

End Times and Gay Marriage

Updated:
12-27-2017

Gay marriage was indeed mentioned in the Bible, as a sign of end times, when Jesus prophesied that conditions would be the same as in Noah's day, when there was "eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage."

Matthew 24:37-39

"As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were **eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage**, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man."

Some people might argue that the above verse just points out normal activities, but it's well-known that everything in Noah's day was "wicked" and "every thought of [man's] heart was only evil all the time." (Genesis 6:5) Therefore, Jesus wasn't likely talking about normal marriage. Prior to 2000, I may have thought so too, but not lately. Sometimes, a person must revise their interpretation of the Bible, as new facts become available. In fact, I think the "eating and drinking" represents 'celebration' because same-sex marriage had just become 'accepted as normal', in Noah's day, as is happening in many countries today. Likewise, I think gay marriage was one of God's final-straws, indicating the level of wickedness in Noah's day, as it indicates the same in today's world. I mean, homosexuality may have been present in society, before, but gay-marriage shows an added level of 'acceptance'. Homosexuality may be viewed as normal in much of the West, but God sees it as wicked, which is why Jesus mentioned it as a sign of end times.

Of course, gay marriage is not a sign that can be used to pinpoint an exact time, or even year for Jesus' return, because gay marriage was first legalized in the Netherlands, in Dec-2000, and more countries are added to the list each year. In Dec-2017, Australia became the 26th country to legalize gay marriage, but most are located in Europe and the Americas. For the most accurate indication of Jesus' return, a person must watch for signs leading to the **abomination**, in the *Book of Daniel*, because that's what Jesus said to do. (Matt 24:15)

Here's a list compiled from **Pew Research Center - 2017**

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|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. The Netherlands (2000) | 14. France (2013) |
| 2. Belgium (2003) | 15. Brazil (2013) |
| 3. Canada (2005) | 16. England / Wales (2013) |
| 4. Spain (2005) | 17. Scotland (2014) |
| 5. South Africa (2006) | 18. Luxembourg (2014) |
| 6. Norway (2008) | 19. Finland (2015) |
| 7. Sweden (2009) | 20. Ireland (2015) |
| 8. Iceland (2010) | 21. Greenland (2015) |
| 9. Portugal (2010) | 22. United States (2015) |
| 10. Argentina (2010) | 23. Colombia (2016) |
| 11. Denmark (2012) | 24. Germany (2017) |
| 12. Uruguay (2013) | 25. Malta (2017) |
| 13. New Zealand (2013) | 26. Australia (2017) |

Plus: Parts of Mexico have legalized gay marriages, including Mexico City (2009). Israel recognizes same-sex marriages, if the ceremony is performed legally elsewhere.

Countries that allow for "civil partnerships" include: Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Switzerland, Estonia, and Chile'. [reference: [Jakarta Post - 2017](#)]

Biblical History (Homosexuality in the Bible)

Introduction: (Jesus and Paul's teaching)

As for Christians who want to justify gay-marriage, it all depends on whether they can justify 'homosexual sex', because 'sex' is a natural part of marriage consummation. I don't think anyone can argue that God thought homosexual sex was wrong in the Old Testament (see below), so proponents are trying to say that God somehow changed His mind. They try to use the fact that Jesus didn't address homosexuality directly, even though Paul addressed it quite clearly (see below). Besides, if Jesus didn't *specifically* change something from the Old Testament, such as 'eye-for-an-eye' with 'forgiveness', then there's no reason to think that the rules suddenly changed.

The difference between Jesus and Paul is that Jesus only spoke to crowds in the surrounding area that came to see him, whereas Paul traveled to the decadent cities of Rome and Corinth (next to Athens). Jesus said, "*Things that cause people to sin are bound to come, but woe to that person through whom they come.*" (Luke 17:1) Since, Jesus often knew what people were thinking, He wouldn't address a sin that people didn't have a problem with, thus putting the idea in their heads, because then He would become the *source* of that sin. In like fashion, Paul only addressed it in letters to the Romans and Corinthians, because that's where it was a problem. (see below) Yet, Jesus did prophesy about gay marriage (introduction) in a clever way where only people who were living during end times (now), would know what He was talking about, because they can see the 'acceptance' first hand.

Basically, it boils down to whether a Christian believes Paul's whole story or not. I mean, did he really hear Jesus on the road to Damascus, get blinded for three days and then healed by a Christian? (Acts 9:1-22) Was he really God's chosen messenger? I sure hope so because his letters are a big part of the New Testament. Rest assured because God wouldn't allow His Holy Word to be corrupted with Paul's letters, if Paul wasn't legitimate. Therefore, a person can't pick and choose what they want to accept, from the Bible, and toss the rest aside. Luke wrote, "*God did extraordinary miracles through Paul*", so I tend to believe him, not to mention his teachings were consistent with OT scripture.

Acts 19:11-12

"God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured, and the evil spirits left them."

If a person chooses to ignore Paul's direct statements (below), then they are essentially saying that they know better than Paul, but I don't think so. Personally, I have immense respect for Paul, so I think he was right.

Homosexuality in the Old Testament

The oldest reference I find to homosexuality, in the Bible, is Job 36:14, which mentions "male prostitutes of the shrine", which would pre-date Abraham by a few generations. By Abraham's time (below), it had become such a problem, in Sodom and Gomorrah, that God eliminated both cities.

Genesis 19:4-5

All the men from every part of the city of Sodom--both young and old--surrounded the house. They called to Lot, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us so that we can have sex with them."

Genesis 19:24; 27-28

Then the LORD rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah--from the LORD out of the heavens. ... Early the next morning Abraham got up and returned to the place where he had stood before the LORD. He looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah, toward all the land of the plain and he saw dense smoke rising from the land, like smoke from a furnace.

Homosexuality was diminished but not eliminated. In the Book of Judges, it had spread to the Benjamites, living in Ephraim, because they engaged in a similar activity to Sodom and Gomorrah. (The man in this story was a Levite, not an angel.)

Judges 19:22

Some of the **wicked men** of the city surrounded the house. Pounding on the door, they shouted to the old man who owned the house, "**Bring out the man who came to your house so we can have sex with him.**"

It's a long story, but the other tribes demanded that the wicked men be brought to justice. The Tribe of Benjamin was almost wiped out because they refused. (Judges 19-21) War ensued and homosexuality was dealt another set-back.

After that, Israel became a kingdom and there's no mention of homosexuality during the first three kings. However, during the reign of Rehoboam, Solomon's son, the "male shrine prostitutes" had returned to Judah.

1 Kings 14: 22; 24

Judah did **evil** in the eyes of the LORD. ... **There were even male shrine prostitutes** in the land; the people engaged in all the **detestable** practices of the nations the LORD had driven out before the Israelites.

Just a few generations later, they were driven out by Kings Asa and Jehoshaphat, the 3rd & 4th kings of 'Judah' (after the split, or after Rehoboam).

1 Kings 15:11-12

Asa did what was **right** in the eyes of the LORD, as his father David had done. He **expelled the male shrine prostitutes** from the land and got rid of all the idols his fathers had made.

1 Kings 22:46-47

[Jehoshaphat] rid the land of the rest of the male shrine prostitutes who remained there even after the reign of his father Asa.

About 200 years later, the "male shrine prostitutes" had gotten sneaky and moved their operations **inside** the Temple. They were discovered and expelled when King Josiah ordered that the Temple be cleaned and repaired.

2 Kings 23:7

[Josiah] also tore down the quarters of the male shrine prostitutes, which were in the temple of the LORD and where women did weaving for Asherah.

Josiah even traveled north to Samaria and destroyed all the idols, including the two calves that Jeroboam had built at Bethel and Dan. Josiah also killed every priest of Baal that Jehu had not killed. Thus, God exercised His own brand of "cleansing", just before the four-century 'silence', between the testaments.

Homosexuality in the New Testament

The Pharisees had plenty of faults but there's no indication that "male shrine prostitutes" were present. If they were, I'm sure Jesus would have spoken against them. Yet, if homosexuality was *not* present in the immediate region or the people traveling from surrounding areas, then why would Jesus put sinful ideas in their head? He wouldn't. Yet, some people use the fact that Jesus did not address homosexuality directly to question Paul's preaching. The difference is that Paul was writing to large cities such as Rome and Corinth (next to Athens), where homosexuality was present.

In Paul's opening summary to the Romans, he says that homosexuality was the direct result of man's worship of idols. That would agree with Old Testament writings because male shrine prostitutes were often mentioned in times of idol worship. In the following example, Paul uses at least five adjectives (in bold) to describe homosexuality and none of them are good.

Romans 1:22-24; 26-27

Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the **degrading** of their bodies with one another.

(26) Because of this, God gave them over to **shameful** lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for **unnatural** ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed **indecent** acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their **perversion**.

If that wasn't clear, Paul gets *more* specific when writing to the Corinthians:

1 Corinthians 6: 9-10

Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor **male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders** nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

Born that way? (Not an excuse)

It's obvious from the Bible that God never considered homosexuality "okay", so there's no legitimate reason to think that He would ever change His mind. However, many say that He has, and homosexuality must be "okay" because they were "born" that way. However, scientists from Germany have now discovered that psychopaths are born with something in their brain that gives them a **predisposition** to murder (left). Since psychopaths were "born that way", is it okay for them to kill? In the same way, are kleptomaniacs innocent because they were born with a **predisposition** to steal? No, they have to resist like everyone else. We were *all* born with a predisposition to sin, in *some* way, but we *resist* because it's the right thing to do and "Heaven" is the reward for obeying God. **If a person sins, they should repent, not say it wasn't a sin.**

The article (left) also points out that people can **overcome** the inherent *urge* to violence with the right influences at an early age (< 25). The same could be said for curbing homosexuality but if society teaches that it's "okay", then people will stop resisting. I think that has contributed to the increase in homosexuality during the past couple of decades. I remember when Ellen was shunned, at first, and later accepted like a hero. There has been a sharp turn-around in a short period of time. Homosexuals like to compare themselves to the civil rights activists of the 1960's but skin color and sexual preference have no relation. Nevertheless, acceptance is growing exponentially and **"same sex marriage" is the ultimate sign of approval.** That's why Jesus referred to "marrying and giving in marriage" when speaking of "end times".

A Biblical view of sex (written 6-15-2016)

After the tragic events in Orlando, I feel led to give an opinion. I know that an anonymous person's opinion is not worth a whole lot, but I always try to give a Biblical view.

First of all, the Bible is clearly against 'homosexual sex' (Romans 1:26-28) but God is not against 'homosexuals' because they are just people. Most gay people think they were 'born that way' (with an attraction to the same sex) so they think it must be okay because God wouldn't condemn a person from birth. I don't think He would either but everyone is born with some kind of weakness to some type of sin. An attraction to the same sex is not necessarily a sin until a person acts on that attraction and commits a sexual act.

Likewise, any unmarried person is faced with the temptation of having sex but they must find a way to refrain. (Hebrews 13:4) It's not easy but the best way is to find a friend or companion who is like-minded and agrees that having sex before marriage is a bad idea. That's called 'being equally yoked'. If one person continues to coerce the other into doing something that is against their values, then they should refuse to be around that person. That may be hard to do, if two people have grown close, but true love wouldn't try to coerce a person into betraying their Christian values. Jesus gave symbolic examples to illustrate that sometimes drastic actions must be taken to resist temptation but any measure to achieve heaven is fully worth it. (Matthew 5:27-30) A person must have priorities and obeying God should be first on that list because the reward is immeasurable. (1 Cor. 2:9)

Consider this: God not only sees our every action, but He knows our every *inclination*. (Genesis 8:21) That means that God not only knows what we do, but He knows everything we *want* to do, so when we refrain from a temptation, God sees that as an act of worship. (Colossians 3:17) Therefore, we are not depriving ourselves for nothing; we are depriving ourselves for 'God', and He will reward that, in due time.

Consider this: If God created our current sexual organs to transmit such pleasurable sensations to our brain, don't you think He has something infinitely better planned for heaven, the likes of which we can't even imagine? (1 Cor. 2:9) It's called 'delayed gratification' and we strive for perfection because that shows our dedication to God.

Note: If a person makes a mistake, they shouldn't give up completely; they should ask for forgiveness and try a new strategy. Perhaps read the Bible more because that can give strength. Remember: God knows if a person is being earnest (sincere) in their efforts or not. (Rev. 3:19-21)

A few words of encouragement

A homosexual person may feel particularly cheated (as opposed to a single straight person) because they must refrain from sex, *indefinitely*, due to being attracted to the same sex.

The only consolation I can offer is that I don't think we have long to wait on this earth so dedicate yourselves to God as a holy sacrifice (Romans 12:1), during this time we have left.

After all, there's a lot of single people in the world who are in the same boat, including myself.

Scripture references for help [paraphrased]

God cannot be tempted by evil, *nor does He tempt anyone*. Humans are tempted by their *own* evil desire, which drags them away and entices them. After desire is conceived, it gives birth to sin. If sin is allowed to remain and grow, it gives birth to death. (James 1: 13-15)

Jesus was tempted in every way, *just as we are*, but He never sinned. He also suffered when He was tempted, so He is able to *sympathize* with our weaknesses, and *help us* when we get tempted. (Hebrews 4: 15-16 and 2:18 - combined)

God will not let a human be tempted beyond what they can bear, and when they are tempted; He will also provide a way out so they can stand up under it. (1 Cor. 10:13)