

We see in the Old Testament the critical importance of the succession of successful leadership. God raised up Moses to lead Israel out of Egypt, followed by Joshua and his senior leaders. However, there was a serious leadership void after that period, marked by significant spiritual, political, military, economic and cultural declines. After being punished for rebellion against God, Israel would receive a judge from God to lead their spiritual return to Him. Spanning nearly 300 years, this period of the Judges would repeat cycles of repentance, growth, apostasy and decline, demonstrating 7 recognizable cycles of sin (disobedience, bondage, misery, repentance, deliverance, rest and revival). We can learn from this how to break our own cycles of sin.

In Order To Break Unhealthy Cycles, You Must Come Out Of Hiding. Just as God called Gideon out of hiding in a wine vat to save Israel from the Midian oppressors, he is calling us to lead our society out of bondage and sin. Whether we are hiding gifts, talents or financial support, we need to break our spiritual inactivity, taking hope, comfort and courage from God's encouraging call to action.

Breaking Unhealthy Cycles Begin In The Home. God cannot deliver a nation until He delivers your home. Is God preeminent in your home, does prayer abound and is there consistent worship, discipleship and community witness flowing from godly structure and headship? A home that has no convictions is a home without courage, which are necessary to break unhealthy cycles.

Honorable Service Breaks Unhealthy Cycles. Gideon raised an army to repel the 135,000 Midianite invaders, but by a series of tests God had him cut the number to 300. This small group of soldiers acting in faith would forever show that God alone was responsible for Israel's deliverance. Our honorable service to God will likewise break unhealthy cycles of sin.