

Why did the Levite cut his concubine into 12 pieces?

The book of Judges has a couple of chapters describing an historical event that many find very difficult to even read, let alone try to see what we can learn from it. The passage about the Levite and his concubine is one such passage.

1. What led up to this event?

Judges **19:1-4**
Judges **19:20-23**

Judges **19:9-12**

What we do know is that the man took as a concubine or official mistress a woman who was also sleeping with other men. The man followed after the woman in order to bring her back to his house but her father continued to delay his departure. When he left, it was late and they would not be able to get very far and found themselves close to a city of non-Israelite people. The man's prejudice against the non-Israelites drove him to continue traveling until he came to a town of Israelite people. The people of the town were sexually perverse but the man was protected by an older man who knew the town and the despicable behavior of the people in the town.

2. What happened to the man's concubine?

Judges **19:24-26**
Deuteronomy **22:25-27**

Judges **19:27-29**
Leviticus 18:22

The owner of the house viewed the crime of raping a woman as a crime that is not as horrendous as the crime of raping a man. The law describes both behaviors as deserving of death. In the case of homosexual sex though, God declares the act as “an abomination”, “detestable”, a “disgusting thing”.

3. Why would such a crime be reported in such a despicable manner?

Judges **17:6**
Luke **18:2-5**

Amos **5:12**

The Levite understood that in the times that he lived, justice was nowhere to be found. He desired justice for the crime that was carried out against him by other people of Israel. The man wanted to draw attention to his situation so badly that he was convinced that he needed to do something so shocking that there would be no choice for the people but to stop what they were doing and take notice.

4. What should we learn from this passage?

Romans **12:19-21**
1 Peter **2:21-24**

Hebrews **10:26-30**
Romans **14:10-13**

Regardless of how twisted and perverted justice becomes, we should never seek to carry out justice by our own hands. We can defend and protect ourselves but the carrying out of true justice is to be carried out by God. We are never to carry out evil acts and expect justice and righteousness to result