

The background features a detailed, sepia-toned illustration of biblical figures. On the left, a warrior in a helmet and armor is shown in a dynamic pose, possibly blowing a horn. On the right, a large, muscular figure, likely Jesus, is depicted with a loincloth, standing amidst a scene of destruction or battle. The central text is overlaid on a large, light blue circular graphic.

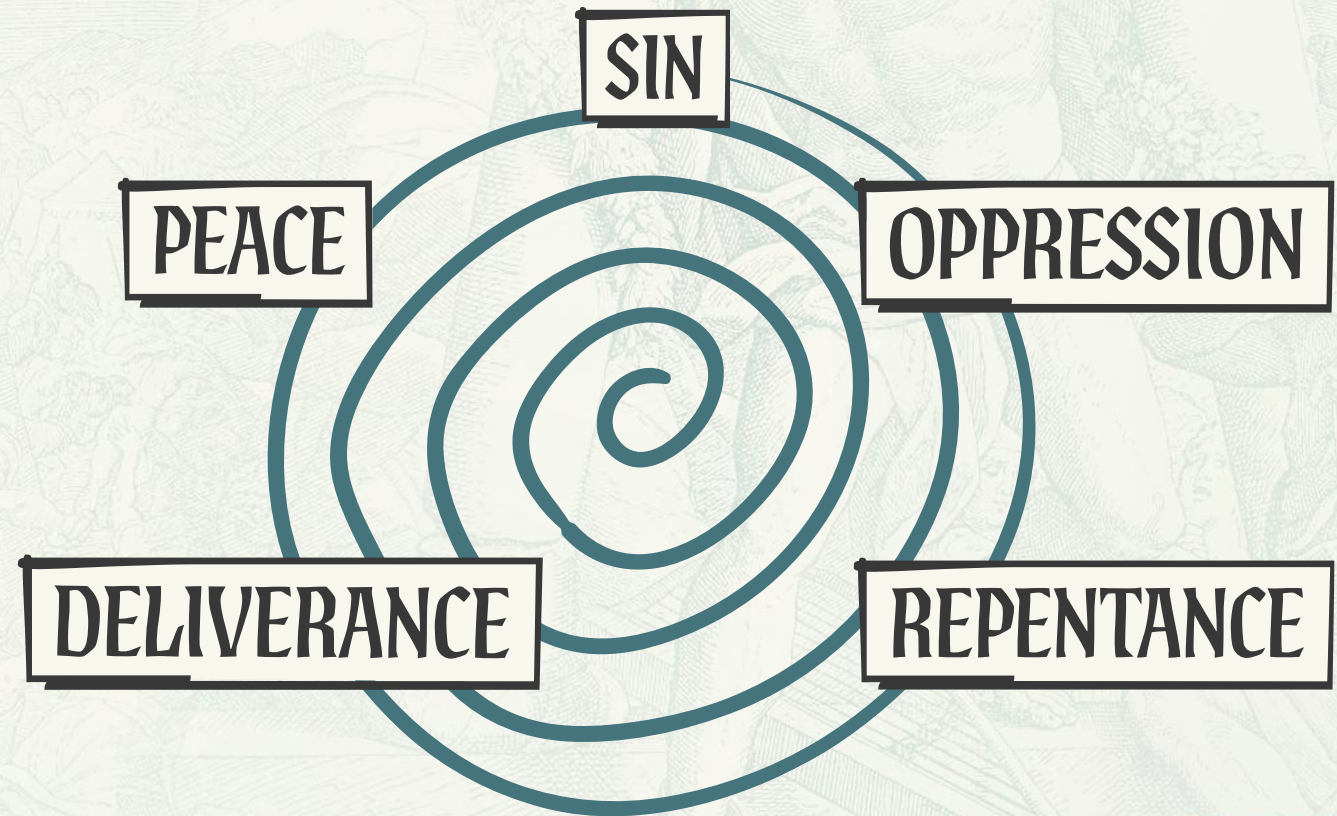
JUDGES

*The Search for a Better
Savior & Renewal
that Lasts*



The Book of Judges

c.1375/1210 B.C.



¹ And the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD after Ehud died. ² And the LORD sold them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. The commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-hagoyim. ³ Then the people of Israel cried out to the LORD for help, for he had 900 chariots of iron and he oppressed the people of Israel cruelly for twenty years.

Judges 4:1-3 (ESV)



⁴ Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel at that time. ⁵ She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the people of Israel came up to her for judgment.

Judges 4:4-5



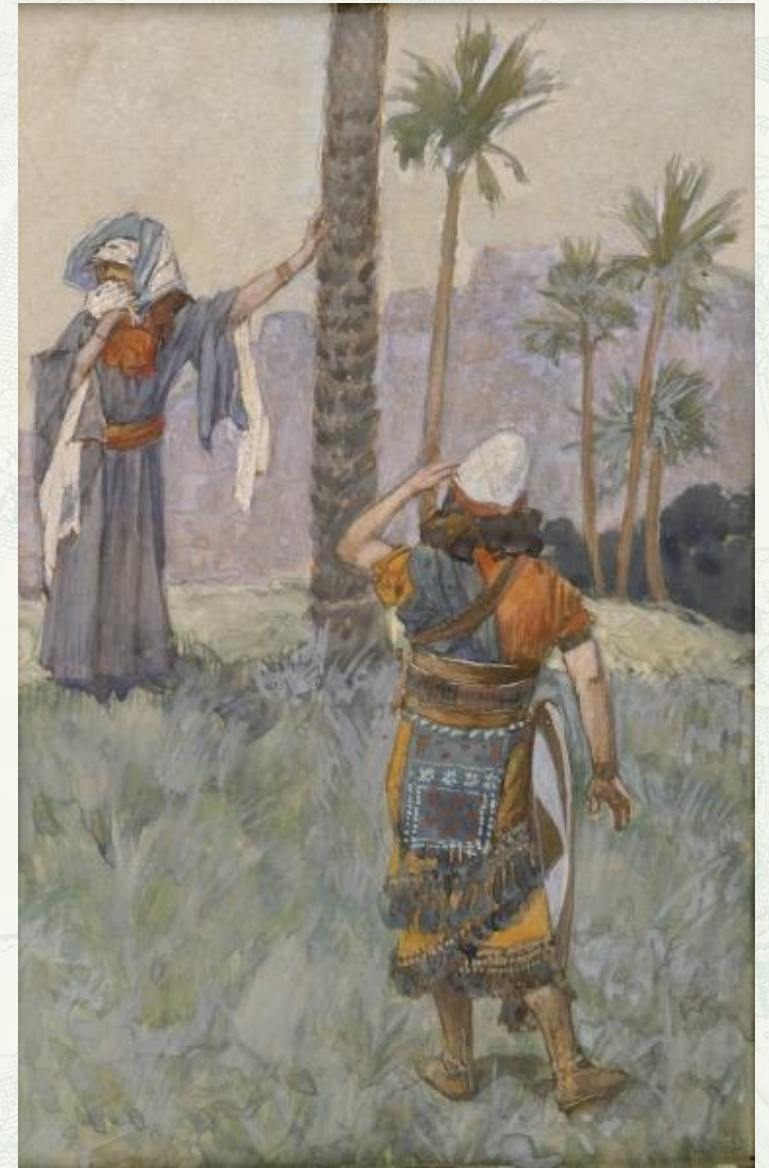
⁶ She sent and summoned Barak the son of Abinoam from Kedesh-naphtali and said to him, “Has not the LORD, the God of Israel, commanded you, ‘Go, gather your men at Mount Tabor, taking 10,000 from the people of Naphtali and the people of Zebulun.’ ⁷ And I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the river Kishon with his chariots and his troops, and I will give him into your hand’?”



Judges 4:6-7

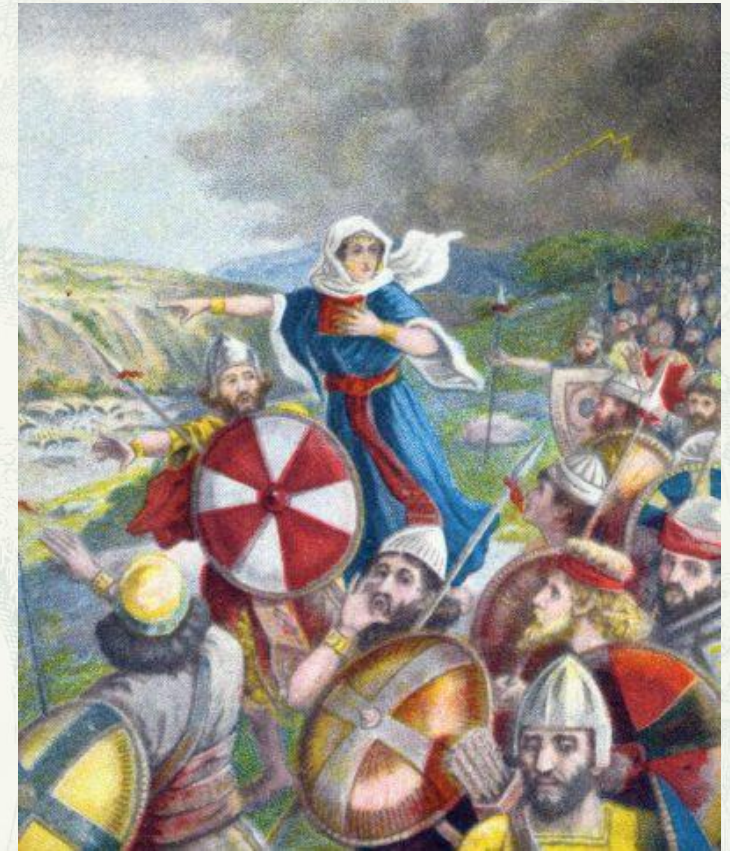
⁸ Barak said to her, “If you will go with me, I will go, but if you will not go with me, I will not go.” ⁹ And she said, “I will surely go with you. Nevertheless, the road on which you are going will not lead to your glory, for the LORD will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman.” Then Deborah arose and went with Barak to Kedesh. ¹⁰ And Barak called out Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh. And 10,000 men went up at his heels, and Deborah went up with him.

Judges 4:8-10



¹⁴ And Deborah said to Barak, “Up! For this is the day in which the LORD has given Sisera into your hand. Does not the LORD go out before you?” So Barak went down from Mount Tabor with 10,000 men following him. ¹⁵ And the LORD routed Sisera and all his chariots and all his army before Barak by the edge of the sword. And Sisera got down from his chariot and fled away on foot.

Judges 4:14-16



¹⁸ And Jael came out to meet Sisera and said to him, “Turn aside, my lord; turn aside to me; do not be afraid.” So he turned aside to her into the tent, and she covered him with a rug. ¹⁹ And he said to her, “Please give me a little water to drink, for I am thirsty.” So she opened a skin of milk and gave him a drink and covered him.

Judges 4:18-19



²¹ But Jael the wife of Heber took a tent peg, and took a hammer in her hand. Then she went softly to him and drove the peg into his temple until it went down into the ground while he was lying fast asleep from weariness. So he died...
²³ So on that day God subdued Jabin the king of Canaan before the people of Israel.

Judges 4:21,23

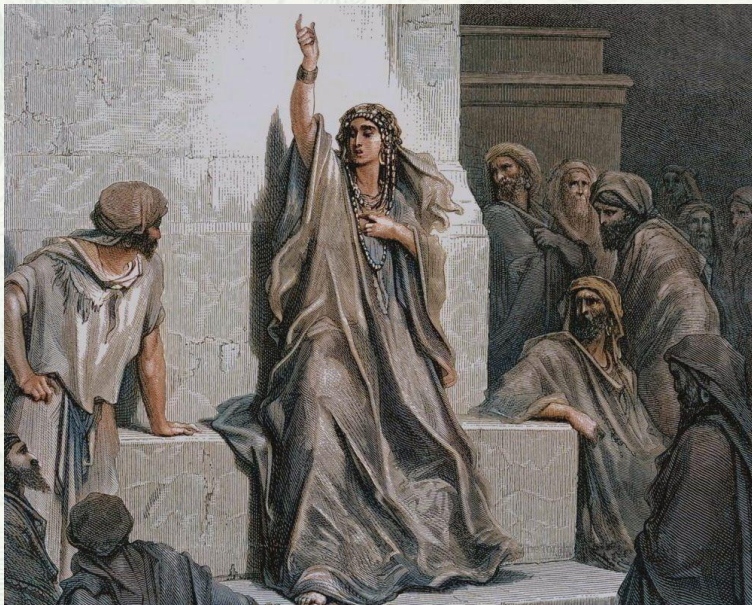
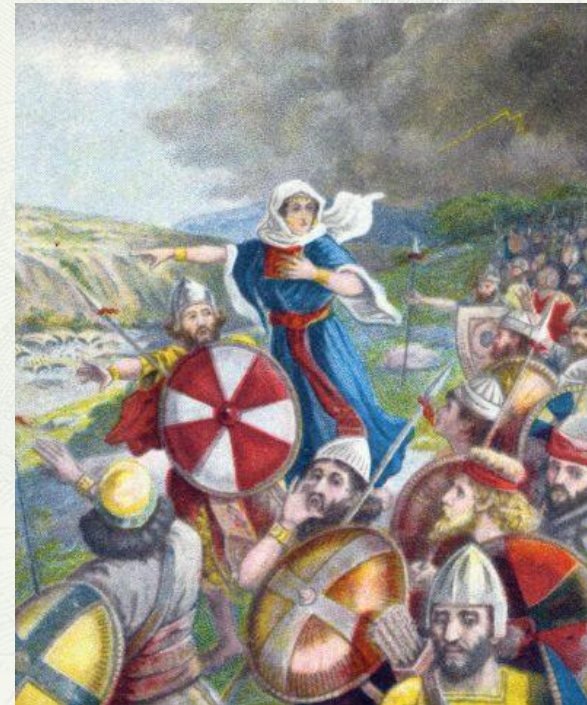


Lesson #1

God employs women and men in his victory plan.

Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel at that time.

Judges 4:4



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Judges 4:4

Traditional View	Liberal View
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deborah's leadership is an anomaly• Deborah only leads because men failed to• Women should not hold any leadership or teaching roles today	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deborah's leadership shows that women and men are interchangeable• Women should serve as pastors/elders today

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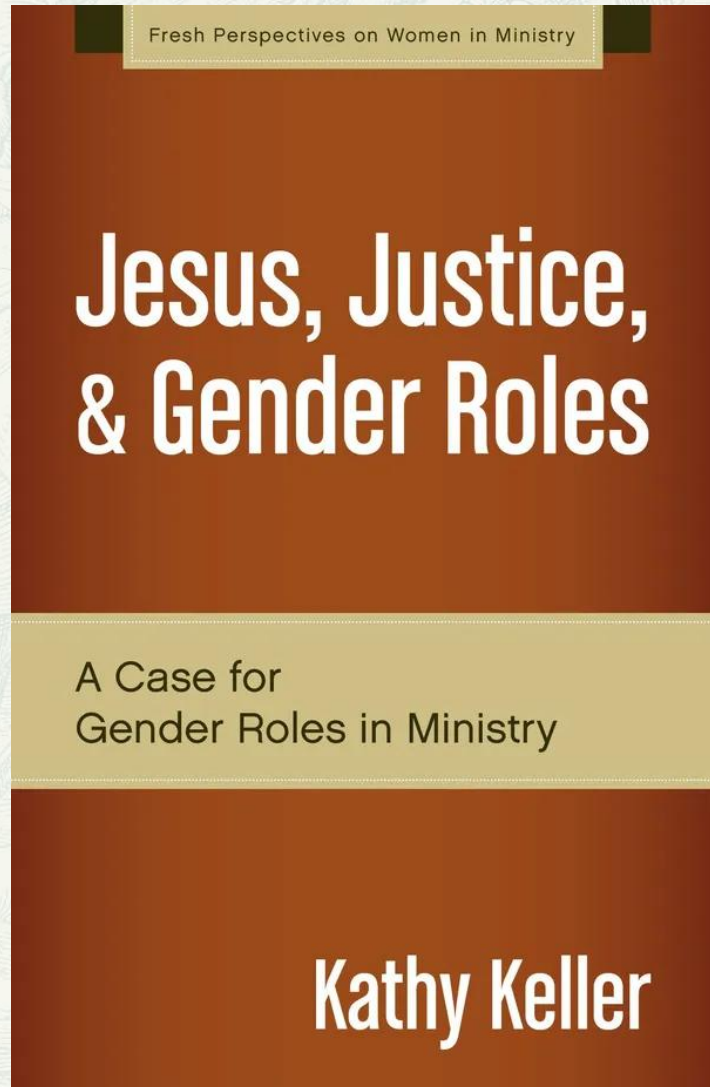
Traditional View	Biblical View	Liberal View
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Women and men are both made in God's image and equal in dignity and value.• Women and men are to use their gifts for God's glory—including in leadership and teaching roles.• Men are uniquely called to lead in marriage* and in the church as pastors/elders.**	

* Eph 5:22-33, 1 Cor 11:3, Col 3:18-19, 1 Pet 3:7

** 1 Tim 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9

Lesson #1

God employs women and men in his victory plan.



Lesson #2

The blessings of God's victory are shared with those who follow him by faith.

Negative View of Barak's Faith

- Refuses to go without Deborah
- He gets a consequence as a result:
“But *because* of the course you are taking (i.e. asking me to go with you), the honor will not be yours...” Judges 4:9 (NIV)



Lesson #2

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Positive View of Barak's Faith

- His request is because he wants assurance that God is with him
- Deborah's response is not a consequence—it's a heads up
- He still goes to fight against 900 chariots even though he won't get the honor
- Hebrews 11:32 commends him by name for his faith.



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Song of Judges 5

- Recognizes that the victory was the Lord's doing
- Celebrates those who answered the call to help (Ephraim, Benjamin, Machir, Zebulun, Isaachar, and Naphtali)
- Condemns those who withheld their help (Reuben, Gilead, Dan, Asher, and the town of Meroz)

“Curse Meroz, says the angel of the LORD, curse its inhabitants thoroughly, because they did not come to the help of the LORD, to the help of the LORD against the mighty.”

Judges 5:23

Lesson #3

God's victory is worth celebrating

Song of Judges 5

- Song of victory over oppressors after being delivered through a miracle involving water (like Exodus 14-15)



Lesson #3

God's victory is worth celebrating

Song of Judges 5

- Song of victory over oppressors after being delivered through a miracle involving water (like Exodus 14-15)
- Praises Jael for killing Sisera

Most blessed of women be Jael,
the wife of Heber the Kenite,
of tent-dwelling women most
blessed.

Judges 5:24

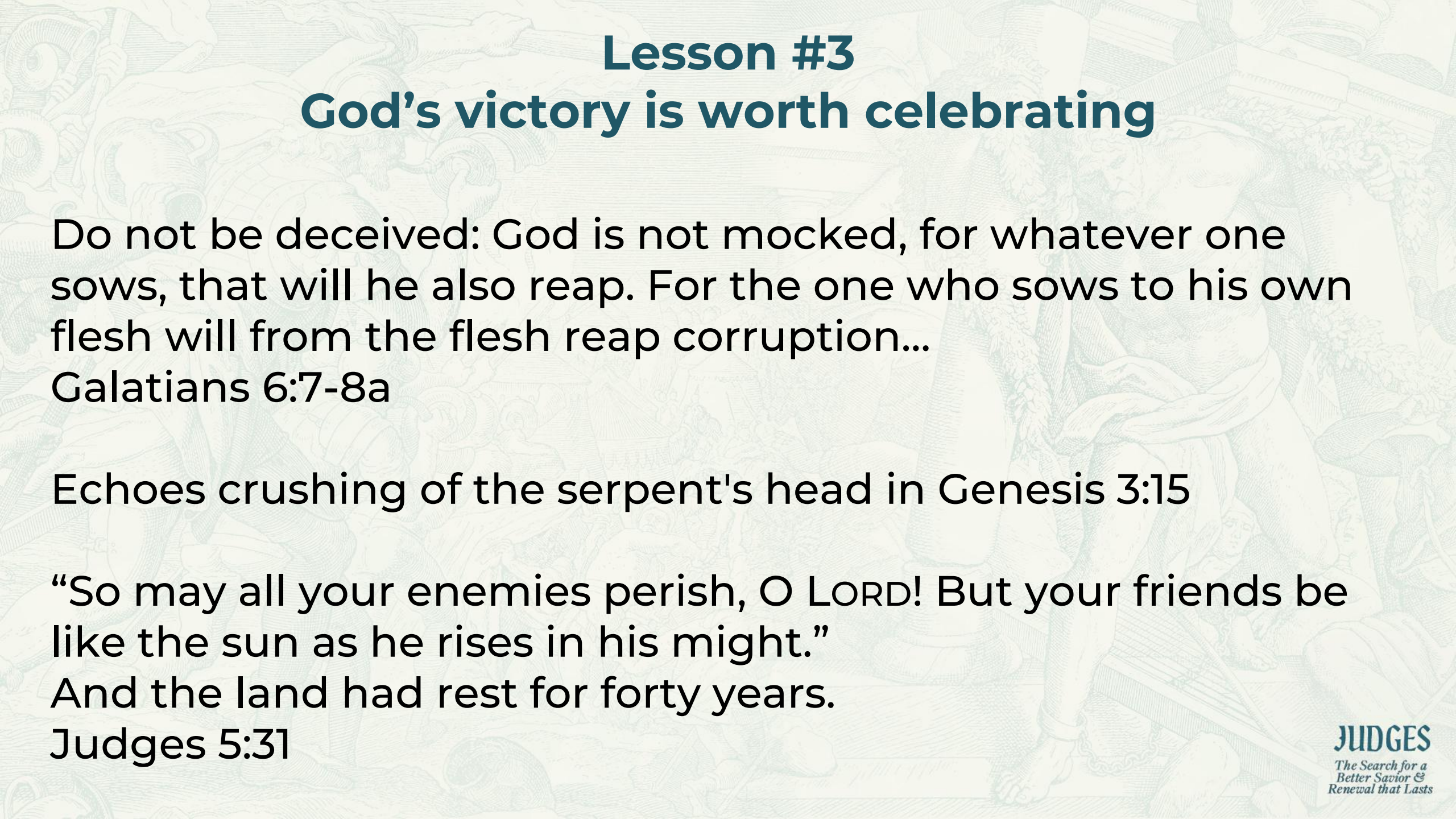


Lesson #3

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²⁸ “Out of the window she peered, the mother of Sisera wailed through the lattice: ‘Why is his chariot so long in coming? Why tarry the hoofbeats of his chariots?’ ²⁹ Her wisest princesses answer, indeed, she answers herself, ³⁰ ‘Have they not found and divided the spoil?— A womb or two for every man; spoil of dyed materials for Sisera, spoil of dyed materials embroidered, two pieces of dyed work embroidered for the neck as spoil?’

Judges 5:28-30



Lesson #3

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Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption...

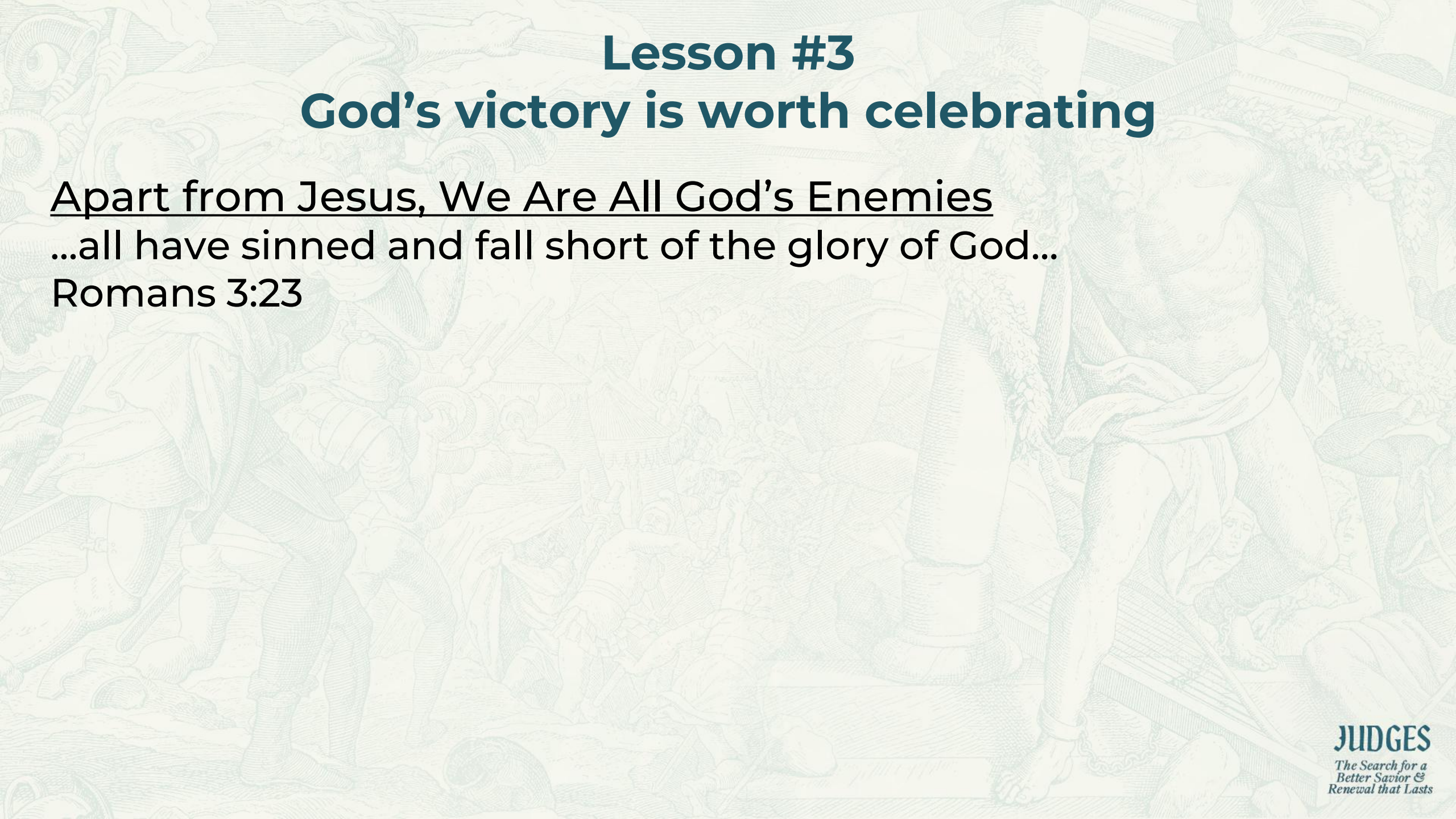
Galatians 6:7-8a

Echoes crushing of the serpent's head in Genesis 3:15

“So may all your enemies perish, O LORD! But your friends be like the sun as he rises in his might.”

And the land had rest for forty years.

Judges 5:31

The background is a detailed, light-colored illustration of a biblical battle scene. On the right, a giant figure, likely Holofernes, is shown in a state of defeat, being crushed by a pile of soldiers and weapons. On the left, soldiers in armor are engaged in combat. The scene is filled with the chaos of battle, including fallen soldiers and weapons scattered on the ground.

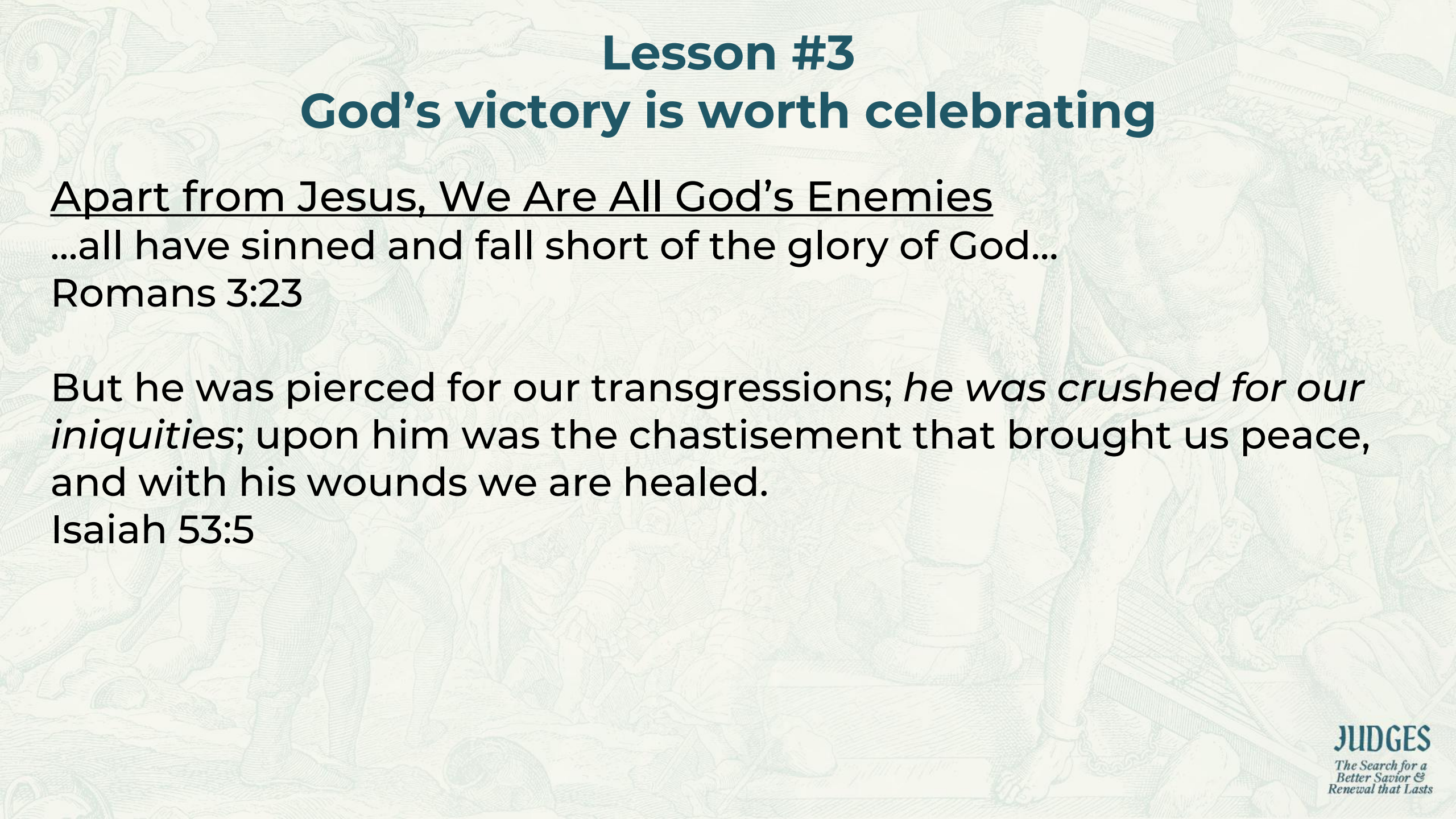
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Apart from Jesus, We Are All God's Enemies

...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...

Romans 3:23



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Romans 3:23

But he was pierced for our transgressions; *he was crushed for our iniquities*; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

Isaiah 53:5

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