

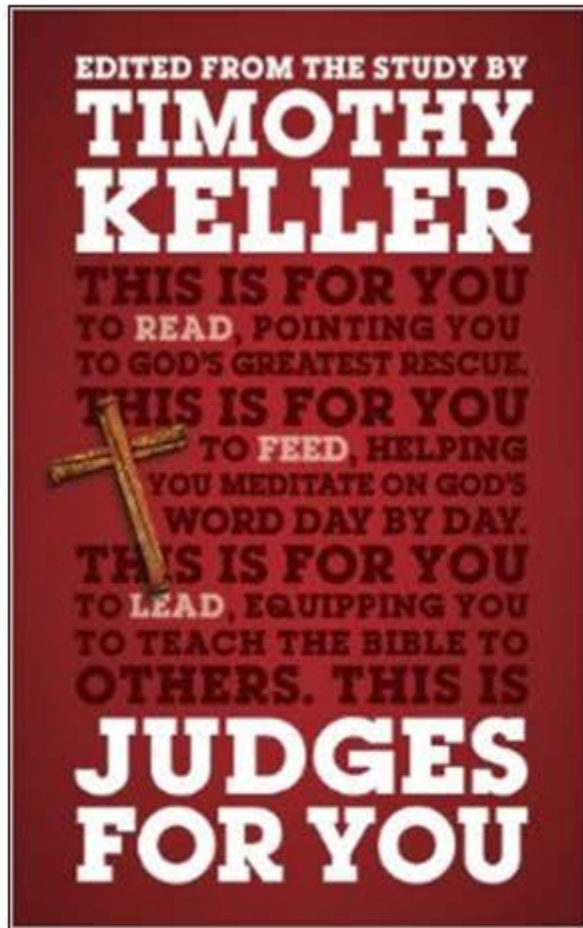
A painting of a gnarled, leafless tree in a landscape with mountains and a cloudy sky. The tree is on the left, with its branches reaching across the top. The background shows a range of mountains under a sky with soft, grey clouds. The overall tone is somber and contemplative.

PARTIAL VICTORIES

& THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD

MICAH'S IDOL

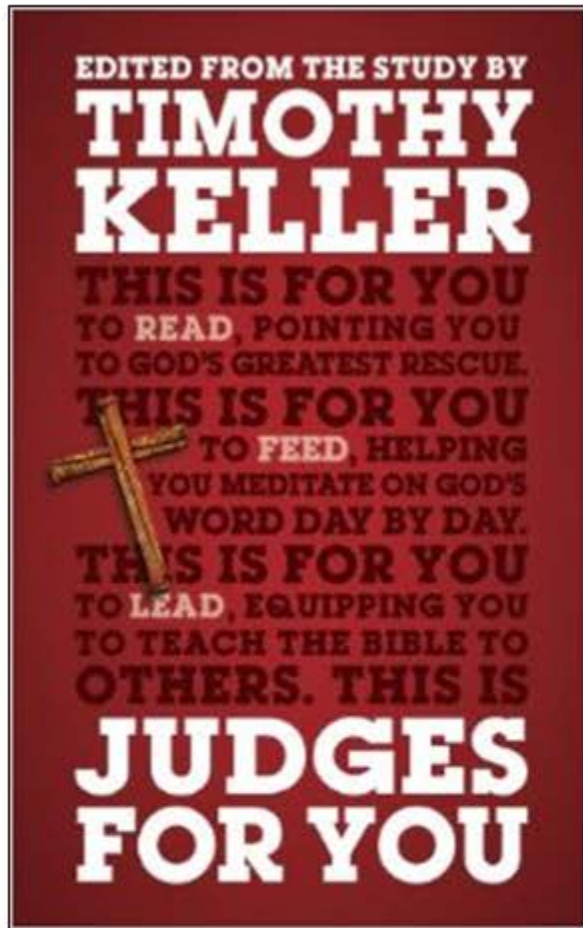
— JUDGES 17



‘She is very forgiving! But how quickly she pronounces restoration! She does not look or ask for real repentance, and so there is no full reconciliation. Without going through that painful process, there is for Micah no deterrence to such behavior in future; no challenge to examine his own heart and the reason why he took the money; no humbling acceptance of the need for grace and change.’



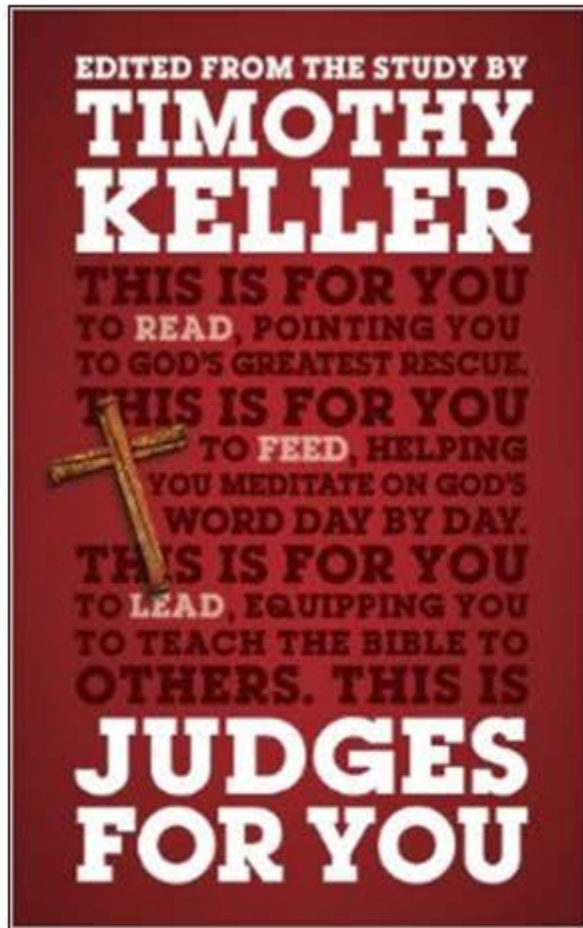
Timothy Keller, *Judges for You*



‘Because any graven image or depiction of God would automatically reveal part of God’s nature but conceal another part... It can’t express the full range of God’s glory, and thus your view of God will be distorted. So worshiping God with images reveals an inward spirit which does not want to submit to God as he is, but which wants to pick and choose attributes in order to create a God who is palatable to us.’



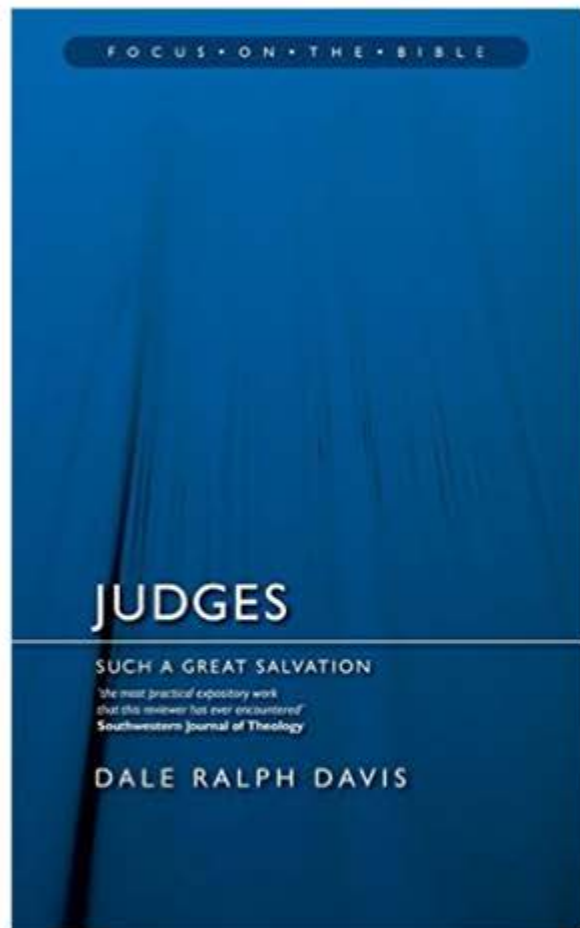
Timothy Keller, *Judges for You*. *Emphasis added*



‘But this is religion on Israel’s terms, according to each person’s personal preference. It is a religion that is not about God and his truth and will, but about me and my ideas and preferences. It is a religion which seeks to control and tame God, to remake him in an image we are comfortable with. It is an easy, or an exciting, religion—but it is not a religion which will bring blessing or rescue.’



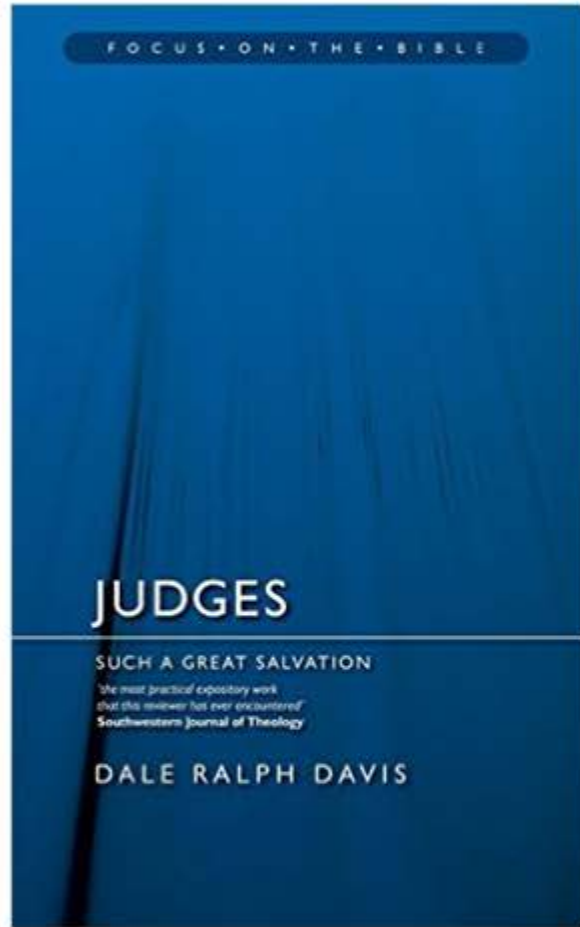
Timothy Keller, *Judges for You*. *Emphasis added*



‘After all, we don't have a king, do we? Of course we do! Who is Jesus Christ if not our King who rules us? Do we not see Christ ruling as king in Revelation 2-3 in his role of judge over and among his churches? And has not the Shepherd-King entrusted to undershepherds the task of ruling and defending his flock (cf. Acts 20: 28-31; Hebrews 13: 17; 1 Peter 5: 1-4)?



Dale Ralph Davis, *Judges. Emphasis Added*



Is it going beyond the text to hold that it teaches the necessity for vigilant discipline among the people of God in order to maintain the purity of worship and life?... I think our problem may be that we don't see the stupidity of false religion because we don't see our false religion. Only after we see the forms our false religion takes can we see how stupid it is.'



Dale Ralph Davis, *Judges*. *Emphasis Added*

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God Is The Gospel
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4 God God God, God

Meditations on God's Love as the Gift of Himself

John Piper

The critical question for our generation—and for every generation—is this: If you could have heaven, with no sickness, and with all the friends you ever had on earth, and all the food you ever liked, and all the leisure activities you ever enjoyed, and all the natural beauties you ever saw, all the physical pleasures you ever tasted, and no human conflict or any natural disasters, could you be satisfied with heaven, if Christ were not there?”



John Piper, *God Is The Gospel*.