

Judges 6:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass, when the children of Israel cried unto the LORD because of the Midianites,

Analysis

God's response to Israel's cry begins not with immediate deliverance but with prophetic confrontation through an unnamed prophet (ish navi, איש נביה). This pattern recurs throughout Scripture—before God acts in salvation, He exposes sin requiring repentance. The prophet's message recalls God's redemptive history: deliverance from Egypt, provision through the wilderness, conquest of Canaan. The rehearsal of covenant history establishes God's faithfulness as foundation for confronting Israel's unfaithfulness. Reformed theology emphasizes this pattern: law precedes gospel, conviction precedes conversion.

Historical Context

Prophets during the judges period operated before the formal prophetic schools established under Samuel (1 Samuel 10:5, 19:20). These early prophets delivered specific messages from God during crises, functioning as God's covenant attorneys prosecuting Israel's breaches of covenant obligations. The prophetic formula 'Thus says the LORD' (ko amar Yahweh) appears here (verse 8), establishing divine authority behind the message.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. Why does God often confront sin before providing deliverance, and what does this reveal about the relationship between conviction and salvation?
2. How does rehearsing God's past faithfulness strengthen us to face present sin honestly?
3. What role should confronting sin play in evangelism and church discipline?

Interlinear Text

וְיָהִי	וְיָהִי	בְּתִי	לְיִשְׂרָאֵל
H1961	H3588	cried	And it came to pass when the children
		H2199	of Israel
			H413

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