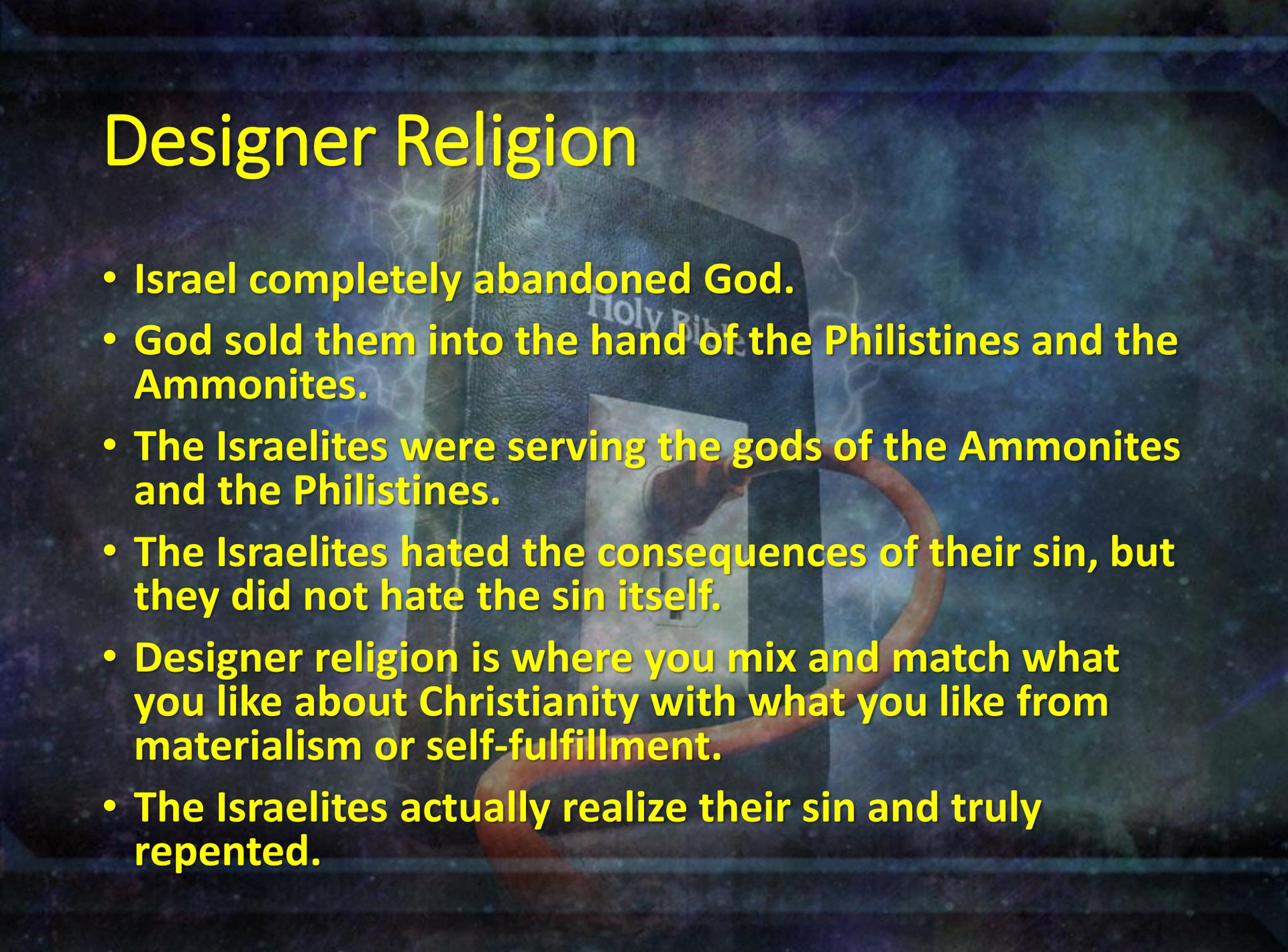




Jephthah: The Danger of Designer Faith

Judges 10-12

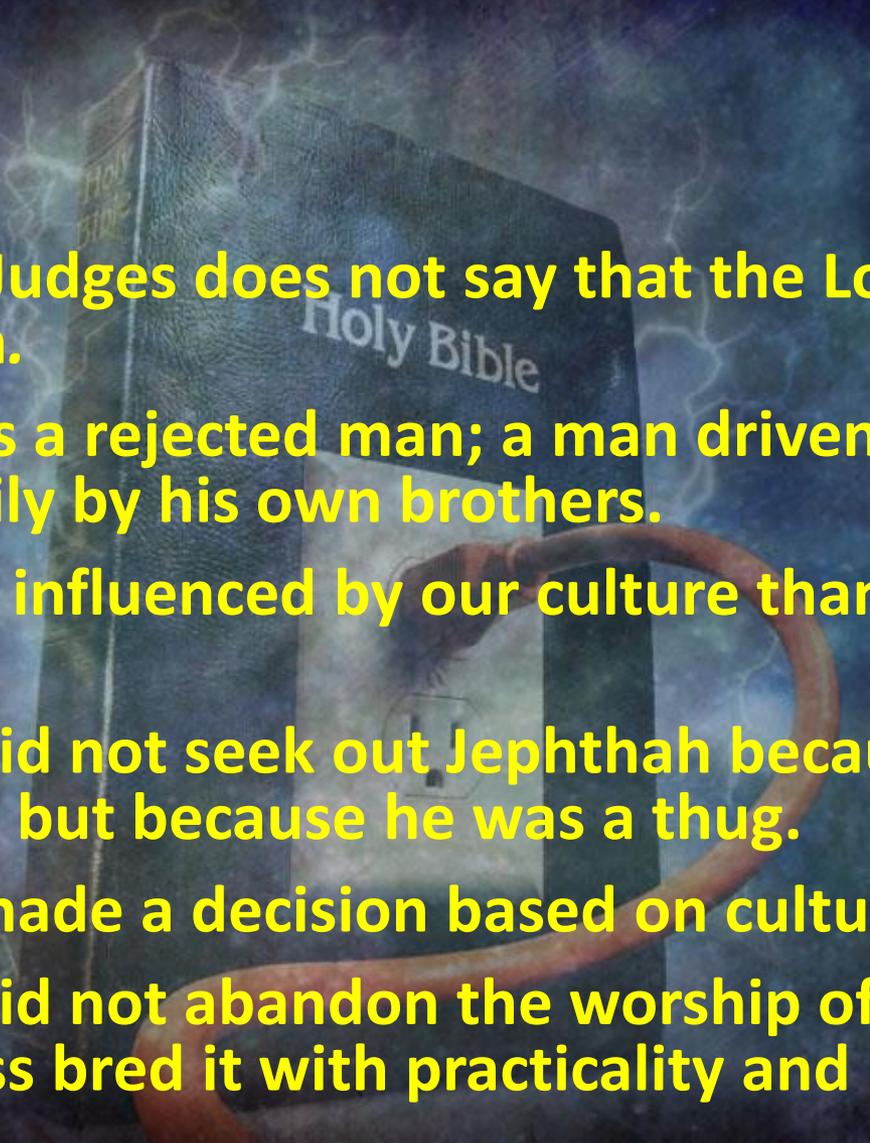
Designer Religion

The background of the slide features a dark, atmospheric scene with a glowing blue and purple sky. In the center, a large, dark book with the words 'Holy Bible' written on its cover is positioned. A red power cord is plugged into a white electrical outlet on the front cover of the book. The cord loops around the book, extending towards the right side of the frame. The overall aesthetic is futuristic and symbolic, representing the concept of 'Designer Religion'.

- Israel completely abandoned God.
- God sold them into the hand of the Philistines and the Ammonites.
- The Israelites were serving the gods of the Ammonites and the Philistines.
- The Israelites hated the consequences of their sin, but they did not hate the sin itself.
- Designer religion is where you mix and match what you like about Christianity with what you like from materialism or self-fulfillment.
- The Israelites actually realize their sin and truly repented.

Jephthah

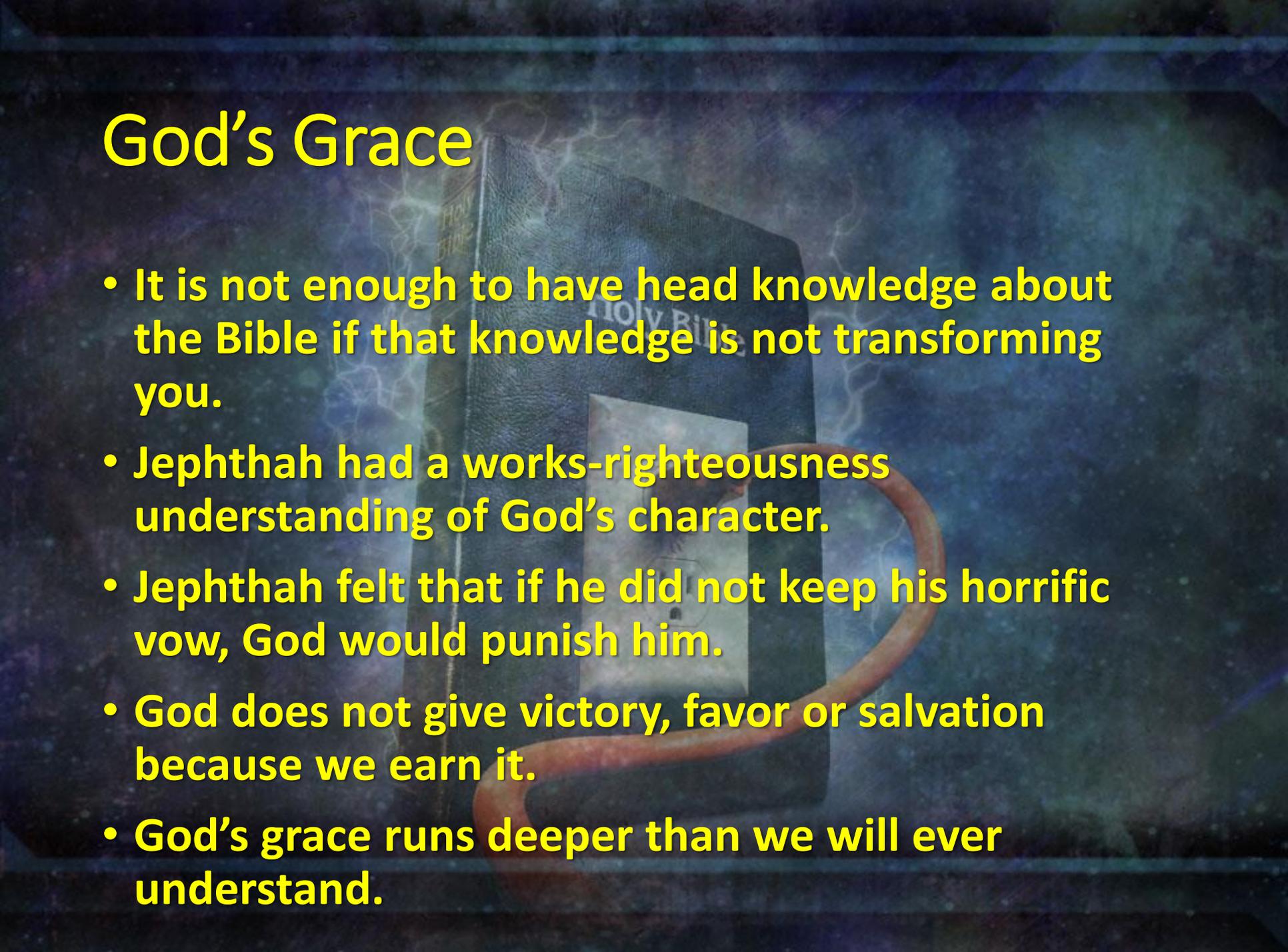
- The Book of Judges does not say that the Lord “*raised up*” Jephthah.
- Jephthah was a rejected man; a man driven away from his family by his own brothers.
- We are more influenced by our culture than we realize.
- The people did not seek out Jephthah because God told them to, but because he was a thug.
- The people made a decision based on culture.
- The people did not abandon the worship of Yahweh, they just cross bred it with practicality and pragmatism.



Human Sacrifice

- We can know facts about God and still miss the heart of God.
- We get our timeline for the book of Judges from Jephthah.
- Jephthah knew God's Word, but he did not have a clue about the heart of God or the character of God.
- The spirit of the Lord was on Jephthah BEFORE he made his vow, NOT as a result of it.
- Jephthah took what he knew about Yahweh and combined it with some of what he had heard about other gods.
- Jephthah was talking about a human sacrifice, expecting the first one out of his house to be one of his many servants or comrades-in-arms.
- Jephthah had become desensitized to the idea that he was supposed to live by a different set of values.

God's Grace

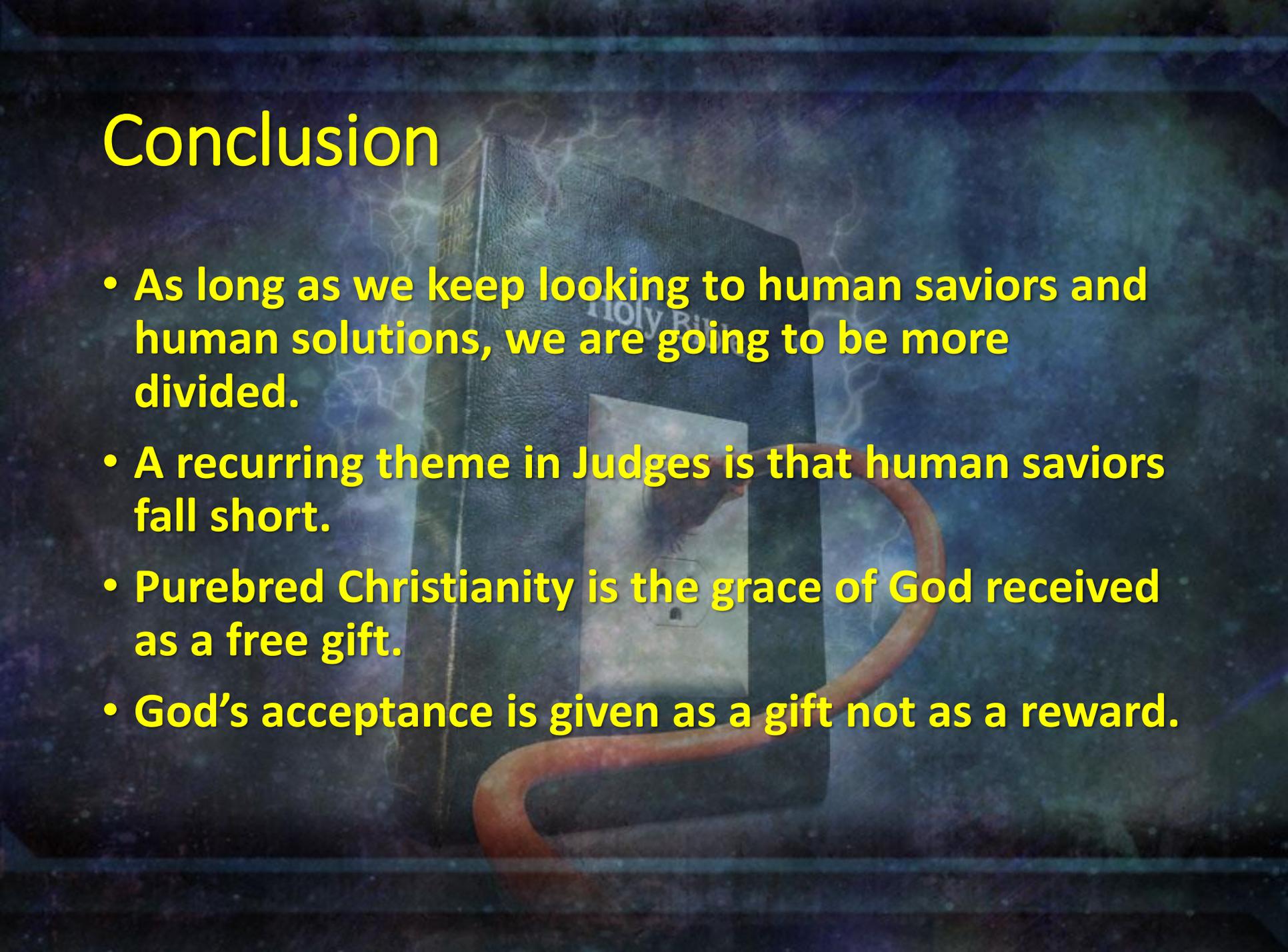
A dark blue Bible is the central focus, with a glowing orange ribbon looping around it. The background is a dark, stormy sky with bright, jagged lightning bolts. The Bible's cover has the words 'HOLY BIBLE' visible on the spine and front cover.

- It is not enough to have head knowledge about the Bible if that knowledge is not transforming you.
- Jephthah had a works-righteousness understanding of God's character.
- Jephthah felt that if he did not keep his horrific vow, God would punish him.
- God does not give victory, favor or salvation because we earn it.
- God's grace runs deeper than we will ever understand.

Faith in God

- Deliverance from the oppressors did not come because of Jephthah's vow, it came because of God's great mercy.
- You never have to make promises or sacrifices to God to earn His favor.
- There is only one way to please God: Faith!
- The tribe of Ephraim got upset that Jephthah did not call on them to fight against the Ammonites, so the Israelites turned on each other.
- The men of Israel wound up killing 42,000 of their own countrymen because they had a different accent.

Conclusion

A dark blue Bible with a glowing orange ring around it, set against a background of lightning and a starry sky. The Bible is the central focus, with the words 'HOLY BIBLE' visible on its cover. The background is a dark, atmospheric scene with blue and purple hues, featuring several bright, jagged lightning bolts striking down. The overall mood is dramatic and spiritual.

- As long as we keep looking to human saviors and human solutions, we are going to be more divided.
- A recurring theme in Judges is that human saviors fall short.
- Purebred Christianity is the grace of God received as a free gift.
- God's acceptance is given as a gift not as a reward.