And it came to pass in those days, when there was no king in Israel, that there was a certain Levite sojourning on the side of mount Ephraim, who took to him a concubine out of Bethlehemjudah.² And his concubine played the whore against him, and went away from him unto her father's house to Bethlehemjudah, and was there four whole months. And her husband arose, and went after her, to speak friendly unto her, and to bring her again, having his servant with him, and a couple of asses: and she brought him into her father's house: and when the father of the damsel saw him, he rejoiced to meet him. And his father in law, the damsel's father, retained him; and he abode with him three days: so they did eat and drink, and lodged there. And it came to pass on the fourth day, when they arose early in the morning, that he rose up to depart: and the damsel's father said unto his son in law, Comfort thine heart with a morsel of bread, and afterward go your way. And they sat down, and did eat and drink both of them together: for the damsel's father had said unto the man, Be content, I pray thee, and tarry all night, and let thine heart be merry. And when the man rose up to depart, his father in law urged him: therefore he lodged there again. And he arose early in the morning on the fifth day to depart: and the damsel's father said, Comfort thine heart, I pray thee. And they tarried until afternoon, and they did eat both of them. And when the man rose up to depart, he, and his concubine, and his servant, his father in law, the damsel's father, said unto him, Behold, now the day

وَفِي تِلْكَ الأَيَّام حِينَ لَمْ يَكُنْ مَلِكٌ فِي إِسْرَائِيلَ، كَانَ الْأَيَّامِ حِينَ لَمْ يَكُنْ مَلِكٌ فِي رَجُلُ لاَويٌّ مُتَعَرِّباً فِي عِقَابِ جَبَلِ أَفْرَايَمَ، فَاتَّخَذَ لَهُ اُمْرَأَةً سُّرِّيَّةً مِنْ بَيْتِ لَحْم يَهُوذَا. ۖ فَرَنَتْ عَلَيْهِ سُرِّيَّتُهُ وَذَهَبَتْ مِنْ عِنْدِهِ إِلَى بَيْتِ أَبِيهَا فِي بَيْتِ لَحْم يَهُوذَا، وَكَانَتْ هُنَاكَ أَرْبَعَةَ أَشْهُرٍ. قَقَامَ رَجُلُهَا وَسَارَ وَرَاءَهَا لِيُطَيِّبَ قَلْبَهَا وَيَرُدَّهَا، وَمَعَهُ غُلاَمُهُ وَحِمَارَانٍ. فَأَدْخَلَتْهُ بَيْتَ أَبِيهَا. فَلَمَّا رَآهُ أَبُو الْفَتَاة فَرحَ بِلقَائِهَ. ۗ وَأَمْسَكَهُ حَمُوهُ فَمَكَثَ مَعَهُ تَلاَثَةَ أَيَّام، فَأَكَّلُوا وَشَرِبُوا وَبَاثُوا هُنَاكَ.⁵وَكَانَ فِي الْيَوْمِ الرَّابِعِ أَنَّهُمْ بَكَّرُوا صَبَاحاً وَقَامَ لِلذُّهَابِ. فَقَالَ أَبُو الْفَتَاةِ لِصِهْرِهِ، أَسْنِدْ قَلْبَكَ بِكِسْرَةٍ ز، وَنَعْدُ تَذْهَبُونَ. ُ فَحَلَسَا وَأَكَلاَ كَلاَهُمَا مَعاَ وَشَرِيَا. وَقَالَ أَبُو الْفَتَاةِ لِلرَّجُلِ، ارْتَض وَبِثْ، وَلْيَطِبْ قَلْبُكَ. ۗ وَلَمَّا قَامَ الرَّجُلُ لِلدَّهَابِ أَلَحَّ عَلَيْهِ حَمُوهُ فَعَادَ وَبَاتَ هُنَاكَ. ۚ ثُمَّ بَكِّرَ فِي الْغَدِ فِي الْيَوْمِ الْخَامِسِ لِلدَّهَابِ. فَقَالَ أَبُو الْفَتَاةِ، أَسْنِدْ قَلْبَكَ، وَتَوَانَوْا حَتَّى يَمِيلَ النَّهَارُ. وَأَكَلاَ كِلاَهُمَا. فُتُمَّ قَامَ الرَّجُلُ لِلذَّهَابِ هُوَ وَسُرِّيَّتُهُ وَغُلاَمُهُ، فَقَالَ لَهُ حَمُوهُ، إِنَّ النَّهَارَ قَدْ مَالَ إِلَى الْغُرُوبِ. بِيثُوا الآنَ. هُوَذَا آخِرُ النَّهَارِ. بِتْ هُنَا وَلْيَطِبْ قَلْبُكَ، وَغَداً تُبَكِّرُونَ فِي طَرِيقِكُمْ وَتَذْهَبُ إِلَى خَيْمَتِكَ. 10فَلَمْ يُردِ الرَّجُلُ أَنْ يَبِيتَ، بَلْ قَامَ وَذَهَبَ وَجَاءَ إِلَى مُقَابِل يَبُوسَ هِـيَ أُورُشَلِيـمُ وَمَعَـهُ حِمَـارَان مَشْـدُودَان وَسُـرِّيَّتُهُ مَعَهُ. أُوفِيمَا هُمْ عِنْدَ يَبُوسَ وَالنَّهَارُ قَدِ انْحَدَرَ جِدّاً، قَالَ الْغُلاَمُ لِسَيِّدِهِ، تَعَالَ نَمِيلُ إِلَى مَدِينَةِ الْيَبُوسِيِّينَ هَذِهِ وَنَبِيتُ فِيهَا. 12 فَقَالَ لَهُ سَيِّدُهُ، لاَ نَمِيلُ إِلَى مَدِينَةِ غَرِيبَةٍ حَيْثُ لَيْسَ أَحَدُ مِـنْ بَنِـى إِسْـرَائِيلَ هُنَـا. نَعْـبُرُ إِلَـى جِبْعَةَ. 13 وَقَالَ لِغُلاَمِهِ، تَعَالَ نَتَقَدَّمُ إِلَى أَحَدِ الأَمَاكِنِ وَنَبِيتُ فِي جِبْعَةَ أَوْ فِي الرَّالِمَةِ.¹⁴فَعَبَرُوا وَذَهَبُوا. وَغَابَتْ لَهُمُ الشَّمْسُ عِنْدَ جِبْعَةَ الَّتِي لِبِنْيَامِينَ. 15فَمَالُوا إِلَى هُنَاكَ لِيَدْخُلُوا وَيَبِيتُوا في جِبْعَةَ. فَدَخَلَ وَجَلَسَ فِي سَاحَةِ الْمَدِينَةِ وَلَمْ يَضُمَّهُمْ أَحَدُ إِلَى بَيْتِهِ لِلْمَبِيتِ. 16وَإِذَا برَجُل شَيْح جَاءَ مِنْ شُغْلِهِ مِنَ الْحَقْل عِنْدَ الْمَسَاءِ. وَالرَّاجُٰلُ مِنْ جَبَلِ أَفْرَايِمَ، وَهُوَ غَرِيبٌ فِي جِبْعَةَ، وَرِجَالُ الْمَكَان بِنْيَامِينِيُّونَ. 1¹فَرَفَعَ عَيْنَيْهِ وَرَأَى الرَّجُلَ الْمُسَافِرَ في سَاحَةِ الْمَدِينَةِ، فَسَأَلَهُ الشَّيْخُ، إِلَى أَيْنَ تَذْهَبُ، وَمِنْ أَيْنَ أَتَيْتَ. 18فَقَالَ لَهُ، نَحْنُ عَابِرُونَ مِنْ بَيْتِ لَحْم يَهُوذَا إِلَى عِقَابِ جَبَلِ أُفْرَايِمَ. أَنَا مِنْ هُنَاكَ، وَقَدْ ذَهَبْتُ إِلَى بَيْتِ لَحْم يَهُوذَا، وَأَنَا ذَاهِبٌ إِلَى بَيْتِ الرَّبِّ وَلَيْسَ أَحَدُ يَضُمُّنِي إَلَى الْبَيْتِ. 19 وَأَيْضاً عِنْدَنَا تِبْنُ وَعَلَفٌ لِحَمِيرِنَا،

وَأَيْضاً خُبْزُ وَخَمْرُ لِي وَلأَمَتِكَ وَلِلْغُلاَمِ الَّذِي مَعَ عَبيدِكَ. لَيْسَ احْتِيَاجُ إِلَى شَيْءٍ. 20 فَقَالَ الشَّيْخُ، السَّلاَمُ لَكَ. إِنَّمَا كُلُّ احْتِيَاجِكَ عَلَيَّ، وَلَكِنْ لاَ تَبِتْ في السَّاحَة. 21 وَجَاءَ بِه إِلَى سَّتِه، وَعَلَفَ حَمِيرَهُمْ، فَغَسَلُوا أَرْخُلَهُمْ وَأَكَلُوا وَشَرِبُوا. 22 وَفِيمَا هُمْ يُطَيِّبُونَ قُلُوبَهُمْ إِذَا برجَالِ الْمَدينَة، رِجَالَ بَنِي بَلِيَّعَالَ، أَحَاطُوا بِالْبَيْتِ قَارَ عِينَ الْبَاَتِ وَقَالُوا لِّصَاحِب ٱلْبَيْتِ الشَّيْخَ، أُخْرَجِ الرَّجُلَ الَّذِي دَخَلَ بَيْتَكَ فَنَعْرِفَهُ.23فَخَرَجَ إِلَيْهِمْ صَاحِبُ الْبَيْتِ وَقَالَ، لاَ يَا إِخْوَتِي. لاَ تَفْعَلُوا شَرّاً. بَعْدَمَا دَخَلَ هَذَا الرَّاجُلُ بَيْتِي لاَ تَفْعَلُوا هَذه الْقَبَاحَـةَ ²⁴هُـوَذَا ا^منتي الْعَـذْرَاءُ وَسُـرِّ ثَنَّهُ. دَعُـوني أَخْرِجْهُمَا، فَأَذَلُّوهُمَا وَافْعَلُوا بِهِمَا مَا يَحْسُنُ فِي أَعْيُنكُمْ. وَأُمَّا هَذَا الرَّجُلُ فَلاَ تَعْمَلُوا بِهِ هَذَا الأَمْرَ الْقَبِيحَ.²⁵فَلَمْ بُردِ الرِّجَالُ أَنْ يَسْمَعُوا لَهُ. فَأَمْسَكَ الرَّحُلُّ سُرِّتَّتُهُ وَأُخْرَجَهَا إِلَيْهِمْ خَارِجاً، فَعَرَفُوهَا وَتَعَلَّلُوا بِهَا اللَّيْلَ كُلُّهُ إِلَى الصَّبَاحِ. وَعِنْدَ طُلُوعِ الْفَجْرِ أَطْلَقُوهَا 26فَحَاءَت الْمَرْ أَةُ عِنْدَ أَقْبَالِ الصَّبَاحِ وَسَقَطَتْ عِنْدَ بَابِ بَنْتِ الرَّاجُلِ حَيْثُ سَيِّدُهَا هُنَاكَ إِلَى الضَّوْءِ 27 فَقَامَ سَيِّدُهَا فِي الصَّبَاحِ وَفَتَحَ أَبْوَاتَ الْبَيْتُ وَخَرَجَ لِلذَّهَابِ فِي طَرِيقِهِ، وَإِذَا سُـرِّيَّتِه سَاقطَـةٌ عَلَـي بَـابِ الْـنَبْتِ، وَبَـدَاهَا عَلَـي الْعَتَبَةِ. 28 فَقَالَ لَهَا، قُومِي نَذْهَبْ. فَلَمْ يَكُنْ مُحِيثُ. فَأَخَذَهَا عَلَى الْحمَارِ وَذَهَبَ إِلَى مَكَانِهِ. 29 وَدَخَلَ سَيَّهُ وَأَخَذَ السِّكِّينَ وَأَمْسَكَ سُرِّيَّتُهُ وَقَطَّعَهَا مَعَ عظَامِهَا إِلَى اثْنَتَى عَشَرَةَ قِطْعَةً، وَأَرْسَلَهَا إِلَى جَمِيع تُخُوم إِسْرَائِيلَ.30وَكُلُّ مَنْ رَأَى قَالَ، لَمْ يَكُنْ وَلَمْ يُرَ مَثْلُ هَذَا مِنْ يَوْم صُعُودِ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ مِنْ أَرْضِ مِصْرَ إِلَى هَذَا الْيَوْمِ. تَبَصَّرُوا فِيهِ وَتَشَاوَرُوا وَتَكَلَّمُوا.

draweth toward evening, I pray you tarry all night: behold, the day groweth to an end, lodge here, that thine heart may be merry; and to morrow get you early on your way, that thou mayest go home. 10 But the man would not tarry that night, but he rose up and departed, and came over against Jebus, which is Jerusalem; and there were with him two asses saddled, his concubine also was with him. 11 And when they were by Jebus, the day was far spent; and the servant said unto his master, Come, I pray thee, and let us turn in into this city of the Jebusites, and lodge in it. 12 And his master said unto him, We will not turn aside hither into the city of a stranger, that is not of the children of Israel; we will pass over to Gibeah. 13 And he said unto his servant, Come, and let us draw near to one of these places to lodge all night, in Gibeah, or in Ramah. 14 And they passed on and went their way; and the sun went down upon them when they were by Gibeah, which belongeth to Benjamin. 15 And they turned aside thither, to go in and to lodge in Gibeah: and when he went in, he sat him down in a street of the city: for there was no man that took them into his house to lodging. 16 And, behold, there came an old man from his work out of the field at even, which was also of mount Ephraim; and he sojourned in Gibeah: but the men of the place were Benjamites. ¹⁷ And when he had lifted up his eyes, he saw a wayfaring man in the street of the city: and the old man said, Whither goest thou? and whence comest thou? 18 And he said unto him, We are passing from Bethlehemjudah toward the

side of mount Ephraim; from thence am I: and I went to Bethlehemiudah, but I am now going to the house of the LORD; and there is no man that receiveth me to house. 19 Yet there is both straw and provender for our asses; and there is bread and wine also for me, and for thy handmaid, and for the young man which is with thy servants: there is no want of any thing.²⁰And the old man said, Peace be with thee; howsoever let all thy wants lie upon me; only lodge not in the street.²¹So he brought him into his house, and gave provender unto the asses: and they washed their feet, and did eat and drink.²²Now as they were making their hearts merry, behold, the men of the city, certain sons of Belial, beset the house round about, and beat at the door, and spake to the master of the house, the old man, saying, Bring forth the man that came into thine house, that we may know him. 23 And the man, the master of the house, went out unto them, and said unto them, Nay, my brethren, nay, I pray you, do not so wickedly; seeing that this man is come into mine house, do not this folly.²⁴Behold, here is my daughter a maiden, and his concubine; them I will bring out now, and humble ye them, and do with them what seemeth good unto you: but unto this man do not so vile a thing.²⁵But the men would not hearken to him: so the man took his concubine, and brought her forth unto them; and they knew her, and abused her all the night until the morning: and when the day began to spring, they let her go. ²⁶Then came the woman in the dawning of the day, and fell

down at the door of the man's house where her lord was, till it was light. 27 And her lord rose up in the morning, and opened the doors of the house, and went out to go his way: and, behold, the woman his concubine was fallen down at the door of the house, and her hands were upon the threshold.²⁸And he said unto her, Up, and let us be going. But none answered. Then the man took her up upon an ass, and the man rose up, and gat him unto his place.²⁹ And when he was come into his house, he took a knife, and laid hold on his concubine, and divided her, together with her bones, into twelve pieces, and sent her into all the coasts of Israel. ³⁰ And it was so. that all that saw it said. There was no such deed done nor seen from the day that the children of Israel came up out of the land of Egypt unto this day: consider of it, take advice, and speak your minds.