



## **LIVING THE PROMISE: The Slow Drift**

April 26, 2026 | Pastor Kirk Walters  
Mount Paran North

<sup>16</sup>Then the LORD raised up judges to rescue the Israelites from their attackers. <sup>17</sup>Yet Israel did not listen to the judges but prostituted themselves by worshiping other gods. How quickly they turned away from the path of their ancestors, who had walked in obedience to the LORD's commands. <sup>18</sup>Whenever the LORD raised up a judge over Israel, he was with that judge and rescued the people from their enemies throughout the judge's lifetime. For the LORD took pity on his people, who were burdened by oppression and suffering. <sup>19</sup>But when the judge died, the people returned to their corrupt ways, behaving worse than those who had lived before them. They went after other gods, serving and worshiping them. And they refused to give up their evil practices and stubborn ways.

### **Judges 2:16-19 NLT**

#### **1. Drift Is a Cycle, Not a Moment**

<sup>7</sup>The Israelites did evil in the LORD's sight. They forgot about the LORD their God, and they served the images of Baal and the Asherah poles. <sup>8</sup>Then the LORD burned with anger against Israel, and he turned them over to King Cushan-rishathaim of Aram-naharaim. And the Israelites served Cushan-rishathaim for eight years. <sup>9</sup>But when the people of Israel cried out to the LORD for help, the LORD raised up a rescuer to save them. His name was Othniel, the son of Caleb's younger brother, Kenaz.

### **Judges 3:7-9 NLT**

## **2. Relief Is Not the Same as Transformation**

Finally, they cried out to the Lord for help, saying, "We have sinned against you because we have abandoned you as our God and have served the images of Baal."

### **Judges 10:10 NLT**

<sup>15</sup> But the Israelites pleaded with the LORD and said, "We have sinned. Punish us as you see fit, only rescue us today from our enemies." <sup>16</sup> Then the Israelites put aside their foreign gods and served the LORD. And he was grieved by their misery.

### **Judges 10:15-16 NLT**

## **3. Drift Always Escalates**

But when the judge died, the people returned to their corrupt ways, behaving worse than those who had lived before them. They went after other gods, serving and worshiping them. And they refused to give up their evil practices and stubborn ways.

### **Judges 2:19 NLT**

**You don't just need God to get you out.**

**You need God to change what keeps taking you back.**