

The Levite's Concubine Discussion

Remember that these monologues are essentially historical fiction, based on the Scripture but filling in plausible subjective details, both emotional responses and motivations. Your first task is to decide if they are reasonable.

Why do you think this story is included in the Bible?

If Scripture were a fictional history created to give the Israelites an identity, would this episode be included?

Is there reason to believe that a Levite should not have had a concubine? (see Leviticus 21:14)

Was it right for him to pursue her back to her father's house?

What might have been behind the woman's father delaying the departure?

Hospitality is considered an obligation in Middle Eastern culture. Was the old man right to invite the Levite and his concubine to his house for the night?

What does it tell you about the town that men showed up asking for the visitors to be sent out?

What does this remind you of?

Why might there be a large contingent of homosexual men in a single city?

Was there any indication that the relationships among them could be considered "committed relationships"?

If some of them were committed to each other, what else had to be true about their idea regarding outside relationships?

Some say that the sin of Sodom (and it would apply here as well) is lack of hospitality. How does that fit with what happened?

What can you say about the response of the old man to the threats?

Who was he protecting?

What does it show about his attitude towards women?

How would you describe the reaction of the Levite when he realized that his concubine was dead?

What does it remind you of in the life of King Saul? (see 1 Samuel 11:5 – 8)

The people reacted in anger that led to unforeseen consequences. Was it right to slaughter the inhabitants of a town that did not participate in the disgusting crime?

Was it right to authorize kidnapping to provide wives for the Benjamites?

Is there an easy way to stop lawbreaking once it has begun?

What can we say about God's attitude towards suffering of the innocent in this incident?

Could God have been dealing fairly with each person in ways that are outside of our understanding of the story?

How can we continue to believe God is good after seeing things like this happen?

Is the existence of evil a logical evidence against the existence of God?

Is it an unanswerable evidence against the goodness of God?

Did Jesus die for the sins of those abusers?

How can abusers be forgiven?

What prevents them from taking that path?