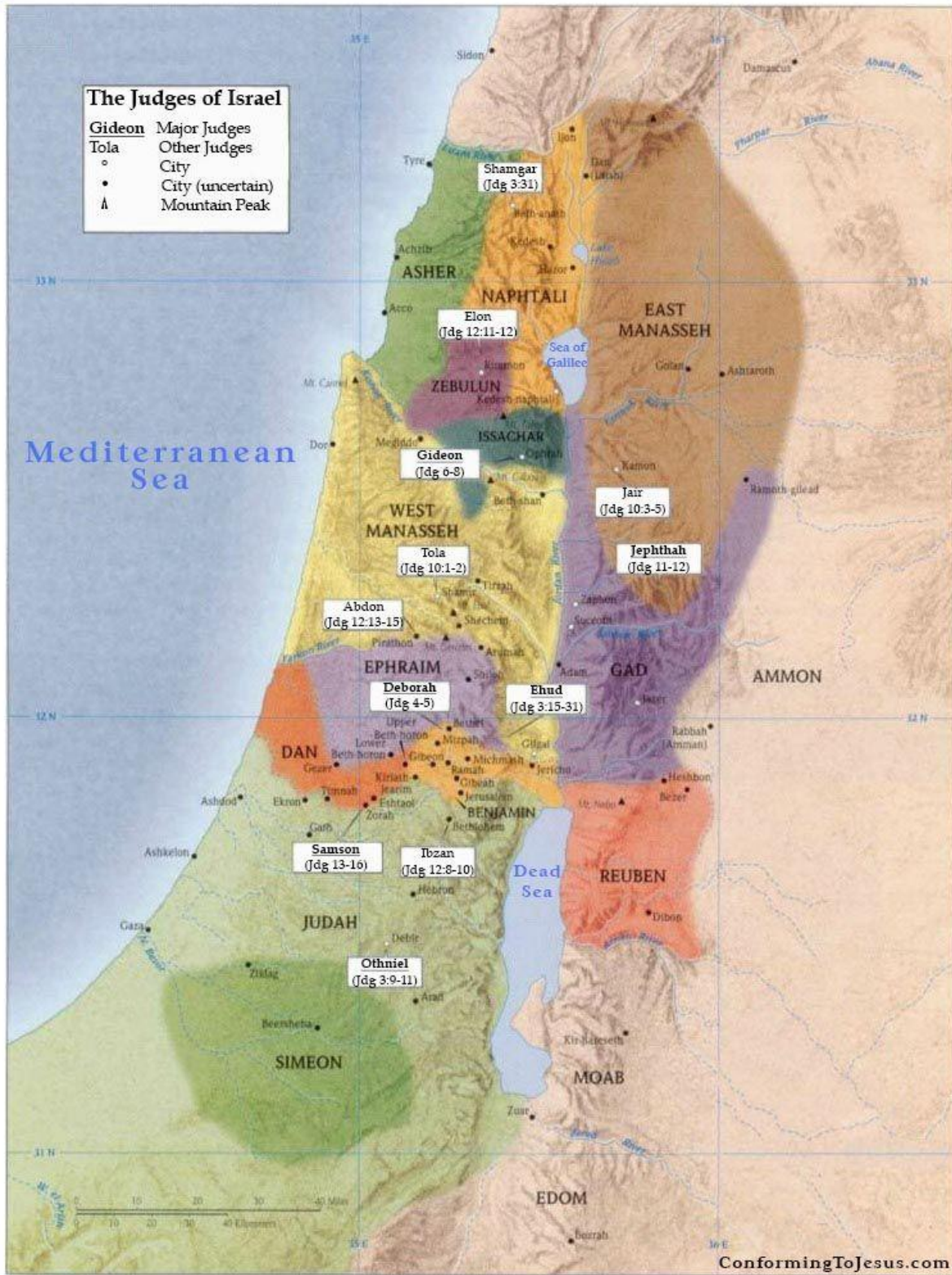
### Handwork:

- Color and page of a man and woman and their oxen found below.

**ox goad**

### The Judges of Israel

<b>Gideon</b>	Major Judges
Tola	Other Judges
○	City
•	City (uncertain)
▲	Mountain Peak







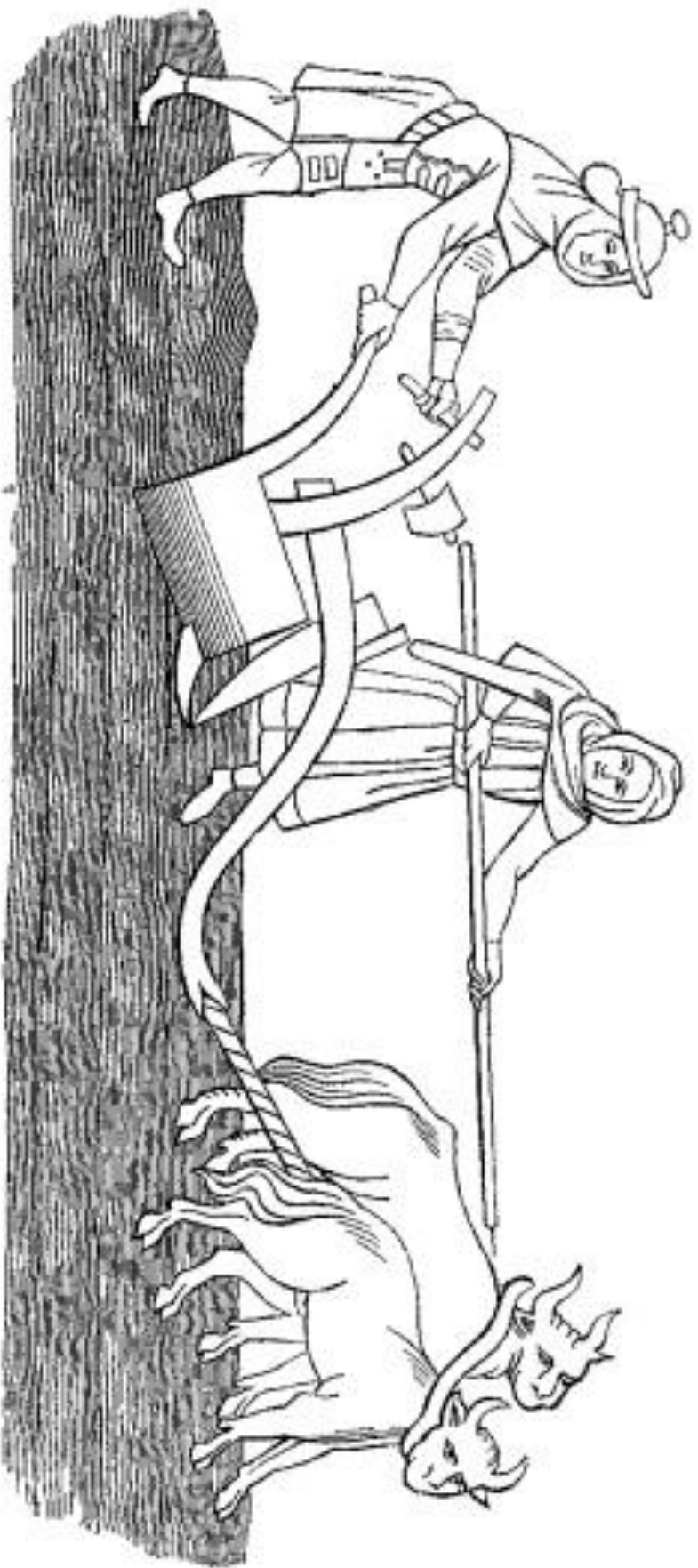
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<https://jacobpannell.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/shamgar-1-900x500.jpg>







Shamgar, Israel's third judge,  
slew 600 Philistines with an  
ox goad (Judges 3:6; 5:31).