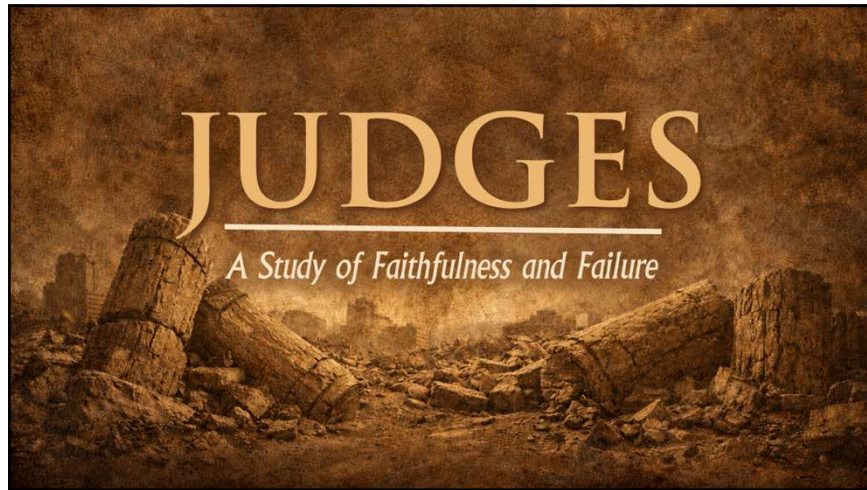
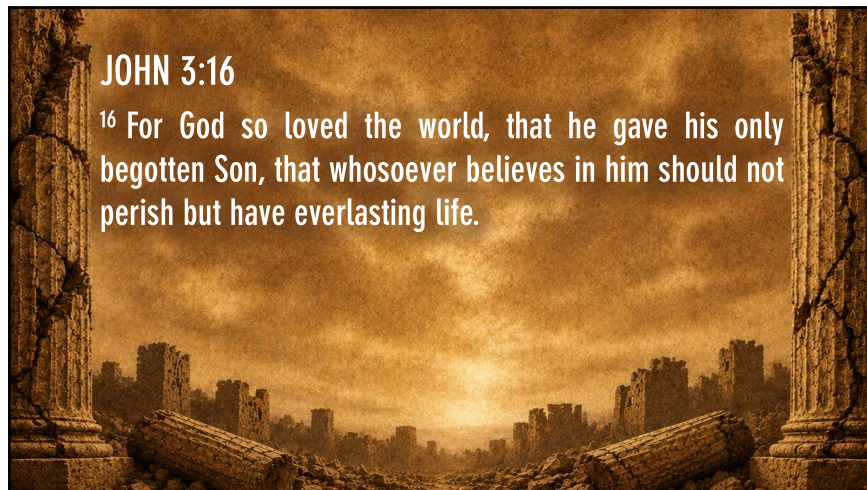




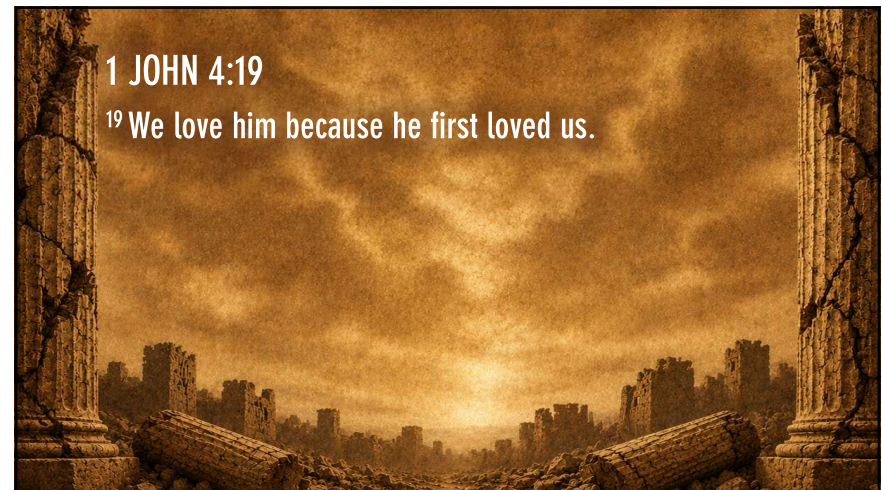
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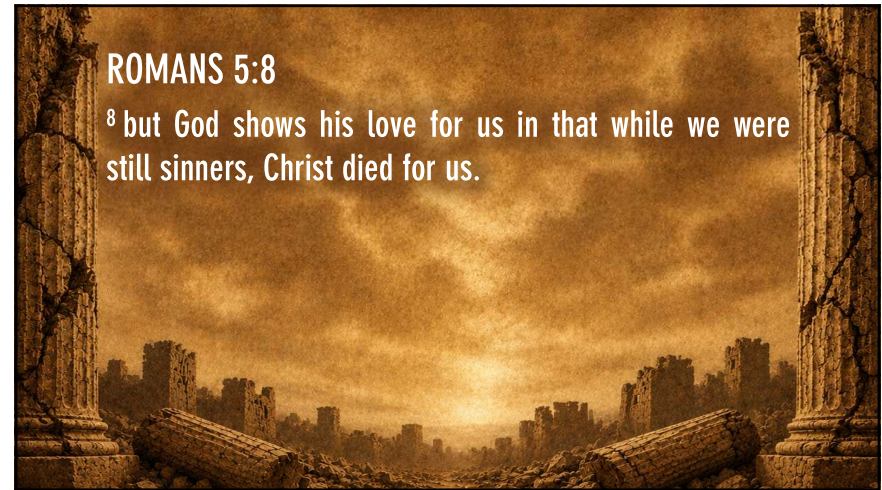
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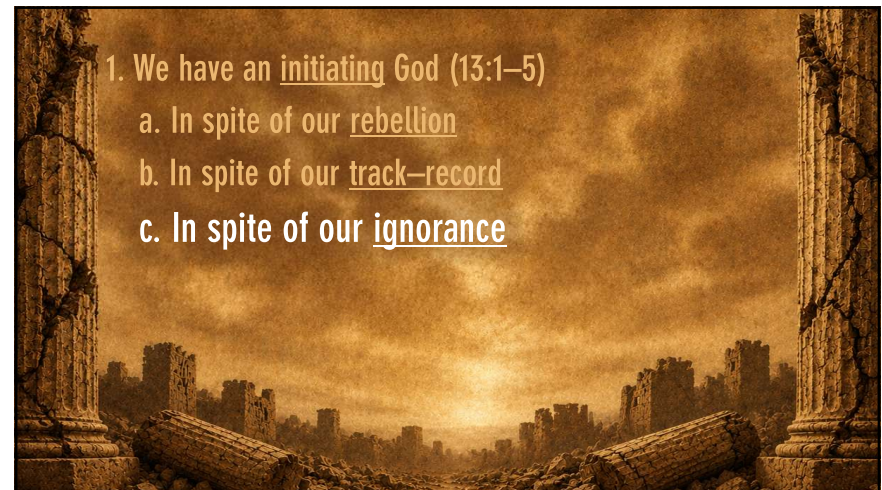
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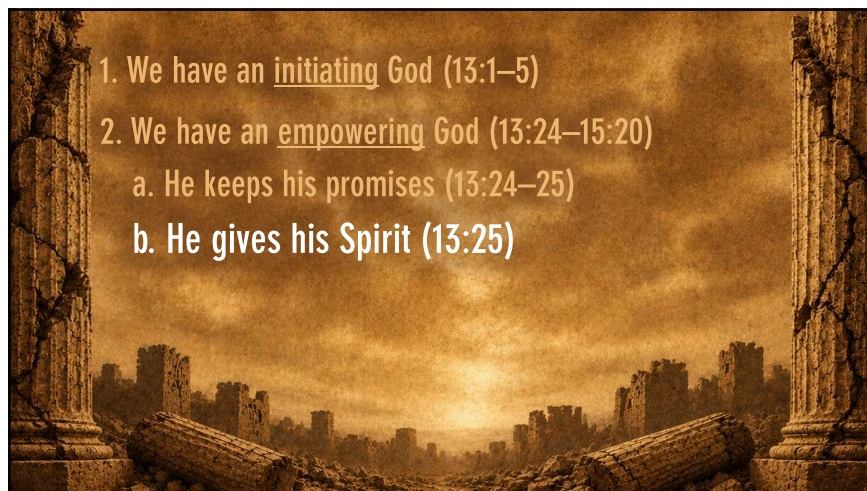
1. We have an initiating God (13:1–5)
2. We have an empowering God (13:24–15:20)

9



1. We have an initiating God (13:1–5)
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 - a. He keeps his promises (13:24–25)

10



1. We have an initiating God (13:1–5)
2. We have an empowering God (13:24–15:20)
 - a. He keeps his promises (13:24–25)
 - b. He gives his Spirit (13:25)

11



1. We have an initiating God (13:1–5)
2. We have an empowering God (13:24–15:20)
3. We gave a transforming God (Ezekiel 36)

12

EZEKIEL 36:25–27

²⁵ I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. ²⁶ And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

13

THE LIFE OF SAMSON: DRIVEN BY SELF-INTEREST



14

2 PETER 1:3

³ His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,

15

1 PETER 4:10–11

¹⁰ As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: ¹¹ whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

16

THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD UPON SAMSON

FOUR TIMES THE SPIRIT EMPOWERED HIS LIFE
 "Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the LORD." Zechariah 4:6b

1 IT BEGAN TO STIR HIM (Judges 13:25)	2 RUSHED UPON HIM (Judges 14:6)	3 RUSHED UPON HIM (Judges 14:19)	4 RUSHED UPON HIM (Judges 15:14)
The Spirit of the LORD began to stir him while he was in Mahaneh-dan, between Zorah and Eshtaol.	The Spirit of the LORD rushed upon him, and though he had nothing in his hand, he tore the lion apart.	The Spirit of the LORD rushed upon him, and with the jawbone of a donkey he struck down a thousand men.	The Spirit of the LORD rushed upon him, and he burned the grain, the standing grain of the Philistines.
God prepares Samson for his calling. The work begins in him.	Divine power for supernatural strength. God gives the victory.	The same Spirit. Greater victory. God magnifies his power.	The same Spirit. Judgment on his enemies. Vindication for wrongs.

FOUR TIMES. THE SAME SOURCE. THE SAME SPIRIT.
 Samson's strength was never his own— it came from the Spirit of the LORD.

God empowered Samson. Samson chose his own way.
GOD USED HIM—BUT HE DID NOT LIVE FOR GOD.

17

THE LIFE OF SAMSON: DRIVEN BY SELF-INTEREST

"He did what was right in his own eyes." Judges 17:6, 21:25

1 HE WANTS HER Judges 13:24-25; 14:1-4 	2 CONFLICT BEGINS Judges 14:5-20 	3 RAMPAGE OVER REJECTION Judges 15:1-5
4 VENGEANCE Judges 15:6-8 	5 OPPORTUNITY TO STRIKE Judges 15:9-17 	6 LUST LEADS AGAIN Judges 16:1
7 MORE CONFLICT Judges 16:2-3 	8 ANOTHER WOMAN Judges 16:4-17 	9 THE END RESULT Judges 16:18-21

18

THE POWER OF 7 IN THE BOOK OF JUDGES

God's patience. Israel's failure. God's mercy.

7 FALSE DEITIES JUDGES 10:6-16	7 APOSTASY CYCLES IN JUDGES 2:11-19	7 THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD UPON HIS PEOPLE																																
Israel abandoned the LORD and served seven false gods.	The pattern repeats seven times: sin → oppression → cry → deliverance → rest	The Spirit of the LORD came upon His servants seven times.																																
1 Baalim 2 Ashtaroth 3 Chemosh 4 Molech 5 The gods of Sidon 6 The gods of Moab 7 The gods of the Ammonites Then the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD and served the Baals and the Ashtaroth, the gods of Syria, the Zidonites, the gods of Moab, the gods of the Ammonites, and the gods of the Philistines. And they forsook the LORD and served them. Judges 10:6	1 Heart, Oppression, Cry, Deliverance, Rest 2 Heart, Oppression, Cry, Deliverance, Rest 3 Heart, Oppression, Cry, Deliverance, Rest 4 Heart, Oppression, Cry, Deliverance, Rest 5 Heart, Oppression, Cry, Deliverance, Rest 6 Heart, Oppression, Cry, Deliverance, Rest 7 Heart, Oppression, Cry, Deliverance, Rest Whenever the judges died, they would turn back and act more corruptly than their fathers... Judges 2:19	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>#</th> <th>REFERENCE</th> <th>PERSON</th> <th>DESCRIPTION</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Judges 3:10</td> <td>Othniel</td> <td>"The Spirit of the LORD was upon him."</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Judges 6:34</td> <td>Gideon</td> <td>"The Spirit of the LORD clothed Gideon."</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>Judges 11:29</td> <td>Jephthah</td> <td>"The Spirit of the LORD was upon Jephthah."</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>Judges 13:25</td> <td>Samson</td> <td>"The Spirit of the LORD began to stir him."</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>Judges 14:6</td> <td>Samson</td> <td>"The Spirit of the LORD rushed upon him."</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>Judges 14:19</td> <td>Samson</td> <td>"The Spirit of the LORD rushed upon him."</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>Judges 15:14</td> <td>Samson</td> <td>"The Spirit of the LORD rushed upon him."</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> "Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the LORD, Zechariah 4:6b"	#	REFERENCE	PERSON	DESCRIPTION	1	Judges 3:10	Othniel	"The Spirit of the LORD was upon him."	2	Judges 6:34	Gideon	"The Spirit of the LORD clothed Gideon."	3	Judges 11:29	Jephthah	"The Spirit of the LORD was upon Jephthah."	4	Judges 13:25	Samson	"The Spirit of the LORD began to stir him."	5	Judges 14:6	Samson	"The Spirit of the LORD rushed upon him."	6	Judges 14:19	Samson	"The Spirit of the LORD rushed upon him."	7	Judges 15:14	Samson	"The Spirit of the LORD rushed upon him."
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Seven gods. One problem. Over and over again.	Seven cycles. Same result. Israel forgot. God remained faithful.	Seven times God empowered. His power, not their own.																																

Seven patterns tell one story: Israel turned away again and again, but God's mercy and Spirit remained.

19