



OLD TESTAMENT • HISTORY

Judges

The destructive cycle of forgetting God

AUTHORSHIP · Anonymous; traditionally associated with Samuel

DATE & CONTEXT · Events before Israel's monarchy; date of compilation debated

The big picture

After Joshua, Israel repeatedly turns away from God, suffers oppression, cries out, and receives deliverance through judges. The deliverers themselves are increasingly flawed. Stories of violence and social collapse reveal the damage of self-directed life without covenant faithfulness. The book describes behavior that it does not commend; its downward spiral creates a longing for just and faithful leadership.

Words to carry

“In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.”

Judges 21:25 · KJV

Live it

01 Notice a recurring pattern you have been excusing.

02 Ask a trusted person to help you interrupt that pattern.

03 Measure leadership by character and care for others, not charisma alone.

Pause & reflect

Where am I confusing what I want with what is right?

Original SELAH37 introduction. Read the text in context; historical dates and attributions are approximate.

Scripture: King James Version. Public domain in the United States; Crown rights apply in the United Kingdom.

Continue online: <https://selah37.com/books/judges>