

# 1 Samuel 16:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Jesse made Shammah to pass by. And he said, Neither hath the LORD chosen this.

## Analysis

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**Then Jesse made Shammah to pass by. And he said, Neither hath the LORD chosen this.**

Shammah (meaning 'astonishment' or 'desolation') was the third son presented. His later appearance among David's mighty men (2 Samuel 23:11-12) shows he possessed genuine valor, yet valor alone did not qualify him for kingship. The systematic rejection of each son built dramatic tension while teaching that God's choice cannot be predicted or manipulated through human qualifications.

## Historical Context

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Shammah would later distinguish himself defending a field of lentils against Philistine raiders. The brothers' presence at the selection ceremony suggests Jesse had gathered his family for what he understood as a significant religious occasion, though the full purpose remained concealed.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's rejection of qualified candidates challenge our understanding of merit-based selection?
2. What genuine strengths might you possess that are still insufficient for God's particular calling?

## Interlinear Text

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בְּמִרְאֵת יְהִי שָׁמָמָה וַיֹּאמֶר יְהִי כְּמַה בְּמִרְאֵת יְהִי שָׁמָמָה וַיֹּאמֶר יְהִי כְּמַה  
to pass by Then Jesse made Shammah And he said H1571 H2088 H3808 chosen  
H5674 H3448 H8048 H559 H977

וְהִי:

**Neither hath the LORD**

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## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Samuel 17:13** (Parallel theme): And the three eldest sons of Jesse went and followed Saul to the battle: and the names of his three sons that went to the battle were Eliab the firstborn, and next unto him Abinadab, and the third Shammah.