

Judges 19 Individual Results of Idolatry

v1-10 A Levite's family problems (possible that other Levites heard of "job opportunities" and came to the mountains of Ephraim)

The existence of concubines is recorded in Scripture but little is said about them. What we know has to be learned from the practice of ancient societies. Abraham, Jacob, Saul, David, and Solomon are the most well-known people who had concubines. They were not "live-in girlfriends," nor were viewed the same as a wife though in our current context the Levite is called *her husband* (20:4). Our society has nothing like it that we can compare it to.

The good news is that this woman appears ashamed of her adultery, and her husband is both disturbed by it and seeks reconciliation.

v11-14 The Levite, concubine, and servant return home, seeking to rest in an Israelite city

v15-21 They stop in Gibeah (a city of Benjamin) and lodge with a man sojourning there

v22-25 Perverted men want to "know" the Levite, but abuse and kill his concubine

What things said of the Gentiles in Rom. 1:21-32 apply to the Benjamites?

The Benjamites are not the only ones being "conformed to this world." In response to the perverted request, the host and Levite choose another solution--to send out the Levite's concubine instead of sending out the host's daughter or going out themselves. Their thinking was guided by their own and/or society's expectations and values.

- Society may have valued guests more than family (versus God's value—primary duty to family Gen. 2:24 unique duty to wife; Josh. 24:15 unique duty to children' love neighbor as self Lev. 19:18).

- Society likely valued male life more than female life (versus God's value—both equal Gen. 1:26-27).

- They valued physical things more than spiritual things (versus God's value—Heb. 11:10, 26)

v26-30 The Levite alerts the other tribes in a gruesome manner.

- This chapter partly shows why God told Israel to completely destroy the Canaanites (Gen. 15:16).

Application Questions

1. Name a modern social expectation that conflicts with God's expectation.

2. How might the host and Levite try to justify their decision to send out the concubine? Provide an answer from Scripture in response.

3. History shows that things could get this brutal and immoral in our country. How do we prepare ourselves, and future generations, for it?