

A Levite and His Concubine

Judges 19

by Don Falkos

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A Levite and his concubine were traveling home from Bethlehem in Judah to a remote area in the hill country of Ephraim. The Levite refused to spend the night in a city where there were no Israelites. So even though it was getting dark, they continued on their way. The sun was setting when they arrived in Gibeah, a town in the land of Benjamin. An old man invited them to spend the night in his home.

While they were eating dinner and enjoying the old man's company, some of the wicked men of Gibeah, all of them Benjamites, surrounded the house. They pounded on the door and shouted, "Bring out the man who's staying with you so we can have sex with him."

The old man stepped outside and said, "Friends, please don't do this wicked thing! This man is a guest in my home. But look, I have a daughter who is still a virgin, and this man has a concubine. Let me bring them out to you, and you may do with them as you wish." But the crowd wouldn't listen.

The Levite pushed his concubine out the door, and the men of the town took turns raping her all night long. In the morning, when the Levite opened the door to leave, he found her lying on the threshold. He said, "Get up. Let's go." But there was no answer. She was dead.

He took her body home to Ephraim. Then he cut his concubine's body into twelve pieces and sent one piece to each of the twelve tribes of Israel. The people were horrified and said, "The Benjamites who committed this atrocious crime must be punished."