

# Worksheets

# Meet Shamgar, Jethro, Manoah & Hathach

An introduction to the unique characters of  
The *OBSCURE* Bible Study Series

Book 1 – Worksheets

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# CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
<i>Shamgar, the lone warrior judge</i> .....	01
<i>Jethro, Moses’ father-in-law</i> .....	07
<i>Manoah &amp; Wife, parents of Samson</i> .....	13
<i>Hathach, a messenger for Esther</i> .....	17

# ***Shamgar***

the lone warrior judge

## **Discussion Questions**

### A. Historical Context:

A1. What is the general timeframe of the period of the Judges?

A2. What was the major problem of those days that was re-stated throughout Judges like a catch phrase?

A3. There was a pattern of behavior in those days that kept repeating itself. What was it?

A4. What did the people demand from God? Why?

### B. Examination of eight facts (what we know):

B1. Shamgar was a "judge."

B1a. What was a "judge"?

B1b. How do we know Shamgar was a judge? If I said that Shamgar was not really a judge, how would you respond?

B1c. Was Shamgar appointed or raised up by God?

B1d. What is the best evidence that he was a judge?

B2. Shamgar "delivered" Israel.

B2a. The text says that he "delivered" Israel. What do you think that means?

B2b. Is there any evidence that Shamgar acted in any ruling or leadership capacity?

B2c. The judges were to be rescuers and leaders. What characteristics would you want in a leader if you lived in those days?

B3. The "delivery" did not last long.

B3a. Do you think Shamgar's reign as a judge was successful? Why? Why not?

B4. Killed 600 Philistines

Many assume this verse implies there was no army, no support troops, no chariots, etc. Do you think Shamgar did this alone or was he part of a group? Why? Why not?

B5. With an oxgoad.

B5a. What is an oxgoad?

B5b. How do you kill 600 people with a stick?

B5c. Why an oxgoad? Why not use a real weapon? Normally the weapons used in a battle would not be mentioned. Why do you think the oxgoad is mentioned in this verse?

B6. Son of Anath

B6a. If you simply read this text, what do you naturally assume that "son of Anath" means?

B6b. If either of the above is true, what is one obvious conclusion?

B6c. If Shamgar was not an Israelite, and maybe not even a follower of Yahweh, what might this explain?

B6d. Were there any "rules" about judges that would prevent a foreigner from acting in that capacity?

B6e. Do you think it makes any difference that Shamgar may have been a foreigner and not a Hebrew?

B6f. Does being a foreigner or a pagan have any special implications here?

B6g. If Shamgar was a foreigner and a pagan, why would he choose to act as a deliverer for Israel? Why would God choose and use a foreigner?

B7. Main roads and villages deserted

B7a. Do you think this is a big enough problem to warrant one warrior killing 600 Philistines?

B7b. Given what you know about where the Philistines and Israelites settled, other than dangerous conditions, why else might the roads be deserted?

B8. Interesting speculation:

B8a. Do you think the lack of information is because Shamgar was a "minor judge?" If not, then how do you explain?

C. Conclusion

C1. Since we have so little information and if we believe nothing happens by accident with God, then there must be some good reason why the story of Shamgar appears here. What do you think that could be? If this story were not included in the Bible, what would be the impact? If your answer is "nothing," then why is the verse here? Why do you think this verse is here? What is your thoughtful view?

C2. What did you find most interesting or curious about this story?

C3. How do you see God at work in this story?

## D. Application

This story affords the opportunity for some interesting and challenging sermon topics:

1. God will use anybody He needs to accomplish His purposes.
2. If you are called on to "fight" for God, use what you know and what you have available to you.
3. The battle can be won despite incredible odds if God is on your side.
4. Do you need to pick up your oxgoad and get in the battle?
5. What oxgoad has God given you? What are your spiritual gifts? You could be using them as a weapon!
6. Is it time to attack the oppressor in our midst?
7. If God was looking for another Shamgar, how would He find you? Are you ready? Are you available?

D1. Which one of the above do you like the best and why? Do any of the sermon subjects nick at your heart? Is God speaking to you in any of these topics?

D2. What "oxgoad" has God given you? What does God want you doing with your tools? Is it time for you to pick up your oxgoad?

D3. If you did decide God is nudging you, what would that look like?

## E. Challenge Exercise:

Chose one of the preaching topics listed above and develop a three point sermon outline. An example for #4: "Do you need to pick up your oxgoad and get in the battle?"

1) What are you presently doing for God?

2) Are you making a difference?

3) What legacy will you leave?



# ***Jethro***

Moses' father-in-law

## **Leadership Principles<sup>3</sup>**

### **Principle #1: Mutual Respect**

1A. What actions did Moses and Jethro take that demonstrated mutual respect?

1B. Why did Jethro send Moses notice that he was outside the camp? Why didn't he just come into the camp? What are the possible scenarios if Jethro had come into Moses' camp without advance warning and demanded to see Moses? What would have been a possible greeting by Moses and his leaders?

NOTICE:

IF NO NOTICE:

POSSIBLE RECEPTION:

1C. Other than respect, what did Moses demonstrate by going out to meet Jethro?

### **Principle #2: Attitude of Gratitude and Thanksgiving**

2A. List all the things Jethro said and did in this passage and the implications.

2B. What did it mean that Jethro brought a burnt offering and sacrifices?

2C. What is the significance of Aaron and the elders eating with Jethro?

**Principle #3: Gain Knowledge and Understanding**

3A. What did Jethro do to gain understanding?

3B. Did Jethro question the wisdom of anything Moses was doing in this passage?

3C. What attitude did Jethro exhibit in obtaining information?

3D. What did Moses mean by, "I teach them God's statutes and laws"?

**Principle #4: Delegate, Get Help – You Cannot do it Alone**

4A. What did Jethro observe Moses doing? What problem did Jethro identify?

4B. What was Jethro's attitude in this situation?

4C. If you are not sure someone is capable, what should you do?

**Principle #5: Get Attention When Giving Advice**

5A. What three things did Jethro do before he told Moses anything?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

5B. Did Jethro suggest that he would get involved and help Moses?

5C. Do you think Jethro should have offered his help?

5D. What does "*and God be with you*" do for the advice that will follow?

**Principle #6: Understand Your Skills/Calling**

6A. What could Moses do that the people could not?

6B. What unique knowledge did Moses possess?

6C. What is the significance of the phrase "*teach them the way to live*"?

**Principle #7: Choose (Hire) the Best People**

7A. Summarize what Jethro told Moses to do? Why?

7B. List the attributes of the people Jethro told Moses to select.

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_

7C. Excluding be "able" what is the nature of the other characteristics?

7D. What kind of people do some managers hire?

**Principle #8: Span of Control**

8A. How many subordinates should each manager have to supervise?

8B. Other than span of control, why is this good advice?

8C. What typically happens when you have 20 people reporting to one supervisor?

8D. What typically happens when you have only 2 or 3 people reporting to one supervisor?

**Principle #9: Authority and Responsibility**

9A. What happens when someone is given the responsibility for a job, but not the authority (can't judge)?

9B. What happens when someone is given the authority for a job, but not the responsibility?

9C. What if someone in authority makes a mistake?

**Principle #10: Teamwork**

10A. Jethro repeated some of the advice he had already given Moses. What did he repeat?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

10B. What is the meaning or significance of the phrase, "and they will bear it with you"?

10C. Why is teamwork important? What are the benefits of good teamwork?

**Principle #11: Explain Advice or Decisions**

11A. What did Jethro imply should be Moses' first responsibility?

11B. Why is explaining your advice or decisions a good idea?

11C. If Jethro hadn't explained the advantages of following his advice, what might have happened?

**Principle #12: Listen**

12A. Why did Moses implement Jethro's advice?

12B. How difficult is it to learn the art of listening?

12C. How did Jethro make it a little easier for Moses to listen?

**APPLICATION**

1. Do you know anyone who needs leadership advice? How could you help?

2. Are you trying to do everything? Do you need to delegate to others? Who could help you at work, home, your church . . . ?

3. How are you at taking, accepting, and evaluating advice? Do you listen well? Do you really listen well?

4. Who is your "Jethro"? Are you listening? Why? Why not?

5. Do you need to be a Jethro to someone? Who?

# ***Manoah & Wife***

parents of Samson

## **Discussion Questions**

### **A. General**

A1. Judges 13:1 says Israel again, "*did what was evil in the sight of the Lord.*" What does this mean? What was Israel doing?

A2. The passage goes on to say that "*the Lord gave them into the hand of the Philistines.*" Why would God do such a thing? What part of the cycle is this?

Q. How does this judgment differ from the story of Sodom and Gomorrah?

### **B. The Angel of the Lord**

B1. Who was "The Angel of the Lord"(13:3)? Explain.

B2. In the culture of that day the husband ruled the family, yet on both visits, the angel appeared first to Manoah's wife and did not speak to Manoah at all on the first visit. Why? Is this curious?

B3. When Manoah met with the angel, he asked, "*Are You the man who spoke to this woman?*" Would this have been your first question? If not, what would you have asked first?

B4. What did Manoah or his wife learn on the second visit from the angel that they did not know from the first visit?

B5. Since there was very little new information in the second visit from the angel, why did the angel come back?

B6. Why do you think it took so long for Manoah to recognize the Angel of the Lord?

B7. Why do you think the Angel of the Lord chose to ascend in the flame of the fire?

### C. Nazirite Vow

C1. How does Samson's Nazirite vow differ from most Nazirite vows? A normal vow would involve:  
(1) abstaining from fermented drink,  
(2) refraining from cutting hair,  
(3) avoiding a corpse.

C2. What is interesting or curious about verse 13:4b?  
*"Therefore be careful and drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean."* ESV



C3. Is there any significance to the fact that the Angel of the Lord told the mother that her son would be a Nazirite from birth?

C4. Why do you think it says Samson will "*begin*" to save Israel?

#### D. Manoah's Prayer

D1. Manoah prayed in 13:8. What was the purpose of the prayer? Is this what you would have prayed?  
Judges 13:8 *Then Manoah prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord, please let the man of God whom you sent come again to us and teach us what we are to do with the child who will be born." ESV*

D2. Was this a normal parental prayer? What might it mean or signify?

D3. What is interesting about who prayed and God's response?

#### E. Angel's Name

E1. Why would Manoah and his wife be so concerned about knowing the name of the visitor?

E2. Was there significance in the angel telling them that his name was "wonderful?" [or beyond understanding]

E3. Why do you think the angel ignored the question of His name?

### F. Application

F1. Samson's Nazirite vow separated him from normal society in an effort to keep him focused on God. How do you try to keep focused on God/Jesus? How difficult is it to keep the world's values from overcoming your value system? How do you try to be holy (set apart)? What do you do to "keep your eyes on Jesus"?

F2. Have you ever failed or been slow to recognize God or His work in either your life, or in the life of your family? If so,

- (1) are you really looking?
- (2) are you ever in a state of awareness?
- (3) are you asking?

F3. What could you do in your life to sharpen your awareness?

F4. Have you ever set aside a time of fasting in order to focus on God? Have you ever undertaken a time of intense Bible study? Explain.

# ***Hathach***

a messenger for Esther

## **Discussion Questions:**

### A. GENERAL:

A1. Who exactly was to be killed (3:13)?

A2. What started all this terrible business (see 3:5)?

A3. In 3:7-11 what did Haman tell the king about the Jews?

A4. In 3:10-11, what did the king find out about the people to be destroyed before giving his approval?

A5. What does it mean that Mordecai and many Jews in the nation "put on sackcloth and ashes"?

A6. Can you think of another situation in Scripture when someone put on sackcloth and ashes?

A7. Queen Esther heard the news from her servants and was overcome with fear. Why do you think Esther reacted in this way?

A8. In 4:4 Esther sent clothes to Mordecai so he would take off his sackcloth. Do Esther's actions make sense? Why would she do this?

A9. Do you think Esther wanted Mordecai to stop his public display?

A10. Esther sent Hathach on a mission (4:5). What did Esther want Hathach to do? Why would Esther do this? The servants and eunuchs had already reported the news to Esther.

A11. Why is Hathach necessary? Why didn't Mordecai visit Esther or Esther visit Mordecai?

A12. What did Mordecai tell Hathach (4:7) and how would Mordecai know all this information, particularly the amount that Haman had pledged to the treasury?

A13. Why do you think Haman thought it was necessary to offer money to the king?

A14. List everything you know about Hathach.

A15. Why would Hathach have to explain the written decree to Esther (4:8)?

A16. Do you find it odd that the king had not seen Esther for 30 days? What might that mean?

A17. Why do you suppose Haman wanted to destroy the entire Jewish nation?

A18. What is the meaning of 4:14 where Mordecai advises Esther not to keep silent?

Esther 4:14 *For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"* ESV

A19. What is the life lesson(s) here?

A20. There is a saying, "If you are not part of the solution, then you are part of the problem." Does this apply here?

A21. Esther sent very specific instructions to Mordecai:

- a) gather all the Jews in Susa,
- b) fast for "me" (Esther), and
- c) do not eat or drink for 3 days (day or night)

What does it mean that Esther requested they fast for her?

A22. What did Esther say she would do and what does this say about her and her maids?

WOULD DO

MAIDS

A23. How important is Hathach in all this activity?

**APPLICATIONS:**

B1. Are you a good messenger? Can you be trusted to get the story right?

B2. Can you imagine something in your life when you might consider "going against the law," like Esther in this story?

B3. Do you have something serious in your life for which you need to fast and pray? When you have a big challenge or difficulty in your life what is the first thing you think about doing? Is fasting on your list?

B4. Do you have a Mordecai in your life? Do you need one?

B5. Have you ever accepted or refused God's calling? How did that work out? Would a Mordecai have been helpful?

# Coming in 2020

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Meet Shamgar, Jethro, Manoah &amp; Hathach</b></p> <p>This book of four lessons is provided at a reduced cost so that students and leaders can get a first-hand experience and introduction to The <i>OBSCURE</i> Bible Study Series.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Blasphemy, Grace, Quarrels &amp; Reconciliation</b></p> <p>This book presents Joseph of Arimathea, Joanna, Ananias, Hymenaeus, and Cornelius (one of the centurions). It illustrates the nature and challenges of life as a first-century disciple. Life has real challenges, but they can be overcome.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Beginning and the End</b></p> <p>This book has four lessons from Genesis and four from the book of Revelation. It covers such topics as creation, rebellion, grace, worship, and eternity. It illustrates how God is leading us to worship in the Throne Room. This book will be a great introduction to "The Story of the Bible" (28 lessons) to be published in 2021.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>God at the Center</b></p> <p>This book touches on the virgin birth, worship, the sovereignty of God, prayer, compromise, and trust. In all these stories and events we find God. He is there in the shadows or openly orchestrating our lives. Regardless of the situation He is at the center of our lives – a sovereign almighty God.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Women of Courage</b></p> <p>This book examines the lives of Jael, Rizpah, the woman of Tekoa, Tabitha, Shiphrah, and Lydia. We see these women exhibiting great courage and faithfulness. God used them in amazing ways and we can use their example for encouragement and spiritual leadership.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Beginning of Wisdom</b></p> <p>In this book we find courage, loyalty, thankfulness, love, forgiveness, and humility. It is clear that personal character counts. It is critical to make good decisions because they have consequences. Building our lives on wisdom will help us stand firm in our faith. We don't want to follow the example of Demas who deserted Paul for the values of the world.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Miracles and Rebellion</b></p> <p>This book contrasts the stories of biblical characters who rebelled against God and those who trusted and believed. God hates sin and loves to heal the faithful. The rebellion of Korah, Haman, and Alexander are included to compare with the healing stories of Aeneas, a slave girl, and the crippled man at Lystra.</p>

End