

2011–present

Scriptural Interpretation

Compiled by Don Bell, Mike McCabe, and Carlos R. Fernandez

Annotated by Carlos R. Fernandez, annotations adopted from Amazon.com

Hood, Rev Jeff. *Queer: An Interaction with the Gospel of John*. S.l.: Dog Ear, 2013.

This book is a colloquial interpretation of the Gospel of John. When God embodies those who are marginalized, strange things happen. Peace, hope, and love are manifested in unimaginable ways. This is the tale of the Queer.

Bellis, Alice Ogden, and Terry L. Hufford. *Science, Scripture, and Homosexuality*. Cleveland, Ohio: Pilgrim, 2011.

This book is a collaborative project between a biblical scholar and a biology professor. *Science, Scripture, and Homosexuality* addresses those scriptural passages that relate to homosexuality and explains the growing evidence of the biological basis for sexual orientation. The authors argue the roles of the homosexual and the heterosexual within the Church. This title is written in a highly accessible manner and it is an ideal book for congregational discussion.

Cadwallder, Alan H., ed. *Pieces of Ease and Grace: Biblical Essays on Sexuality and Welcome*. ATF, 2013.

People of faith are looking for a liberating understanding of the Bible while engaging sexualities and those of friends, family and beyond. The book demonstrated clearly that oppressive uses of selected texts from the Bible were invalid. But more is needed. The obligation upon scriptural scholars is to establish scripture's hospitable inclusion of those whose sexual identities have been subjected to such oppression. *Pieces of Ease and Grace* retrieves biblical texts as actively embracing gays and lesbians within the community of faith. Their stories profoundly intersect with those of scripture. Here is a collection of biblical essays on sexuality and welcome that restores the Bible as a book of grace to those whose sexual identities had previously been lost, or condemned, in interpretation.

Torre, Miguel A. *Lily among the Thorns: Imagining a New Christian Sexuality*. Jossey-Bass, 2012.

Author Miguel De La Torre, a well-respected ethicist and professor known for his innovative readings of Christian doctrine, rejects both the liberal and conservative prejudices about sex. He instead develops an ethic that is liberative yet grounded soundly in the Bible; a sexuality that celebrates God's gift of great sex by fostering intimacy, vulnerability, and openness between loving partners. In *A Lily Among the Thorns*, De La Torre examines the Bible, current events, history and our culture-at-large to show how and why racism, sexism, and classism have distorted Christianity's central teachings

about sexuality. The author shows how the church's traditionally negative attitudes toward sex in general—and toward women, people of color, and gays in particular—have made it difficult, if not impossible, to create a biblically based and just sexual ethic. However, when the Bible is read from the viewpoint of those who have been marginalized in our society, preconceived notions about Christianity and sex get turned on their heads. Taking on hot-button topics such as pornography, homosexuality, prostitution, and celibacy, the author examines how “reading from the margins” provides a liberating approach to dealing with issues of sexuality.

Hanchett, R. Stephen. *God Created Steve: A Biblical Case Against Religious Bigotry*. CreateSpace, 2012.

If the Bible is the Word of God as written by men, we need to consider the limitations of its human authors and to hear what God is telling us today. It is something that the vast majority of Christians have already done on issues concerning the basic rights of women and the evil of slavery, and segregation. As Christians, we have the same responsibility to proclaim the equal status of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered folks. The author's intention was not to reinterpret scriptures in a radically new way. Rather, Hanchett's goal is to clarify and interpret the Bible as a message of love, tolerance, hope, and human equality. The genuine conservative is one who has remained faithful to the words and works of Jesus. What has always been radical is any attempt to reconcile Jesus with a message in support of bigotry. The way that Christians remain faithful to the Gospel message is through their willingness to grow in their understanding of God's Word, to expand both their help for the poor as well as the basic rights of those still oppressed, and to increase in our love for one another.

Bohache, Thomas. *Christology from the Margins*. London: SCM, 2011.

Reviewing traditional Christology and various liberation Christologies (including black, Hispanic, Asian, white feminist, and women of color), the author explores how "queer" might be a social location for Christological study. *Christology from the Margins* not only articulates a queer Christology but also engages in a "queering" of biblical texts that have only been read from a heterosexual perspective in the past. With a strikingly engaging style, this author examines an area of study that will continue to attract students and scholars for the foreseeable future.

Nordin, John P. *A Biblical Argument for the Acceptance of Homosexuality by the Christian Church*. CreateSpace, 2013.

The church's debate over homosexuality is often not productive or edifying. Advocates and opponents too often “talk past” each other and both parties end up angrier than when they began. Despite this history, churches seem unable to try anything different, and the same arguments are repeated, with the same unhelpful result. The debate in the churches has usually been a debate using special pleading rather than universal principles, using secular arguments rather than religious ones and using fundamentalist religious arguments rather than orthodox arguments. A new beginning comes from taking seriously

the full scope of what the Bible really has to say about sin. This essay demonstrates why that study is necessary, and shows that the Bible's definition of sin cannot require a blanket rejection of homosexual life. The church needs to change its mind.

Achtemeier, Mark. *The Bible's Yes to Same-sex Marriage: An Evangelical's Change of Heart*. Westminster John Knox, 2014.

In the early 2000's, Mark Achtemeier embarked on a personal journey with the Bible that led him from being a conservative, evangelical opponent of gay rights to an outspoken activist for gay marriage and a fully inclusive church. In *The Bible's Yes to Same-Sex Marriage*, Achtemeier shares what led to his change of heart: the problems with excluding groups of people and the insights into the Bible's message that led him to recognize the fullness of God's love and support for LGBT persons. Readers will discover how reading snippets of Scripture out of context has led to false and misleading interpretations of the Bible's message for gay people. Achtemeier shows how a careful reading of the whole Scripture reveals God's good news about love, marriage, and sexuality for gay and straight people alike.

Guest, Deryn, Robert Goss, Mona West, and Thomas Bohache, eds. *The Queer Bible Commentary*. London: SCM, 2011.

The Queer Bible Commentary brings together the work of several scholars and pastors known for their interest in the areas of gender, sexuality, and Biblical studies. Rather than a verse-by-verse analysis, contributors to this volume focus specifically upon those portions of the book that have particular relevance for readers interested in lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender issues. Subjects covered are the construction of gender and sexuality, the reification of heterosexuality, the question of lesbian and gay ancestry within the Bible, the transgendered voices of the prophets, the use of the Bible in contemporary political, socio-economic, and religious spheres, and the impact upon lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities. Accordingly, the commentary raises new questions and re-directs traditional questions in fresh and innovative ways, offering new angles of approach. An introductory essay by Professor Mary Tolbert prefaces this comprehensive commentary. Contributors draw on feminist, queer, deconstructionist, utopian theories, the social sciences, and historical-critical discourses. The focus is both how reading from lesbian, gay, bisexual, and/or transgender perspectives affect the reading and interpretation of biblical texts and how biblical texts have and do affect lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender communities. The commentary includes an extensive bibliography that directs the reader to a full range of literature relating to queer interpretation of scripture.

Vines, Matthew. *God and the Gay Christian: The Biblical Case in Support of Same-sex Relationships*. Convergent, 2014.

Few things in today's world divide churches and Christian communities more deeply than the issue of homosexuality. What lies at the very heart of the matter is the Bible and its interpretation. The very few biblical verses that touch upon same-sex-related matters say

nothing about love and enduring relationships between people of same sex—on the contrary, these texts condemn harshly the activities they describe, such as attempted rape, debauchery, or depriving a person of his male honor. This has led theologically conservative Christians to condemn what is called ‘homosexuality.’ As the consequence of such an interpretation of the authoritative Scripture, hundreds of thousands of members of Christian communities have faced the difficulty, if not impossibility, to live out their non-heterosexual orientation while maintaining their Christian identity. Matthew Vines dedicates his book to ‘all those who have suffered in silence for so long.’ He reads the Bible and biblical scholarship as an evangelical gay Christian, giving a voice both to the biblical texts and its readers. He takes seriously the biblical text which for him represents the authoritative word of God; historical scholarship that reads the biblical text against what can be known of its historical context; and the experiences of Christians who read the Bible today. Importantly, his own personal voice is to be heard throughout the book, which only adds to its credibility. A careful scrutiny of the six biblical passages that somehow address same-sex behavior leads Vines to make a compelling argument against mandatory celibacy for gay Christians. More than that, he argues that Christians who affirm the full authority of Scripture can also affirm committed, monogamous same-sex relationships. Matthew Vines’s well-read and well-argued book deserves to be read by all those who have suffered in silence, but also by members and ministers of Christian communities struggling with the recognition and appreciation of their gay members.

Himbaza, Innocent, Adrian Schenker, and Jean Baptiste Edart. *The Bible on the Question of Homosexuality*. Washington, D.C.: Catholic U of America, 2012.

The Bible on the Question of Homosexuality addresses the hotly debated topic of whether the Bible condemns homosexuality by a close reading of the biblical texts without taboo or prejudice, without personal or church interpretation. The authors are interested in discovering what the Bible says about homosexuality. They take seriously the world from which the biblical text emerges, and discuss the hermeneutical challenges raised by scripture. They deal with the full range of issues raised by homosexuality in the Bible including Jesus' own sexual orientation and his relationship with the Beloved Disciple. Their conclusions are modest though their comprehensive overview is significant. Though many books are available on the topic of homosexuality and the Bible, most advance a particular ideology. This book, while not a moral treatise on homosexuality, intends only to clarify, without a predetermined interpretation, what the Bible actually says on the subject.

Hornsby, Teresa J., and Ken Stone. *Bible Trouble: Queer Reading at the Boundaries of Biblical Scholarship*. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2011.

The essays in *Bible Trouble* all engage queer theories for purposes of biblical interpretation, a rare effort to date within biblical scholarship. The title phrase *Bible*

Trouble plays on Judith Butler's Gender Trouble, gesturing toward a primary text for contemporary queer theory. The essays consider, among others, the Lazarus story, the Ethiopian eunuch, gender trouble in Judges 4 and 5, the Song of Songs, and an unorthodox coupling of the books of Samuel and the film *Paris Is Burning*. This volume troubles not only the boundaries between biblical scholarship and queer theory but also the boundaries between different frameworks currently used in the analysis of biblical literature, including sexuality, gender, race, class, history, and literature.

Brownson, James V. *Bible, Gender, Sexuality: Reframing the Church's Debate on Same-sex Relationships*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: W.B. Eerdmans Pub., 2013

In *Bible, Gender, Sexuality* James Brownson argues that Christians should reconsider whether or not the biblical strictures against same-sex relations as defined in the ancient world should apply to contemporary, committed same-sex relationships. Presenting two sides in the debate -- "traditionalist" and "revisionist" -- Brownson carefully analyzes each of the seven main texts that appear to address intimate same-sex relations. In the process, he explores key concepts that inform our understanding of the biblical texts, including patriarchy, complementarity, purity and impurity, honor and shame. Central to his argument is the need to uncover the moral logic behind the biblical text. Written in order to serve and inform the ongoing debate in many denominations over the questions of homosexuality, Brownson's in-depth study will prove a useful resource for Christians who want to form a considered opinion on this important issue.

Achtemeier, Mark. *The Bible's Yes to Same-sex Marriage: An Evangelical's Change of Heart*. Westminster John Knox, 2013.

In the early 2000's, Mark Achtemeier embarked on a personal journey with the Bible that led him from being a conservative, evangelical opponent of gay rights to an outspoken activist for gay marriage and a fully inclusive church. In *The Bible's Yes to Same-Sex Marriage*, Achtemeier shares what led to his change of heart: the problems with excluding groups of people and the insights into the Bible's message that led him to recognize the fullness of God's love and support for LGBT persons. Readers will discover how reading snippets of Scripture out of context has led to false and misleading interpretations of the Bible's message for gay people. Achtemeier shows how a careful reading of the whole Scripture reveals God's good news about love, marriage, and sexuality for gay and straight people alike.

Kirby, Michael. *Five Uneasy Pieces Essays on Scripture and Sexuality*. ATF, 2012.

The uneasy pieces of this book are well-written, challenging and stimulating. They come from the pen of Australian biblical scholars within the Anglican Communion, who are skilled in both exegesis and hermeneutical theory. Each essay addresses the question of homosexuality in the Bible, looking at passages in the Old Testament and the New Testament, which are often used as a basis for rejecting homosexuality in Christian ethics. Each essay argues, on the contrary, that there is no biblical warrant for condemning either a homosexual orientation or a faithful and committed homosexual

relationship. The book, as a whole, makes it crystal clear that both sides of the debate take seriously the Bible as the inspired word of God, and both are seeking to discern the Scriptures in order to hear God's voice speaking to us today.

Cunningham, James D. *Gay Christian Survivors: Refuting Anti-Gay Views With The Word Of God*. CreateSpace, 2012.

Have you been left out in the cold by the church's unbiblical anti-gay teachings? Do you know someone who has been hurt? Are you a person who teaches anti-gay doctrines? Are you just curious about what God's Word says about homosexual identity? If you can answer YES to any of these questions, this book is just for you! There is no word play here, no attempt at looking for loopholes in God's Word, no long-winded historical analysis and flowery liberal rhetoric on the subject. *Gay Christian Survivors* is the book edition of the popular online outreach of the same name by King James Bible Ministry and Under the Son Ministries. This is a Conservative Evangelical Christian minister's intensive and prayerful study on the issue of homosexuality as the Bible tells it. It also serves as a theological safe haven for gay and lesbian believers in Jesus Christ and the Holy Scriptures, who seek shelter from the torments of the church's anti-gay dogma and the "ex-gay" propaganda used by the biased straight community, to discover the truth about what the Scriptures actually say about homosexuality.

Sphero, M. W. *The Gay Faith: Christ, Scripture, and Sexuality*. New York: Herms, 2011.

Organized religion has become a hindrance to a genuine personal faith in God due to its lack of understanding or overt misuse of scripture. The misuse of the Bible by quoting "clobber passages" are a stumbling blocks to millions of homosexual people who yearn to have a personal relationship with Christ. *The Gay Faith* explains just how scripture supports homosexuality as a birthright and lifestyle.

Sharpe, Keith. *The Gay Gospels: Good News for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered People*. Circle, 2011.

The place of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered people in the Christian churches is a highly controversial issue. The stance of all the mainline churches is that homosexuality is sinful and incompatible with Christianity. In seeking to respond to attacks on their lives, identities and relationships LGBT Christians have moved over recent decades from a defensive position to a more affirmative position that asserts that there is evidence in the Bible and the Jesus tradition of validated homoerotic experience. This book presents a systematic overview of both the defensive and affirmative positions. In part one, The Defensive Testament, each of the so-called "biblical texts of terror" used to demonize LGBT people is considered in turn and found wanting. None of them has anything to say about consensual same sex love. In part two, The Affirmative Testament, homoerotic elements in various Bible stories including the healing of the centurion's servant, Jesus and the beloved disciple, David and Jonathan, Ruth and Naomi are revealed to make visible the place of LGBT lives in the Biblical tradition. Taken together, these two

testaments forcefully champion the equality of LGBT people in the Kingdom of God and represent a formidable challenge to ecclesiastical homophobia.

Vines, Matthew. *God and the Gay Christian: The Biblical Case in Support of Same-sex Relationships*. Convergent, 2014.

"*God and the Gay Christian* is a game changer. Winsome, accessible, and carefully researched, every page is brought to life by the author's clear love for Scripture and deep, persistent faith. With this book, Matthew Vines emerges as one of my generation's most important Christian leaders, not only on matters of sexuality but also on what it means to follow Jesus with wisdom, humility, and grace. Prepare to be challenged and enlightened, provoked and inspired. Read with an open heart and mind, and you are bound to be changed."-- Rachel Held Evans, author of *A Year of Biblical Womanhood* and *Faith Unraveled*

Homosexuality, The Bible, The Truth: The Bible Does Not Condemn Homosexuality by Wayne Gray. Xlibris, 2012.

God is not the author of hate, nor is He the author of ignorance. His love, truly lived, brings peace, His wisdom generates knowledge of truth, and His grace leads us to end our bigotries and embrace unity in His name. Let wars end, let hatreds end, let ignorance end. May God's truth set us free. This book is about the truth. The big-business purveyors of bigotry who make money keeping us divided against one another will do everything they can to destroy this book. I prayerfully ask you to read it and spread the truth. The Bible does NOT condemn homosexuality, and the anti-homosexual lie, invented by man, has brought enough pain. It must end.

Homosexuality: The Bible on Trial by David Robert-John. AuthorHouseUK, 2012.

The author quests for truth by examining the Bible and asking how much traditional Christian belief can be derived with any certainty from its narratives. The disturbing answer seems to be very little. It is perhaps fortunate that religious beliefs seem to be grounded more in our emotions than in our intellect. This is not a book for the faint-hearted believer. The author raises concerns that most Christian leaders would prefer to be swept under the carpet and he asks questions that the faithful are discouraged even from thinking about. They are the concerns and questions that ultimately led to his own loss of faith because not only were there no satisfactory answers but nobody seemed to care. They are questions that will challenge even the most convinced, committed believers, and they leave the credibility of Christianity hanging by a thread.

Jonathan Loved David: Manly Love in the Bible and the Hermeneutics of Sex (Bible in the Modern World) by Anthony Heacock. Sheffield Phoenix Press Ltd, March 2011.

The relationship between the Hebrew heroes David and Jonathan has caught the attention of popular and scholarly writers alike. Yet there is little agreement about the nature of this relationship that speaks of a love between two men that 'surpasses the love of a man for a woman' (2 Sam. 1.26). Weighing the arguments of scholars including Nissinen, Stone and Zehnder, Heacock produces a meta-critical analysis of the many interpretations of the relationship between David and Jonathan, identifying three dominant readings: the traditional

political-theological interpretation, the homoerotic interpretation, and the homosocial interpretation. After outlining the three interpretive approaches, Heacock considers the evidence cited to support each: namely, themes in the David and Jonathan narrative and related biblical texts, ancient political treaties, laws pertaining to homogenital behaviour in the ancient Mediterranean world, and the heroic tales of the Gilgamesh Epic and Homer's Iliad. By applying recent epistemological shifts in knowledge as developed in the interdisciplinary fields of sexuality studies, queer studies and ancient studies, Heacock emphasizes the inescapability of the modern reader's cultural context when reading the narrative, particularly the influence of modern discourses of sexuality. Rather than suggest an alternative historical reading, Heacock turns the debate on its head by abandoning claims to historical veracity and embracing the input of the contemporary queer reader. Using queer theory and reader-response criticism, he offers a reading of the relationship between David and Jonathan through the lens of contemporary gay male friendships. This queer reading not only celebrates manly love in its numerous forms, but also adds a self-critical voice to the discussion that exposes the heteronormative assumptions underlying the questions often asked of the narrative.

The Last Heresy: The Gospel of Gay Persecution by Robert J. Clinkert. CreateSpace, 2011.

The Last Heresy: The Gospel of Gay Persecution carefully examines the root causes of the hatred of gays in America and across the globe. It reveals the Biblical misinterpretations often used to condemn gays and how these errors are contrary to the real messages of love and grace in the Bible. It debunks religious deprogramming and examines emerging acceptance of gays by some churches. Topics include details of religious ceremonies used for gay civil unions. This readable book is a catechism for gays and their supporters. Every activist must include it in their arsenal.

Leviticus: You Have No Idea by Maurice D. Harris. Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2013.

Leviticus has been called "irrelevant," "primitive," and "a backwater" of the Bible, even by scholars and people of faith who treasure Scripture. Many find it alienating, or, at minimum, confusing. In *Leviticus: You Have No Idea* Rabbi Maurice D. Harris offers readers surprising new ways of looking at the Bible's least popular (and least understood) book. Grounded in his progressive religious values and beliefs, Rabbi Harris approaches the various laws, rituals, and stories of Leviticus with an open-minded curiosity about what we can learn today about life, ethics, God, and higher meaning by studying this text. Taking the Bible seriously but not literally, Harris uses a plain-spoken, accessible style to explain confusing elements of Leviticus. He explores topics that matter to many of us in contemporary society, including LGBT equality, the dangers of religious fundamentalism, the impacts of childhood trauma, criminal justice reform, and more. With this book, the author invites us into an ancient text that, read with care, challenges us to be better people and help repair this broken world.

The Love of David and Jonathan: Ideology, Text, Reception (BibleWorld) by James E. Harding, James G Crossley and Philip R. Davies. Equinox Publishing, 2012.

Were David and Jonathan 'gay' lovers? This very modern question lies behind the recent explosion of studies of the David and Jonathan narrative. Interpreters differ in their assessment

of whether 1 and 2 Samuel offer a positive portrayal of a homosexual relationship. Beneath the conflict of interpretations lies an ambiguous biblical text which has drawn generations of readers - from the redactors of the Hebrew text and the early translators to modern biblical scholars - to the task of resolving its possible meanings. What has not yet been fully explored is the place of David and Jonathan in the evolution of modern, Western understandings of same-sex relationships, in particular how the story of their relationship was read alongside classical narratives, such as those of Achilles and Patroclus, or Orestes and Pylades. *The Love of David and Jonathan* explores this context in detail to argue that the story of David and Jonathan was part of the process by which the modern idea of homosexuality itself emerged.

A Name in Heaven Bible Revised by Rickie Bartlett. Rickie L. Bartlett, 2011.

A Name In Heaven Bible Revised is derived from the original King James translation. It has been left in it's original pure text form with the revision of some old English and the revision of one hundred and thirty two scriptures. This pure translation is not cluttered with man made opinions or additives to promote various religions or religious views as are many Bibles available today. This revised edition brings Bible characters and Bible understanding to living color, identifying which Bible characters were gay. These revised scriptures have been translated into the most modern terms available for the twenty first century. Preserving and clarifying Bible understanding that has been lost for many generations. *A Name In Heaven Bible Revised* is the first of it's kind released to the public since 460 B.C. over 2470 years ago. *A Name In Heaven Bible Revised* is beautifully formatted on firm high quality paper. The pages are presented in two columns with book titles boldly displayed at top of pages. The chapters and verses are displayed in bold print to make finding scripture very easy for readers. *A Name In Heaven Bible Revised* is a beautiful and elegant Bible.

No Condemnation!: The Bible and Homosexuality: A Study Manual by Gary E. Gilthvedt. Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2013.

This book is a study of eight biblical texts to which many of us refer when conversing about homosexuality. They are the only texts in the Bible generally thought to speak in an explicit way to this subject. And yet, the texts are frequently relied on for support of ideas and opinions that do not occur in the texts themselves. Popular discussions easily overlay these texts with the current understanding and opinions to which we hold, perhaps by which we are enthralled, in our own time and place. The lives, questions, convictions, and experiences of the ancient peoples represented by the texts do not always get a fair hearing. This book seeks to join the conversation about the Bible and homosexuality, and serve as a resource for partners in that conversation.

Outing the Bible: Queer Folks, God, Jesus, and the Christian Scriptures by Nancy Wilson. LifeJourney Press, 2013.

Rev. Dr. Nancy Wilson, Moderator of the Metropolitan Community Churches, explores the Bible's complex and often-misunderstood messages on homosexuality and diversity. Wilson explores eunuchs, same-sex relationships, sodomy, sexuality and healing, and other queer issues in scripture. She takes on the infamous "clobber texts" and places them in correct contexts.

Paul on Homosexuality by Michael Wood. Tubi Publishing, 2011.

Paul on Homosexuality reveals little known facts regarding the first century environment in which the New Testament was written. It shows that the ancient Jewish nation separated the commandments of their law into two groups: Justices and Jobs. The Justices were all the commandments based on the precept, "Love your neighbor as yourself." The Jobs were all the rest. Author Michael Wood shows that the Apostle Paul solely considered the Justices to be the Law. Paul considered Jesus' sacrifice on the cross to be the death of the Jobs. Paul strongly believed that those who felt they must keep the Jobs were rejecting Jesus' favor. The Old Testament prohibition on homosexuality was a Job of the Torah. Wood warns that those who say that others must keep this Job are violating the heart and soul of Paul's teaching. Wood further shows that 1 Corinthians and 1 Timothy do not repudiate Paul's most central teaching, as conventional Bibles cause many to believe. Wood shows that, in the original Greek, these books uphold his teaching rather than destroy it. Wood also provides a most remarkable analysis of Romans chapter one, the only unequivocal reference to homosexuality in the New Testament.

The Queen James Bible. Queen James, 2012.

The Queen James Bible is based on The King James Bible, edited to prevent homophobic misinterpretation. Homosexuality was first mentioned in the Bible in 1946, in the Revised Standard Version. There is no mention of or reference to homosexuality in any Bible prior to this - only interpretations have been made. Anti-LGBT Bible interpretations commonly cite only eight verses in the Bible that they interpret to mean homosexuality is a sin; Eight verses in a book of thousands! The Queen James Bible seeks to resolve interpretive ambiguity in the Bible as it pertains to homosexuality: We edited those eight verses in a way that makes homophobic interpretations impossible. The King James Bible is the most popular Bible of all time, and arguably the most important English language document of all time. It is the brainchild and namesake of King James I, who wanted an English language Bible that all could own and read. The KJV, as it is called, has been in print for over 400 years and has brought more people to Christ than any other Bible translation. Commonly known to biographers but often surprising to most Christians, King James I was a well-known bisexual. Though he did marry a woman, his many gay relationships were so well-known that amongst some of his friends and court, he was known as "Queen James." It is in his great debt and honor that we name The Queen James Bible so.

Queer Theory and the Prophetic Marriage Metaphor in the Hebrew Bible (BibleWorld) by Stuart Macwilliam. Equinox Publishing, September 2011.

The Hebrew Bible offers a metaphor of marriage that portrays men and women as complementary, each with their distinct and 'natural' roles. Queer Theory and the Prophetic Marriage Metaphor in the Hebrew Bible draws on contemporary scholarship to critique this hetero-normativity. The book examines the methodological issues involved in the application of queer theory to biblical texts and draws on the concept of gender performativity - the construction of gender through action and behaviour - to argue for the potential of queer theory in political readings of the Bible. The central role of metaphor in reinforcing gender

performativity is examined in relation to the books of Jeremiah, Hosea and Ezekiel. The book offers a radical reassessment of the relationship between biblical language and gender identity.

Queering the Ethiopian Eunuch: Strategies of Ambiguity in Acts by Sean D. Burke. Augsburg Fortress, 2013.

Were eunuchs more usually castrated guardians of the harem, as florid Orientalist portraits imagine them, or were they trusted court officials who may never have been castrated? Was the Ethiopian eunuch a Jew or a Gentile, a slave or a free man? Why does Luke call him a “man” while contemporaries referred to eunuchs as “unmanned” beings? As Sean D. Burke treats questions that have received dramatically different answers over the centuries of Christian interpretation, he shows that eunuchs bore particular stereotyped associations regarding gender and sexual status as well as of race, ethnicity, and class. Not only has Luke failed to resolve these ambiguities; he has positioned this destabilized figure at a key place in the narrative—as the gospel has expanded beyond Judea, but before Gentiles are explicitly named—in such a way as to blur a number of social role boundaries. In this sense, Burke argues, Luke intended to “queer” his reader’s expectations and so to present the boundary-transgressing potentiality of a new community.

The Rebuttal: A Biblical Response Exposing The Deceptive Logic Of Anti-Gay Theology by Romell D. Weekly. Judah Frist Publishing, 2011.

The Christian Church has an unfortunate history of sometimes getting it wrong. From racial equality to women's rights, twisting Scripture to fit a bigotry-based agenda is, regrettably, not unheard of. While many choose to submit to majority rule in relation to the more controversial issues of our day, we must never forget that the majority ruled in relation to the subjugation of races and of women at one time or another. We are, therefore, compelled to allow the Bible to be the standard by which we accept or reject commonly held beliefs. In *The Rebuttal*, Pastor Romell D. Weekly holds the pervasive, traditional arguments against homosexuality to this standard. He demonstrates through Scripture how the claims put forward by leading opponents of homosexuality have no basis in biblical reality. As over 200 anti-gay arguments are put to the test--not through sociological appeals or personal philosophy, but through chapter and verse of Scripture itself--you will be challenged to put the traditional view of homosexuality where it rightly belongs--in the past.

Salvation Scripture and Sexuality. 5th ed. by Mark S. Shirilau. Healing Spirit Press, 2013.

Discussion of what the Bible says -- and does not say -- about sexuality, including homosexuality, gay marriage, "fornication," and prostitution. Review of Hebrew and Greek originals and inaccurate translations through the ages. Explanation of how salvation is not about sexual purity, but it is a gift of God's grace.

Strange Flesh: The Bible’s Contribution to the Homosexuality Debate by Steve Wells. SAB Books, 2014.

What does the Bible really say about Homosexuality? It depends who you ask. In this comprehensive book, Steve Wells presents the scriptural arguments that conservatives use to

condemn homosexuality, as well as the liberal interpretations that claim that the Bible approves of homosexuality. Topics include: The explicit verses, Gay Bible stories, Possibly gay Bible stories, Lesbians, Eunuchs, Paul's thorn, Was Jesus gay?, What about Yahweh?, Between the lines, Biblical marriage, and Because the bible tells me so. With an afterword by Dave Muscato.

“Steve Wells provides yet another indispensable tool for the secular debater. With an engaging wit and refreshing irreverence, *Strange Flesh* disarms the most ubiquitous weapon in the arsenal against LGBT rights.” -Noah Lugeons, host of the *Scathing Atheist* podcast

Torah Queeries: Weekly Commentaries on the Hebrew Bible. Ed. by David Shneer, Gregg Drinkwater, Joshua Lesser and Judith Plaskow. NYU Press, 2012.

In the Jewish tradition, reading of the Torah follows a calendar cycle, with a specific portion assigned each week. Following on this ancient tradition, *Torah Queeries* brings together some of the world's leading rabbis, scholars, and writers to interpret the Torah through a “bent lens.” This incredibly rich collection unites the voices of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and straight-allied writers, including some of the most central figures in contemporary American Judaism. All bring to the table unique methods of reading and interpreting that allow the Torah to speak to modern concerns of sexuality, identity, gender, and LGBT life. *Torah Queeries* offers cultural critique, social commentary, and a vision of community transformation, all done through biblical interpretation. Written to engage readers, draw them in, and at times provoke them, *Torah Queeries* charts a future of inclusion and social justice deeply rooted in the Jewish textual tradition. A labor of intellectual rigor, social justice, and personal passions, *Torah Queeries* is an exciting and important contribution to the project of democratizing Jewish communities, and an essential guide to understanding the intersection of queerness and Jewishness.

Unprotected Texts: The Bible's Surprising Contradictions About Sex and Desire by Jennifer Wright Knust. HarperOne, 2011.