

Timeline of Truth: The Downfall of Gideon (Judges 8:13-34)

<p>¹³ Then Gideon the son of Joash returned from battle, from the Ascent of Heres.</p> <p>¹⁴ And he caught a young man of the men of Succoth and interrogated him; and he wrote down for him the leaders of Succoth and its elders, seventy-seven men.</p> <p>¹⁵ Then he came to the men of Succoth and said, "Here are Zebah and Zalmunna, about whom you ridiculed me, saying, 'Are the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna now in your hand, that we should give bread to your weary men?'"</p> <p>¹⁶ And he took the elders of the city, and thorns of the wilderness and briers, and with them he taught the men of Succoth.</p>	<p>1. Gideon Shows _____ Canaanite Vengeance</p> <p><i>Gideon goes from fighting the enemy to fighting Israel.</i></p> <p><i>He acts lie a ruthless tyrant towards his brethren.</i></p>
<p>¹⁷ Then he tore down the tower of Penuel and killed the men of the city.</p>	<p>2. Gideon Shows _____ Fierce Canaanite Vengeance</p>
<p>¹⁸ And he said to Zebah and Zalmunna, "What kind of men <i>were they</i> whom you killed at Tabor?" So they answered, "As you <i>are</i>, so <i>were</i> they; each one resembled the son of a king."</p> <p>¹⁹ Then he said, "They <i>were</i> my brothers, the sons of my mother. As the LORD lives, if you had let them live, I would not kill you."</p>	<p>3. Gideon Displays _____ Mercy</p> <p>a. <i>He talked with them</i></p> <p>b. <i>He encouraged flattery</i></p> <p>c. <i>He suggests mercy instead of God's judgment</i></p>
<p>²⁰ And he said to Jether his firstborn, "Rise, kill them!" But the youth would not draw his sword; for he was afraid, because he <i>was</i> still a youth.</p>	<p>4. Gideon Displays Arrogance Using His _____</p>
<p>²¹ So Zebah and Zalmunna said, "Rise yourself, and kill us; for as a man <i>is</i>, so <i>is</i> his strength." So Gideon arose and killed Zebah and Zalmunna, and took the crescent ornaments that <i>were</i> on their camels' necks.</p>	<p>5. Even the Enemy Kings _____ Gideon's Arrogance</p>
<p>²² Then the men of Israel said to Gideon, "Rule over us, both you and your son, and your grandson also; for you have delivered us from the hand of Midian."</p>	<p>6. Israel Requests Gideon to _____ Them</p> <p><i>They view Gideon as the deliverer rather than God.</i></p>
<p>²³ But Gideon said to them, "I will not rule over you, nor shall my son rule over you; the LORD shall rule over you."</p>	<p>7. Gideon _____ Rulership (in Word)</p>
<p>²⁴ Then Gideon said to them, "I would like to make a request of you, that each of you would give me the earrings from his plunder." For they had gold earrings, because they <i>were</i> Ishmaelites.</p> <p>²⁵ So they answered, "We will gladly give <i>them</i>." And they spread out a garment, and each man threw into it the earrings from his plunder.</p> <p>²⁶ Now the weight of the gold earrings that he requested was one thousand seven hundred <i>shekels</i> of gold,</p>	<p>8. Gideon _____ Gold Earrings</p> <p>Daniel Block: "...unlike the victory over the Canaanites under Deborah's and Barak's leadership, there is no celebration of divine salvation after the defeat of the Midianites, only the narrator's note of quiet. The silence of Yahweh in this chapter, and the silence of human lips that should have praised Him for the victory over the Midianites, is deafening."</p>
<p>besides the crescent ornaments, pendants, and purple robes which <i>were</i> on the kings of Midian, and besides the chains that <i>were</i> around their camels' necks.</p>	<p>9. Gideon _____ Kingly Plunder</p>
<p>²⁷ Then Gideon made it into an ephod and set it up in his city, Ophrah. And all Israel played the harlot with it there. It became a snare to Gideon and to his house.</p>	<p>10. Gideon Displaces the _____</p> <p>11. Gideon Encourages _____ in Israel</p>
<p>Dr Kenneth Way: "It's not that they worshiped it per se. The ephod was not a deity. The ephod was actually a means of manipulating Yahweh. So what we see here is that the Israelite's apostasy was by means of Gideon's use of the ephod. It's not that they were serving other gods here. It's rather that they were treating Yahweh like He was some other god. That's the problem. It's syncretism."</p>	

<p>²⁸ Thus Midian was subdued before the children of Israel, so that they lifted their heads no more. And the country was quiet for forty years in the days of Gideon.</p>	<p>12. Israel Enjoys _____ for Forty Years</p>
<p>²⁹ Then Jerubbaal the son of Joash went and dwelt in his own house. (<i>could indicate "sat there" as on a throne</i>)</p>	<p>13. Gideon _____ Home</p>
<p>³⁰ Gideon had seventy sons who were his own offspring, for he had many wives. ³¹ And his concubine who was in Shechem also bore him a son, whose name he called Abimelech.</p> <p>1 John 2:15-16 ¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that [is] in the world-- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life-- is not of the Father but is of the world.</p>	<p>14. Gideon Commits _____ Sin</p> <p>a. He marries multiple wives.</p> <p>b. He has a relationship with a Canaanite woman.</p> <p>Judges 3:6 <i>And they took their daughters to be their wives, and gave their daughters to their sons; and they served their gods.</i></p> <p>15. Gideon Reveals His _____ Mindset in the Naming of His Son</p> <p><i>Abimelech is a dynastic name, assuming perpetual rulership through generations.</i></p>
<p>Deuteronomy 17:14-20</p> <p>¹⁴ "When you come to the land which the LORD your God is giving you, and possess it and dwell in it, and say, 'I will set a king over me like all the nations that <i>are</i> around me,'</p> <p>¹⁵ "you shall surely set a king over you whom the LORD your God chooses; <i>one</i> from among your brethren you shall set as king over you; you may not set a foreigner over you, who <i>is</i> not your brother.</p> <p>¹⁶ "But he shall not multiply horses for himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses, for the LORD has said to you, 'You shall not return that way again.'</p> <p>¹⁷ "Neither shall he multiply wives for himself, lest his heart turn away; nor shall he greatly multiply silver and gold for himself.</p> <p>¹⁸ "Also it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book, from <i>the one</i> before the priests, the Levites.</p> <p>¹⁹ "And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes,</p> <p>²⁰ "that his heart may not be lifted above his brethren, that he may not turn aside from the commandment <i>to</i> the right hand or <i>to</i> the left, and that he may prolong <i>his</i> days in his kingdom, he and his children in the midst of Israel.</p>	
<p>³² Now Gideon the son of Joash died at a good old age, and was buried in the tomb of Joash his father, in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.</p>	<p>16. Gideon _____ and Is Buried</p>
<p>³³ So it was, as soon as Gideon was dead, that the children of Israel again played the harlot with the Baals, and made Baal-Berith their god. ³⁴ Thus the children of Israel did not remember the LORD their God, who had delivered them from the hands of all their enemies on every side; ³⁵ nor did they show kindness to the house of Jerubbaal (Gideon) in accordance with the good he had done for Israel.</p>	<p>17. Israel Abandons _____ and _____</p> <p><i>Gideon's life and example illustrate what is going on throughout all of Israel.</i></p>

KEY THOUGHTS

- 1. The fastest way to spiritual failure is to take _____ for God's accomplishments, including His work through you.**
- 2. Today's spiritual victory does not eliminate the _____ needed for tomorrow's victory. Like any war, the battle is new every day, and often multiple times each day. Continual, humble obedience is essential to walk with God and to avoid walking away from Him. We are never beyond the ability to sin, and to sin greatly.**
- 3. Resist _____, the sinful idea that I do not need God, and that my victories are only the result of my own efforts. Walk with God by continually acknowledging my need of Him.**
- 4. Infuse yourself with the _____ (about God, God's ways, and about yourself). Gideon forgot what was true about God and what was true about himself.**