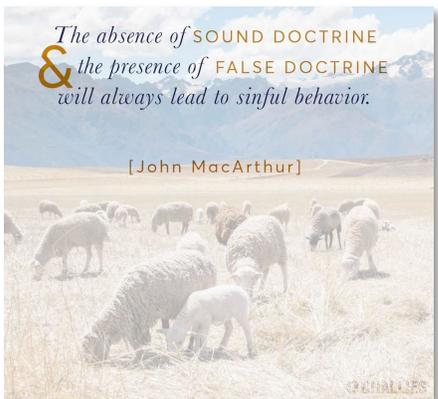


Timeline of Truth: The Horrific Loss of Doing What Is Right in One's Own Eyes (Judges 19:29—20:48) – Part 2: Ruthless Violence

<p>^{19:27} When her master arose in the morning, and opened the doors of the house and went out to go his way, there was his concubine, fallen at the door of the house with her hands on the threshold. ²⁸ And he said to her, "Get up and let us be going." But there was no answer. So the man lifted her onto the donkey; and the man got up and went to his place.</p>	
<p>²⁹ When he entered his house he took a knife, laid hold of his concubine, and divided her into twelve pieces, limb by limb, and sent her throughout all the territory of Israel.</p>	<p>1. The Levite's Repulsive Message</p>
<p>³⁰ And so it was that all who saw it said, "No such deed has been done or seen from the day that the children of Israel came up from the land of Egypt until this day. Consider it, confer, and speak up!"</p>	<p>2. Israel Reacts in Horror</p>
<p>^{20:1} So all the children of Israel came out, from Dan to Beersheba, as well as from the land of Gilead, and the congregation gathered together as one man before the LORD at Mizpah. ² And the leaders of all the people, all the tribes of Israel, presented themselves in the assembly of the people of God, four hundred thousand foot soldiers who drew the sword. ³ (Now the children of Benjamin heard that the children of Israel had gone up to Mizpah.)</p>	<p>3. Israel Assembles as One Man <i>a. Before the LORD at Mizpah</i> <i>b. 400,000 foot soldiers</i> <i>c. Benjamin is aware...</i></p>
<p>Then the children of Israel said, "Tell us, how did this wicked deed happen?"</p>	<p>4. Israel Demands Information</p>
<p>⁴ So the Levite, the husband of the woman who was murdered, answered and said, "My concubine and I went into Gibeah, which belongs to Benjamin, to spend the night. ⁵ "And the men of Gibeah rose against me, and surrounded the house at night because of me. They intended to kill me, but instead they ravished my concubine so that she died. ⁶ "So I took hold of my concubine, cut her in pieces, and sent her throughout all the territory of the inheritance of Israel, because they committed lewdness and outrage in Israel. ⁷ "Look! All of you are children of Israel; give your advice and counsel here and now!"</p>	<p>5. The Levite Spins His Story <i>a. We spent the night in Gibeah</i> <i>b. The men of Gibeah sought to kill me</i> <i>c. Instead they ravished my concubine</i> <i>d. My concubine died because of it</i> <i>e. I cut my concubine up and sent her</i> <i>f. Due to their lewdness – now what?</i></p>
<p>⁸ So all the people arose as one man, saying, "None of us will go to his tent, nor will any turn back to his house; ⁹ "but now this is the thing which we will do to Gibeah: <i>We will go up against it by lot.</i> ¹⁰ "We will take ten men out of every hundred throughout all the tribes of Israel, a hundred out of every thousand, and a thousand out of every ten thousand, to make provisions for the people, that when they come to Gibeah in Benjamin, they may repay all the vileness that they have done in Israel." ¹¹ So all the men of Israel were gathered against the city, united together as one man.</p>	<p>6. Israel Gathers Against Gibeah <i>a. They commit to bring justice</i> <i>b. They create a strategy</i> <i>c. They establish an army</i> <i>d. They arrange provisions</i> <i>e. They gather united against the city</i></p>
<p>¹² Then the tribes of Israel sent men through all the tribe of Benjamin, saying, "What is this wickedness that has occurred among you? ¹³ "Now therefore, deliver up the men, the perverted men who are in Gibeah, that we may put them to death and remove the evil from Israel!"</p>	<p>7. Israel Demands the Guilty <i>a. The Question: What Is This?</i> <i>b. The Demand: Deliver the Men</i></p>
<p>But the children of Benjamin would not listen to the voice of their brethren, the children of Israel. ¹⁴ Instead, the children of Benjamin gathered together from their cities to Gibeah, to go to battle against the children of Israel. ¹⁵ And from their cities at that time the children of Benjamin numbered twenty-six thousand men who drew the sword, besides the inhabitants of Gibeah, who numbered seven hundred select men. ¹⁶ Among all this people were seven hundred select men who were left-handed; every one could sling a stone at a hair's breadth and not miss.</p>	<p>8. Benjamin Rejects the Demand <i>a. They would not listen...</i> <i>b. They assemble their army</i> <i>c. The army includes 700 sharpshooters</i></p>
<p>¹⁷ Now besides Benjamin, the men of Israel numbered four hundred thousand men who drew the sword; all of these were men of war.</p>	<p>9. The Lopsided Battle Is Defined</p>
<p>¹⁸ Then the children of Israel arose and went up to the house of God to inquire of God. They said, "Which of us shall go up first to battle against the children of Benjamin?" The LORD said, "Judah first!"</p>	<p>10. Israel Inquires of God <i>a. Who goes up first?</i> <i>b. The LORD responds: Judah</i></p>
<p>¹⁹ So the children of Israel rose in the morning and encamped against Gibeah. ²⁰ And the men of Israel went out to battle against Benjamin, and the men of Israel put themselves in battle array to fight against them at Gibeah. ²¹ Then the children of Benjamin came out of Gibeah, and on that day cut down to the ground twenty-two thousand men of the Israelites.</p>	<p>11. Israel Loses the First Battle <i>a. Israel battles against Benjamin</i> <i>b. Benjamin kills 22,000 Israelites</i></p>
<p>²² And the people, that is, the men of Israel, encouraged themselves and again formed the battle line at the place where they had put themselves in array on the first day. ²³ Then the children of Israel went up and wept before the LORD until evening, and asked counsel of the LORD, saying, "Shall I again draw near for battle against the children of my brother Benjamin?" And the LORD said, "Go up against him." ²⁴ So the children of Israel approached the children of Benjamin on the second day. ²⁵ And Benjamin went out against them from Gibeah on the second day, and cut down to the ground eighteen thousand more of the children of Israel; all these drew the sword.</p>	<p>12. Israel Loses the Second Battle <i>a. They encouraged themselves</i> <i>b. They ask counsel of the LORD</i> <i>c. The LORD directs further fighting</i> <i>d. They fight the second day</i> <i>e. Benjamin kills 18,000 more Israelites</i></p>

<p>²⁶ Then all the children of Israel, that is, all the people, went up and came to the house of God and wept. They sat there before the LORD and fasted that day until evening; and they offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD. ²⁷ So the children of Israel inquired of the LORD (the ark of the covenant of God was there in those days, ²⁸ and Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron, stood before it in those days), saying, "Shall I yet again go out to battle against the children of my brother Benjamin, or shall I cease?" And the LORD said, "Go up, for tomorrow I will deliver them into your hand."</p>	<p>13. Israel Appeals to God</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> They weep at the house of God They fast until evening They offer burnt offerings They inquire of the LORD The LORD promises victory
<p>²⁹ Then Israel set men in ambush all around Gibeah. ³⁰ And the children of Israel went up against the children of Benjamin on the third day, and put themselves in battle array against Gibeah as at the other times. ³¹ So the children of Benjamin went out against the people, and were drawn away from the city. They began to strike down and kill some of the people, as at the other times, in the highways (one of which goes up to Bethel and the other to Gibeah) and in the field, about thirty men of Israel. ³² And the children of Benjamin said, "They are defeated before us, as at first." But the children of Israel said, "Let us flee and draw them away from the city to the highways." ³³ So all the men of Israel rose from their place and put themselves in battle array at Baal Tamar. Then Israel's men in ambush burst forth from their position in the plain of Geba. ³⁴ And ten thousand select men from all Israel came against Gibeah, and the battle was fierce. But <i>the Benjamites</i> did not know that disaster was upon them.</p>	<p>14. Israel Sets an Ambush</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> On the third day Same strategy outwardly Benjamin takes the bait Benjamin begins to win again Israel flees per the plan Israel springs the trap
<p>³⁵ The LORD defeated Benjamin before Israel. And the children of Israel destroyed that day twenty-five thousand one hundred Benjamites; all these drew the sword.</p>	<p>15. The LORD Defeats Benjamin's Army</p>
<p>³⁶ So the children of Benjamin saw that they were defeated. The men of Israel had given ground to the Benjamites, because they relied on the men in ambush whom they had set against Gibeah. ³⁷ And the men in ambush quickly rushed upon Gibeah; the men in ambush spread out and struck the whole city with the edge of the sword. ³⁸ Now the appointed signal between the men of Israel and the men in ambush was that they would make a great cloud of smoke rise up from the city, ³⁹ whereupon the men of Israel would turn in battle. Now Benjamin had begun to strike and kill about thirty of the men of Israel. For they said, "Surely they are defeated before us, as <i>in</i> the first battle." ⁴⁰ But when the cloud began to rise from the city in a column of smoke, the Benjamites looked behind them, and there was the whole city going up <i>in smoke</i> to heaven. ⁴¹ And when the men of Israel turned back, the men of Benjamin panicked, for they saw that disaster had come upon them. ⁴² Therefore they turned <i>their backs</i> before the men of Israel in the direction of the wilderness; but the battle overtook them, and whoever <i>came</i> out of the cities they destroyed in their midst. ⁴³ They surrounded the Benjamites, chased them, and easily trampled them down as far as the front of Gibeah toward the east.</p>	<p>16. More Details of the Ambush</p>  <p>[John MacArthur]</p>
<p>⁴⁴ And eighteen thousand men of Benjamin fell; all these <i>were</i> men of valor. ⁴⁵ Then they turned and fled toward the wilderness to the rock of Rimmon; and they cut down five thousand of them on the highways. Then they pursued them relentlessly up to Gidom, and killed two thousand of them. ⁴⁶ So all who fell of Benjamin that day were twenty-five thousand men who drew the sword; all these <i>were</i> men of valor. ⁴⁷ But six hundred men turned and fled toward the wilderness to the rock of Rimmon, and they stayed at the rock of Rimmon for four months.</p>	<p>17. Benjamin Is Nearly Wiped out</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 25,000 Benjamite soldiers are killed 600 flee to the rock of Rimmon The 600 stay at Rimmon 4 months
<p>⁴⁸ And the men of Israel turned back against the children of Benjamin, and struck them down with the edge of the sword-- from every city, men and beasts, all who were found. They also set fire to all the cities they came to.</p>	<p>18. Israel Continues with Carnage</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Israel keeps killing all of Benjaminites Israel keeps destroying

Key Lessons:

- 1) *Doing what is right in one's own eyes results in a lack of _____ justice*
- 2) *Doing what is right in one's own eyes results in a lack of _____ judgment*
- 3) *Doing what is right in one's own eyes brings the cost of _____ sin (God lets Israel suffer great defeats)*
- 4) *This account illustrates God's _____ in difficulty*
- 5) *This account demonstrates the potential _____ of ruthless violence*
- 6) *This account demonstrates the repulsiveness of _____ to anyone at some level. Something is _____ to everyone, even with different morality standards.*
- 7) *This account demonstrates the disfunction of self-determined rather than God-revealed _____. Each has a different, often contradictory standard.*