

Chapter 19

A Leuite bringing homeward his reconciled wife, 15. at Gabaa in the tribe of Beniamin hardly getteth lodging. 25. His wife is there vilanouſly abuſed by wicked men, and in the morning found dead. 29. Whereupon her huſband cutteth her bodie, and fendeth peeces to euerie tribe of Ifrael, requiring them to reuenge the wicked fact.

There was a certaine man a Leuite, dwelling on the ſide of mount Ephraim, who tooke a wife of Bethlehem Iuda: ² which left him, and returned vnto her fathers houſe into Bethlehem, and abode with him foure monethes. ³ And her huſband folowed her, willing to be reconciled vnto her, and to ſpeake her fayre, and to bring her backe with him, hauing in his companie a ſeruant and two affes: who receiued him, and brought him into her fathers houſe. Which when his father in law had heard, and had ſeene him, he mette him ioyful, ⁴ and embraced the man. And the ſonne in law taried in the houſe of his father in law three daies, eating with him and drinking familiarly. ⁵ But the fourth day aryſing before day, he would depart. Whom his father in law held, and ſaid to him: Taſt firſt a litle bread, & ſtrengthen thy ſtomacke, and ſo thou ſhalt depart. ⁶ And they ſate together, and did eate and drinke. And the father of the yong woman ſaid to his ſonne in law: I befech thee that thou tarie here to day, and let vs make merie together. ⁷ But he ryſing vp, beganne as if he would depart. And neuertheles with much adoe his father in law ſtayd him, and made him to tarie with him. ⁸ But when morning was come, the Leuite prepared to goe his iourney. To whom his father in law againe: I befech thee, quoth he, that thou take a litle meate, and making thy ſelf ſtrong, til the day be farther ſpent, afterward thou mayeſt depart. They did eate therfore together. ⁹ And the yong man aroſe, that he might ſette forward with his wife and ſeruant. To whom his father in law ſpake againe: Conſider that the day is more declining to the weſt, and draweth nigh to

euening: tarie with me to day also, and spend the day in mirth, and to morrow thou shalt depart that thou mayst goe into thy house. ¹⁰ His sonne in law would not condescend to his wordes: but forthwith went forward, and came ouer against Iebus, which by an other name is called Ierusalem, leading with him two asses laden, and his ^a)concubine. ¹¹ And now they were come nigh to Iebus and the day changed into night: & the seruant said to his maister: Come, I beseech thee, let vs turne into the citie of Iebuseites, and tarie in it. ¹² To whom his maister answered: I wil not enter into the towne of a strange nation, which is not of the children of Israel, but I wil passe as farre as Gabaa: ¹³ and when I shal come thither, we wil lodge in it, or at the least in the citie of Rama. ¹⁴ They passed therefore by Iebus, and went on their iourney begone, and the sonne went downe to them byfide Gabaa, which is in the tribe of Benjamin: ¹⁵ and they turned into it, that they might lodge there. Whither when they were entred, they fate in the streete of the citie, and no man would receiue them to lodge. ¹⁶ And behold there appeared an old man, returning out of the field and from his worke in the euening, who himself also was of mount Ephraim, and dwelt as a stranger in Gabaa; but the men of that countrie were the children of Iemini. ¹⁷ And lifting vp his eyes, the old man saw the man fitting with his fardels in the streete of the citie, and said to him: Whence comest thou? and whither goest thou? ¹⁸ Who answered him: We departed from Bethlehem Iuda, and we goe to our place, which is on the side of mount Ephraim, from whence we went into Bethlehem: and now we goe to the house of God, and none wil receiue vs vnder his roofe, ¹⁹ hauing straw and hay for prouender of the asses, and bread and wine for the vse of my self and of thy handmaid, and of the seruant that is with me: we lacke nothing but lodging. ²⁰ To whom the old man answered: Peace be with thee, I wil

^a She was his lawful wife and so called *v. 1. & 9.* yet is also called concubine because she had no dowrie, nor as yet enjoyed the priuiledges of a mistress in her husbands house.

geue al thinges that are neceffarie: only, I befech thee, tarie not in the ftreate. ²¹ And he brought him into his houfe, and gaue prouender to his affes: and after they had wafhed their feete, he receiued them to a bankette. ²² They making merie, and after the labour of their iourney, refreshing their bodie with meate and drinke, there came men of that citie, the children of Belial (that is to fay, without yoke) and befetting the old mans houfe, beganne to knocke at the doores, crying to the maifter of the houfe, and faying: Bring forth the man, that entred into thy houfe, that we may abufe him. ²³ And the old man went out to them, and faid: Doe not fo brethren, doe not this euil: becaufe this man is entered to my lodging, and ceafe from this folie: ²⁴ I haue a daughter that is a virgin, and this man hath a concubine, I wil bring them forth to you, that you may humble them, & fulfil your luft: only, I befeche you, worke not this wickednes againft nature on the man. ²⁵ They would not agree to his wordes which the man feing, he brought forth his concubine to them, and he deliuered her to them to be illuded: whom when they had abufed al the night, they let her goe in the morning. ²⁶ But the woman, when the darkenes departed, came to the doore of the houfe, where her lord lodged, and there fel downe. ²⁷ Morning being come, the man arofe, and opened the doore, that he might finifh his iourney begone: and behold his concubine lay before the doore, her handes fpredde on the threhold. ²⁸ To whom he, thinking that fhe tooke her reft, fpake: Arife, and let vs walke. Who anfwering nothing, perceiuing that fhe was dead; he tooke her, and laid her vpon his affe, & returned into his houfe. ²⁹ Which when he was entered vnto, he tooke a fword, and cutting the carcaffe of his wife with her bones into twelue partes and peeces, he fent them into al the borders of Ifrael. ³⁰ Which when euerie one had feene, they cried together: There was neuer fuch a thing done in Ifrael, from that day, when our fathers afcended out of Ægypt, vntil this prefent time: geue fentence, and decree in common what is needeful to be done.