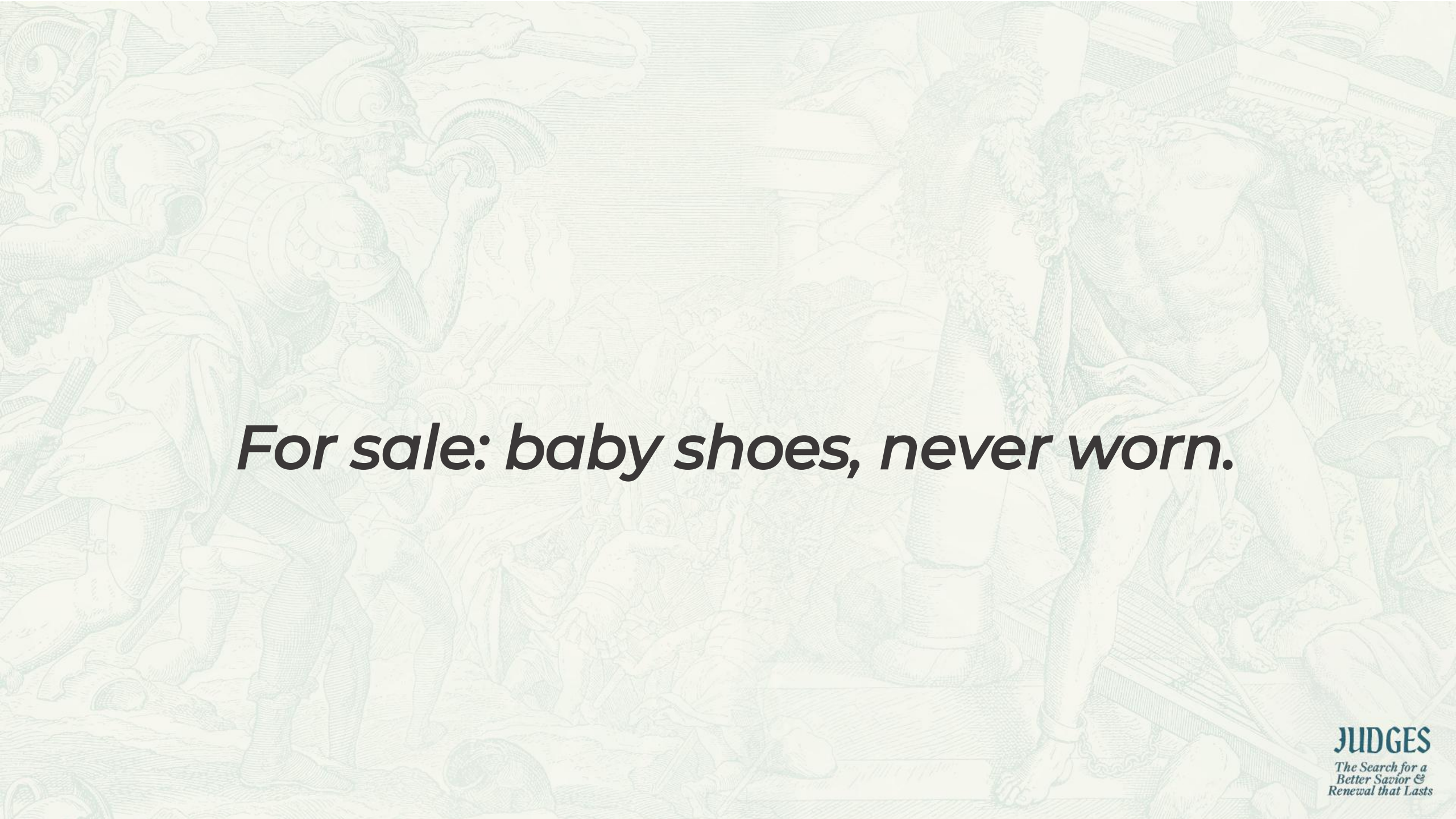




For sale: baby shoes, never worn.

JUDGES

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

"If you call yourself a reader and want to keep on being one, this extraordinary book is for you."—Alberto Manguel, author of *A History of Reading*

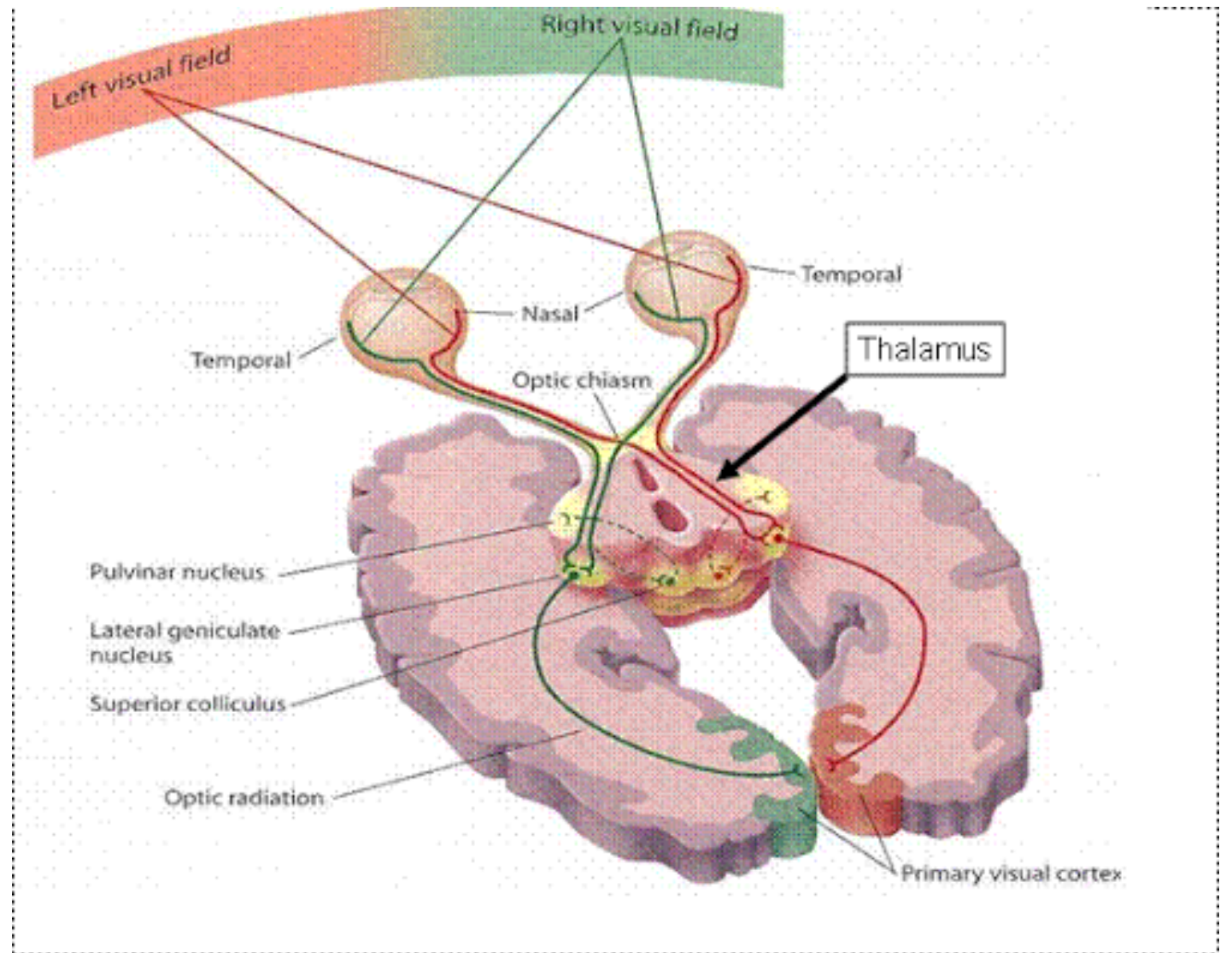
READER, COME HOME

THE READING BRAIN IN
A DIGITAL WORLD



MARYANNE WOLF

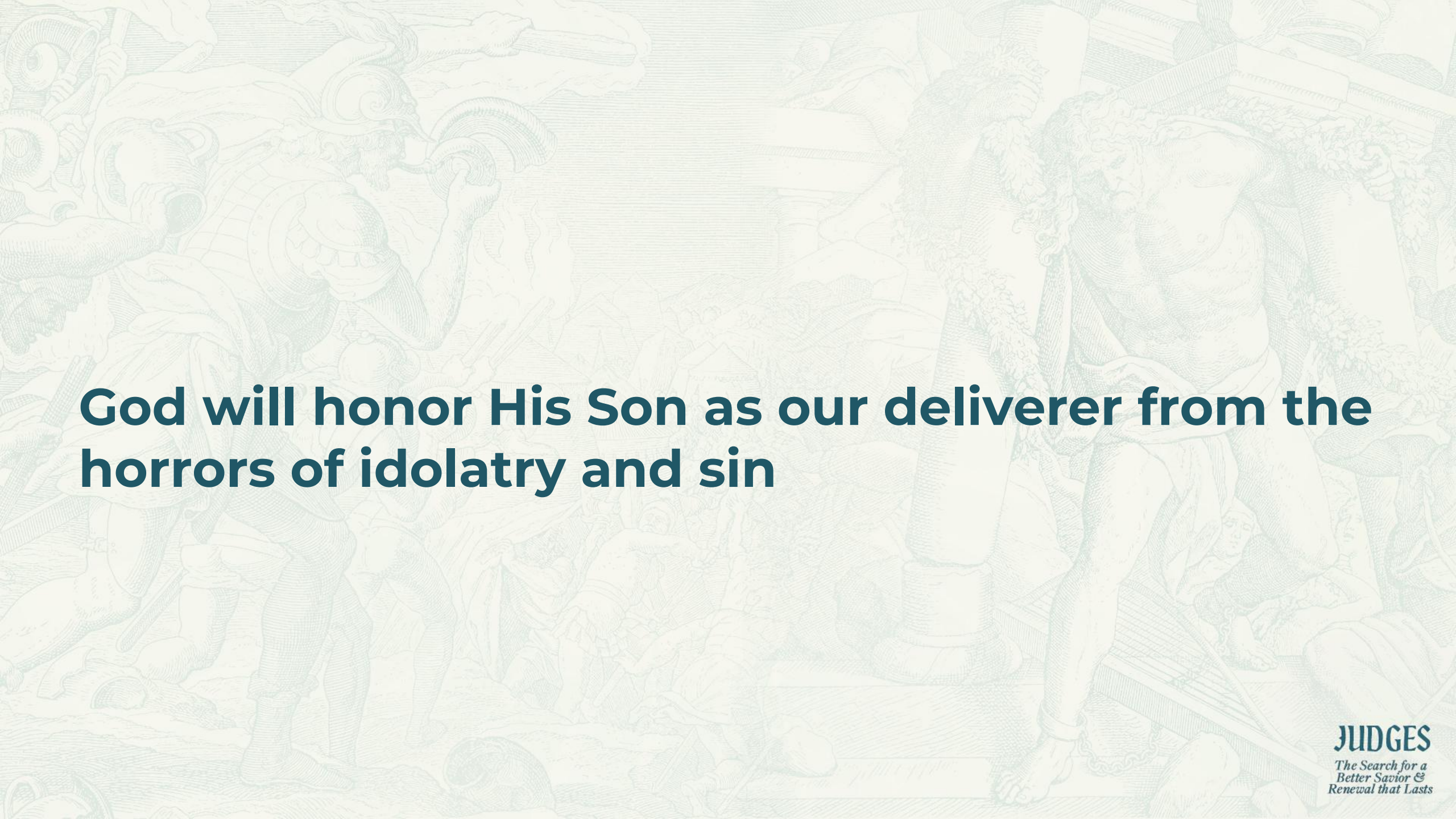
AUTHOR OF *PROUST AND THE SQUID*



The background features a detailed, sepia-toned illustration of biblical figures. On the left, a man in a helmet and armor (likely Gideon) is shown in a dynamic pose, possibly blowing a horn or shouting. On the right, a large, muscular man (likely Samson) is depicted with his arms outstretched, possibly in a state of distress or triumph. The central text is overlaid on a large, light blue circular shape.

JUDGES

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



God will honor His Son as our deliverer from the horrors of idolatry and sin

Reader, Come Home

Judges 2:11-3:6

What to look for as you read *Judges* deeply

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Come home from idolatry | 2:11-15 |
| 2. Come home from degenerative sin | 2:16-19 |
| 3. Come home through testing | 2:20-3:6 |

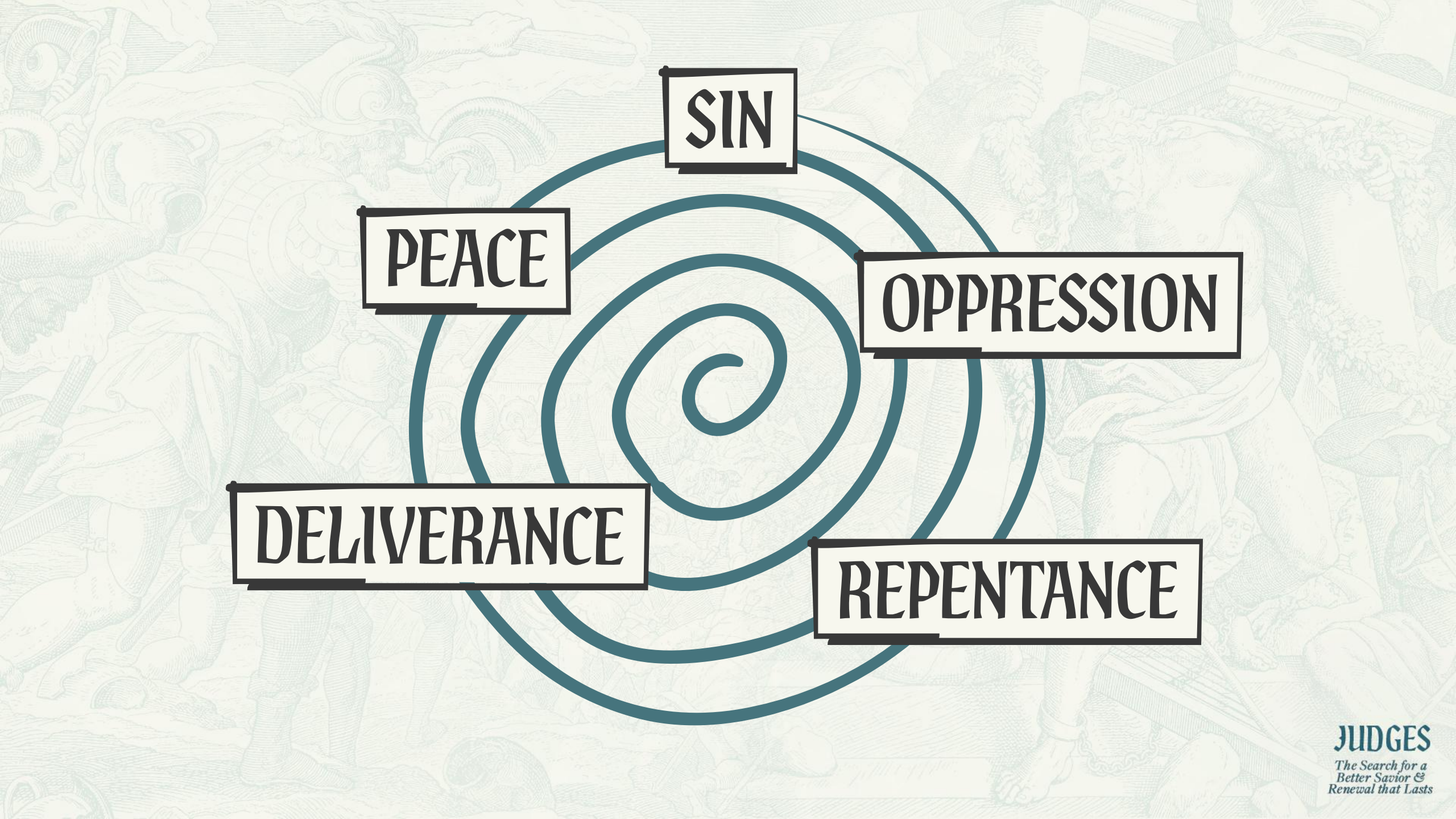
Reader, Come Home

Judges 2:11-3:6

What to look for as you read *Judges* deeply

1. Come home from idolatry

2:11-15



SIN

PEACE

OPPRESSION

DELIVERANCE

REPENTANCE

Reader, Come Home

Judges 2:11-3:6

1. Come home from idolatry 2:11-15

¹¹ And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and served the Baals. ¹² And they abandoned the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt. They went after other gods, from among the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed down to them. And they provoked the LORD to **anger**. ¹³ They abandoned the LORD and served the Baals and the Ashtaroth. ¹⁴ So the **anger** of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he gave them over to plunderers, who plundered them. And he sold them into the hand of their surrounding enemies, so that they could no longer withstand their enemies. ¹⁵ Whenever they marched out, the hand of the LORD was against them for harm, as the LORD had warned, and as the LORD had sworn to them. And they were in terrible **distress**.

Reader, Come Home

Judges 2:11-3:6

1. Come home from idolatry

2:11-15

- The gods Israel went after
Baals and the Ashtaroth
- The anger of the Lord
- The end state of idolatry: Distress



Baal



Ashtaroth

Reader, Come Home

Judges 2:11-3:6

What to look for as you read *Judges* deeply

1. Come home from idolatry 2:11-15
2. Come home from degenerative sin 2:16-19

Reader, Come Home

Judges 2:11-3:6

2. Come home from degenerative sin 2:16-19

¹⁶ Then the LORD raised up judges, who saved them out of the hand of those who plundered them. ¹⁷ Yet they did not listen to their judges, for they whored after other gods and bowed down to them. They soon turned aside from the way in which their fathers had walked, who had obeyed the commandments of the LORD, and they did not do so. ¹⁸ Whenever the LORD raised up judges for them, the LORD was with the judge, and he saved them from the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge. For the LORD was moved to **pity** by their groaning because of those who afflicted and oppressed them. ¹⁹ But whenever the judge died, they turned back and were more corrupt than their fathers, going after other gods, serving them and bowing down to them. They did not drop any of their practices or their stubborn ways.

Reader, Come Home

Judges 2:11-3:6

2. Come home from degenerative sin 2:16-19

- Moral stasis is a lie
Progressive Degeneration vs.
Progressive Sanctification

For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification. Romans 6:19

Reader, Come Home

Judges 2:11-3:6

2. Come home from degenerative sin 2:16-19

- Moral stasis is a lie

Progressive Degeneration vs.
Progressive Sanctification

⁵ For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, ⁶ and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, ⁷ and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. ⁸ For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Peter 1

Reader, Come Home

Judges 2:11-3:6

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Reader, Come Home

Judges 2:11-3:6

²³ So the LORD left those nations, not driving them out quickly, and he did not give them into the hand of Joshua.

3 Now these are the nations that the LORD left, to test Israel by them, that is, all in Israel who had not experienced all the wars in Canaan. ² It was only in order that the generations of the people of Israel might know war, to **teach war** to those who had not known it before. ³ These are the nations ⁴ They were for the testing of Israel, to know whether Israel would obey the commandments of the LORD, which he commanded their fathers by the hand of Moses. ⁵ So the people of Israel lived among the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁶ And their daughters they took to themselves for wives, and their own daughters they gave to their sons, and they served their gods.

Reader, Come Home

Judges 2:11-3:6

3. Come home through testing

2:20-3:6

- “Teaching war”
- Testing whether they had hearts to obey against all odds in the context of Divine Warfare (the Conquest)
- Testing: God’s method from the Fall to the Restoration

Reader, Come Home

Judges 2:11-3:6

3. Come home through testing

2:20-3:6

Testing: Its purpose: The salvation (deliverance) of your soul

⁶ In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various **trials**, ⁷ so that the **tested** genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹ obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. 1 Peter 1

Reader, Come Home

Judges 2:11-3:6

What to look for as you read *Judges* deeply

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| 3. Come home through testing | 2:20-3:6 |
| 4. Come home to the true Deliverer | |

Reader, Come Home

Judges 2:11-3:6

4. Come home to the true Deliverer

How Jesus delivers:

- Makes Himself more attractive than our idols
- Makes sanctification more attractive than degeneration
- Makes testing worth embracing

Reader, Come Home

Judges 2:11-3:6

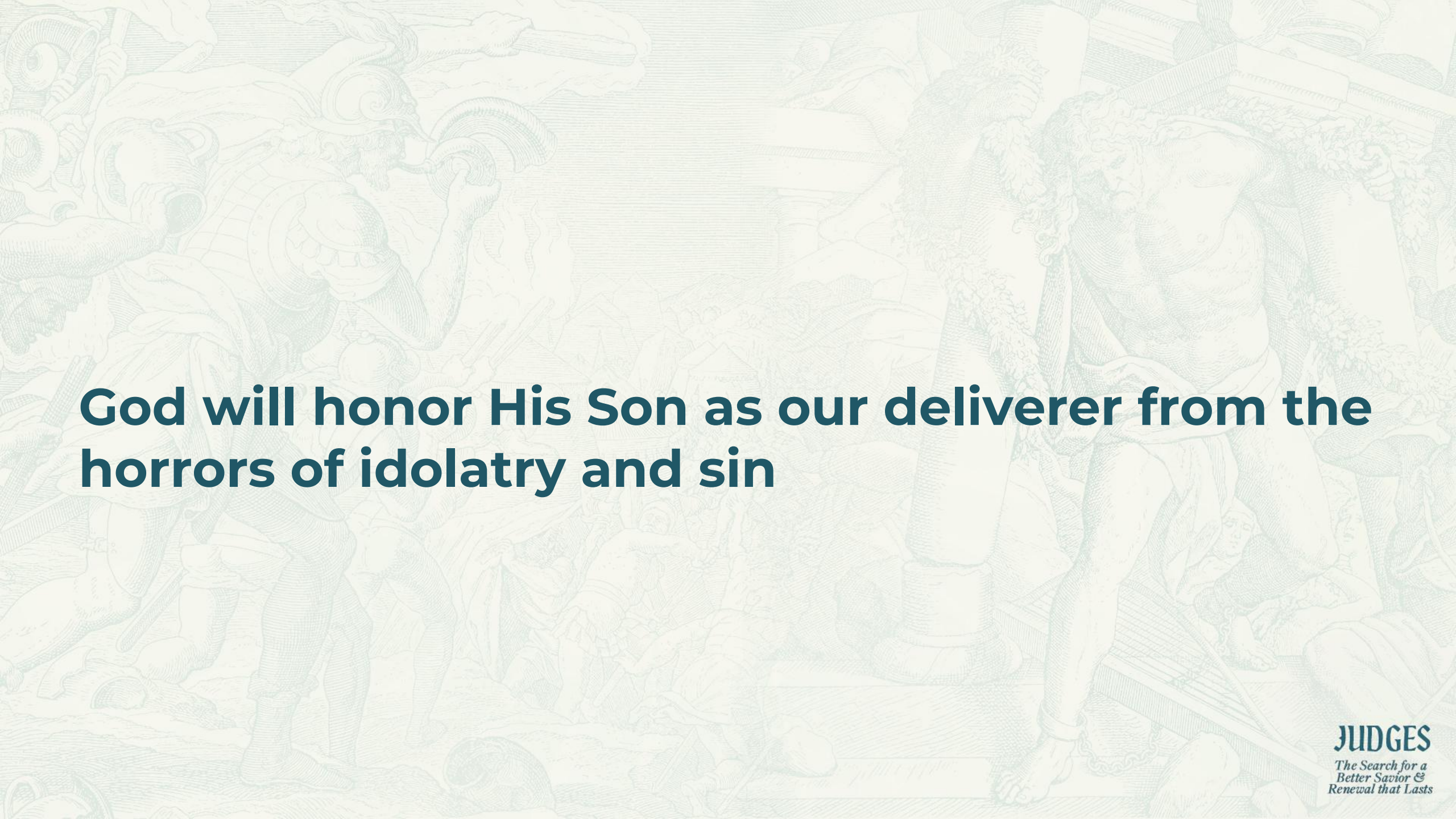
What to look for as you read *Judges* deeply

4. Come home to the true Deliverer

How Jesus delivers:

- Makes Himself more attractive than our idols
- Makes sanctification more attractive than degeneration
- Makes testing worth embracing

Loved one, Come Home as you read *Judges* deeply



God will honor His Son as our deliverer from the horrors of idolatry and sin