

# Winter 2023 Exegesis Exam

## Ministry Context

### Judges 19:1-30

In your role as the Associate Pastor for Christian Formation, you are leading a Bible study for your congregation's UKirk college-age ministry exploring unsettling passages in the scriptures. The final story you will be studying is "the Levite's Concubine" (Judges 19:1-30).

## Section I: Language, Historical Situation, and Scriptural and Theological Context

### Language of the Text

Write an essay response to the following exegetical question. This response must *focus on the biblical text*. Discussion of the ministry context is not expected in Section I.

### First Required Response

In studying Judges 19:1-30 you notice a variant in translations of verse 19:2.

But his concubine **became angry with him**, and she went away from him to her father's house at Bethlehem in Judah, and was there some four months. (NRSV)

In an **act of unfaithfulness toward him**, his secondary wife left him and went back to her father's household at Bethlehem in Judah. She stayed there four full months. (CEB)

And his concubine **played the whore against him** and went away from him to her father's house in Bethlehem in Judah, and she was there for a while, four months. (Robert Alter)

But she **quarreled with him** and left, returning to her father's house in Bethlehem in Judah. She was there for four months. (The Message)

Discuss textual variants and linguistic issues of the highlighted clause focusing on Hebrew language, grammar, and syntax.

Based on this discussion, choose a preferred translation of Judges 19:2 and justify your choice.

Explain how your chosen translation informs your reading of Judges 19:1-30.

*Limit your response to 600 words.*

### Historical Situation

Write an essay response to the following exegetical question. This response must *focus on the biblical text*. Discussion of the ministry context is not expected in Section I.

#### Second Required Response

Discuss major characteristics and themes of the theory of Deuteronomic History.

Informed by your discussion, explain how the theory of Deuteronomic History relates to the possible dating, authorship, and themes of the book of Judges. *Limit your response to 600 words.*

### Historical Situation

Write an essay response to the following exegetical question. This response must *focus on the biblical text*. Discussion of the ministry context is not expected in Section I.

#### Third Required Response

Discuss the status and role of the פִּילְגֶשֶׁת in ancient Israel.

Discuss how this informs your understanding of Judges 19:1-30. *Limit your response to 600 words.*

### Scriptural and Theological Context

Write an essay response to the following exegetical question. This response must *focus on the biblical text*. Discussion of the ministry context is not expected in Section I.

#### Fourth Required Response

*A Brief Statement of Faith* says in part:

In sovereign love God created the world good  
and makes everyone equally in God's image,  
male and female, of every race and people,  
to live as one community.

But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.

Ignoring God's commandments,  
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves... (lines 29-35)

Discuss how the Reformed understanding of *imago dei* as expressed in this passage from *A Brief Statement of Faith* informs your understanding of Judges 19:1-30. *Limit your response to 600 words.*

## Section II: Careful and Critical Interpretation

Write an essay presenting your interpretation of Judges 19:1-30 based on your full exegetical study of the passage (not just material presented in Section I). Support your interpretation by a careful and critical analysis of the text that reflects the use of scholarly resources. *Limit your essay to 1,200 words.*

This essay must *focus on the biblical text* and provide a basis for your application in Section III: Application. Discussion of the ministry context is not expected in Section II.

## Section III:

### Application

Provide an outline or summary of themes for your 75-minute Bible study that addresses the required ministry context:

In your role as the Associate Pastor for Christian Formation, you are leading a Bible study for your congregation's UKirk college-age ministry exploring unsettling passages in the scriptures. The final story you will be studying is "the Levite's Concubine" (Judges 19:1-30).

Your work must be based on your careful and critical interpretation of the biblical text presented in Section II. *Limit your work to 600 words.*

Your response to Section III *must* address the ministry context.

## Works Cited

In the text box below, provide a list of all resources cited in your exam responses. Do not include in this list any Internet link that indicates a seminary library or commercial bibliographic database that is available only through subscription or library account (e.g., <https://ezproxy.presbysem.edu/>).