

Class 7a

WHAT'S IN A NAME? "HOMOSEXUALITY" IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Outline

- Leviticus 18:13 and 20:22
- 1 Corinthians 6:9 (in the New Testament)
 - *μαλακος* and *αρσενοκοιτης*
 - What the words meant
 - How they're translated now
- Romans 1:26-27

The Laws in Leviticus: What acts do the Priestly authors condemn?

Leviticus 18:22

19 ואל-אשה בגנות
 ממאנתה לא תקרב לגלות ערותה: 20 ואל-אשת עמיתך לא תתן
 שבתה לנרע למאודה-בה: 21 ומזרעך לא תתן להעביר למלך
 ולא תחלל את-שם אלהיך אפי' ודעה: 22 ואת זכר לא תשקב
 משקבי אשה תועבה הוא: 23 ובכל-בהמה לא תתן שבתה
 למאודה-בה ואשה לא תעמד לפני בהמה לרבועה תקבל הוא:

Lev. 18:19 You shall not approach a woman to uncover her nakedness while she is in her menstrual uncleanness. 20 You shall not have sexual relations with your kinsman's wife, and defile yourself with her. 21 You shall not give any of your offspring to sacrifice them to Molech, and so profane the name of your God: I am the LORD. 22 You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination. 23 You shall not have sexual relations with any animal and defile yourself with it, nor shall any woman give herself to an animal to have sexual relations with it; it is perversion.

What does the grouping tell us?

- With close kin (incest) Lev 18:6-18
- With menstruant Lev 18:19
- With kinsman's wife Lev 18:20
- Don't sacrifice children to Molech Lev 18:21
- Man with man Lev 18:22
- Man or woman with animal Lev 18:23

The Laws in Leviticus: Why do the Priestly authors condemn these acts?

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אל-תטמאו בכל-אלה כי בכל-אלה נטמאו הגוים אשר-אני משלח מפניכם: 25 ותטמא הארץ ואפקד עונת עליה ותקא הארץ את-שבייה: 26 ושמתם אהם א את-הקחי ואת-משפטי ואל תעשו מכל תועבת

Lev. 18:24 Do not defile yourselves in any of these ways, for by all these practices the nations I am casting out before you have defiled themselves. 25 Thus the land became defiled; and I punished it for its iniquity, and the land vomited out its inhabitants. 26 But you shall keep my statutes and my ordinances and commit none of these abominations.

The Laws in Leviticus

What is the punishment?

¹³If a man lies with a male as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they shall be put to death; their blood is upon them.

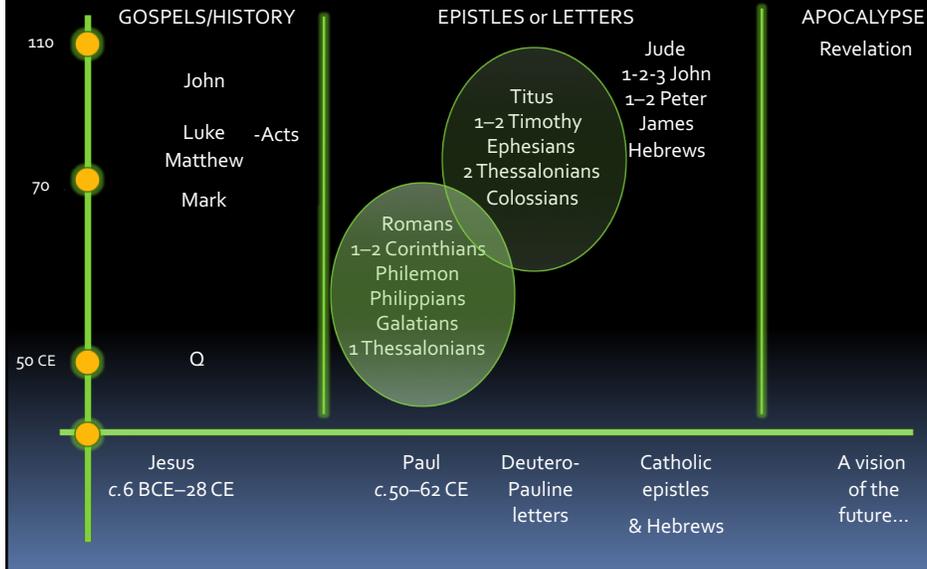
- Leviticus 20:13

Other capital offenses:

- Sacrificing child to Molech
- Cursing father and mother
- Committing adultery
- Sex with father's wife
- Sex with daughter-in-law
- Taking a wife and her mother
- Sex with animal (the animal is killed too)

Shifting to the New Testament...

The New Testament



Paul



Fourth-century fresco in the Catacomb of St. Thecla in Rome



A composite sketch of Paul by the Landeskriminalamt, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany

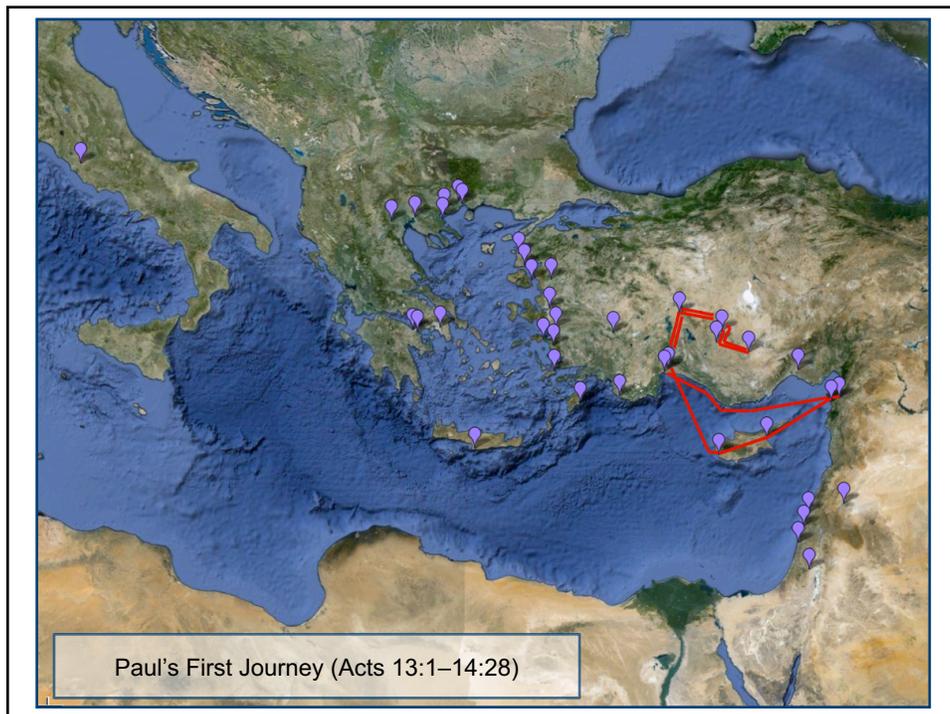


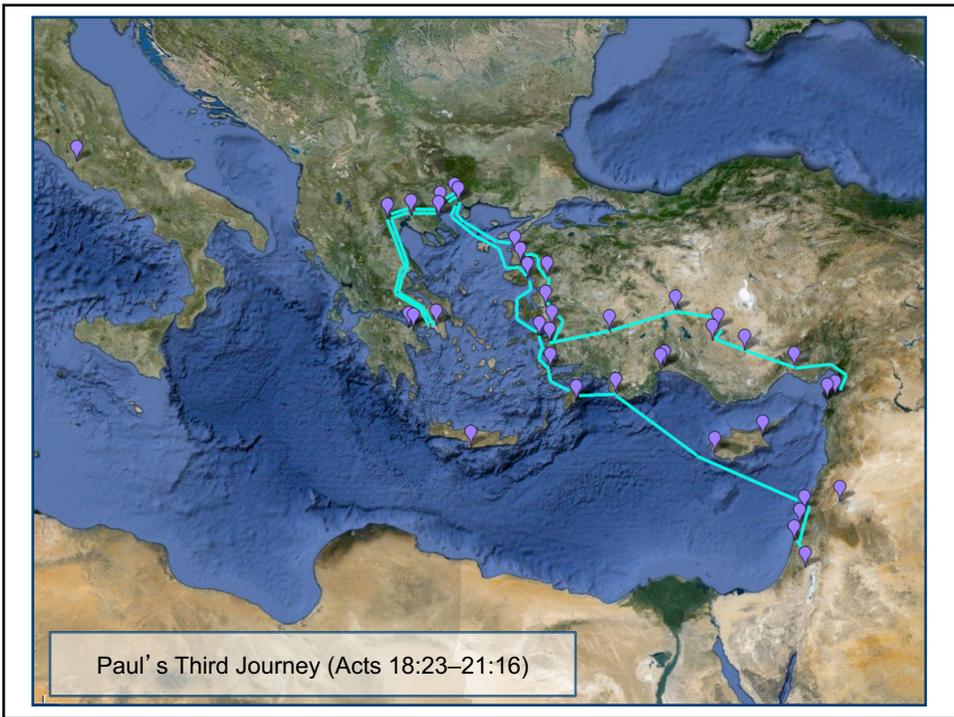
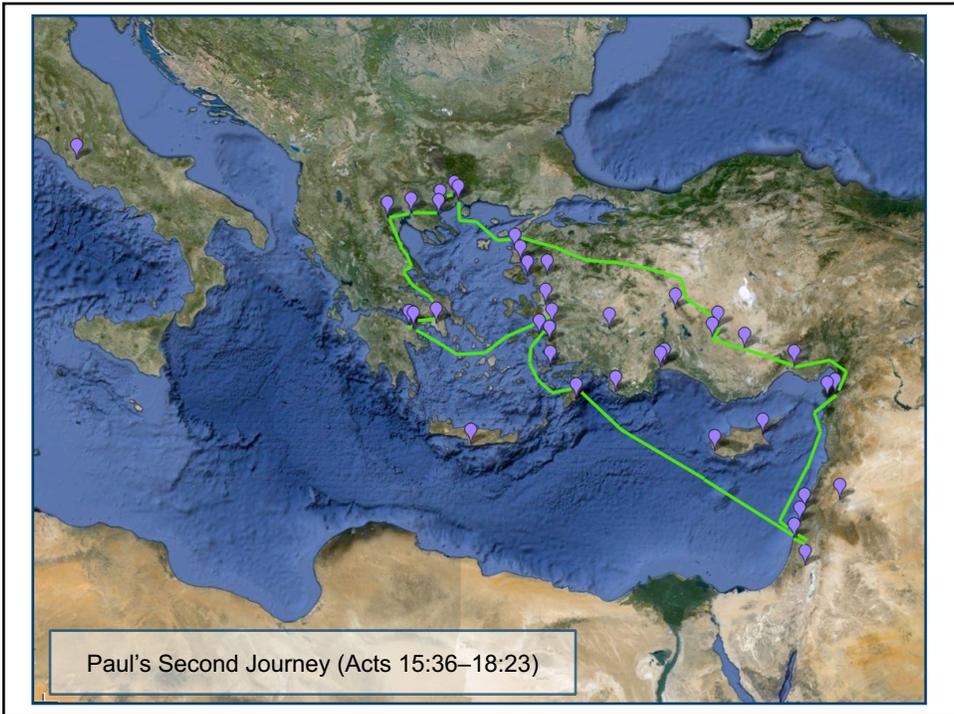
Fifth-century fresco in the Cave of Sts. Paul and Thecla in Ephesus

Paul

Brief Bio

- Born in 10 CE in Tarsus, Asia Minor (Turkey)
- A zealous Pharisee and Roman citizen
- Converts to Christianity around 34 CE (after Jesus' death)
- Takes his message on the road to Asia Minor and Greece





Paul

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- A zealous Pharisee and Roman citizen
- Converts to Christianity around 34 CE (after Jesus' death)
- Takes his message on the road to Asia Minor and Greece
- Writes letters to communities he visited if he hears of problems or questions (51–62 CE)
- Arrested in Jerusalem c.60 CE
- Dies in Rome c.62 CE during a persecution by Nero

Our NT Texts

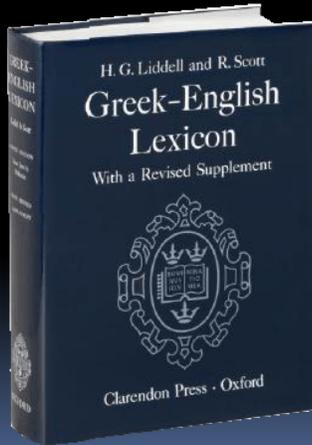
- 1 Corinthians – written by Paul to the Christians in Corinth, 51-56 CE
- Romans – written by Paul to the Christians in Rome, 54-58 CE
- 1 Timothy – ostensibly by Paul, but likely pseudonymous, written perhaps in Ephesus (Turkey), c. 100 CE
- Jude – ostensibly by the brother of James, the brother of the Lord (thus Jude is Jesus' brother too), but likely written at the end of the first century (c.90 CE)

1 Corinthians 6:9

What do the Greek terms mean?

A very rare word

αρσενοκοιται



ἄρραφος, ον, (βάπτω) without seam, Ev.Jo.19.23; J.AJ3.7.4. 2. *without sutures*, Gal.UP.11.19.
 ἄραγθές, ἄσινετον, Hsch.
 ἄρεκτος, ον, v. ἄρεκτος.
 ἄρρεν-, see also ἄρρεν-.
 ἄρρενική, ἡ, and ἄρρενικόν, τό, v. ἄρρενικόν.
 ἄρρενικός, ἡ, ἄν, (ἄρρη) male, σωματίον POxy.2717 (i A.D.); φόν PMag.Lond.121.522, cf. Luc.DDeor.16.1; opp. θηλυκός, IG.14.72.5 (Cumae); less Att. form ἄρρενικός Call.Epigr.27, POxy.38.7 (i A.D.), AP5.115 (Marc. Arg.); λίβανον ἄ. PMag.Par.1.906; cf. λίβανος. 2. virile, M. Ant.11.18 (Comp.); of masculine gender, Plu.2.1011c; πτώσις Ph.1.294; (ἄρσ-) D.T.634.17, etc. Adv. -κώς, opp. θηλυκώς, Phil. Phil.12, cf. Ath.13.590b, (ἄρσ-) Str.8.3.11.
 ἄρρενο-γυμέω, = τοὺς ἄρρενας γυμῶν, Anon. in EN.428.16. -γονέω, beget or bear male children, Thphr.HP9.18.5; Ph.1.262. ἄρρενο-γονία, ἡ, begetting or bearing of male children, Arist.HA585^b11. -γόνος, ον, begetting or bearing male children, ib.573^b32, 585^b13; αἱ σικκραι κοτυληθόνες ἄρσ. Hp.Steril.230; of drugs, promoting the conception of males, Dsc.3.140. 2. ἄρρενογόνον, τό, = φύλλον 111, dog's mercury, Mercurialis perennis, Thphr.HP9.18.5, Dsc.3.125, Plin.NH26.162. ἄρρενοκοίτης, ον, δ, sodomite, APg.686; (ἄρσ-) 1 Ep.Cor.6.9. -κέω, bear male children, Str.4.6.8. -μάνης, es, mad after males, of men, Cat.Cod.Astr.8(2).43, v.1. in Heph.Astr.1.1. -μικτής, ον, δ, = ἄρρενοκοίτης, (ἄρσ-) Man.4.590. -μίξια, ἡ, sodomy, S.E.P.1.152, 3.109.
 ἄρρενόματι, become a man, do the duties of one, Luc.Am.19; of a woman, πλέον τῆς φύσεως ἄ. Ph.2.328; φρόνημα ἄρρενομένων ib.53;

1 Corinthians 6:9

What do the Greek terms mean?

αρσενοκοιται

Leviticus 18:22

You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; such a thing is an abomination.

Greek

22 καὶ μετὰ ἄρσενος οὐ κοιμηθήσῃ
 κοίτην γυναικός· βδέλυγμα γὰρ ἐστίν.

Hebrew

22 וְאִתְּ-זָכָר לֹא תִשְׁכַּב
 מִשְׁכַּבִּי אִשָּׁה תוֹעֵבָה הוּא׃

chair	+	man
αρσενος	+	κοιτην
man	+	bed
under	+	stand
זכר	+	תשכב
man	+	bed

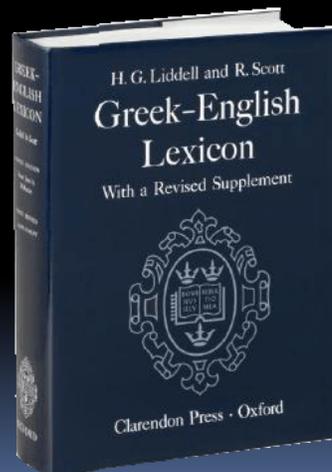
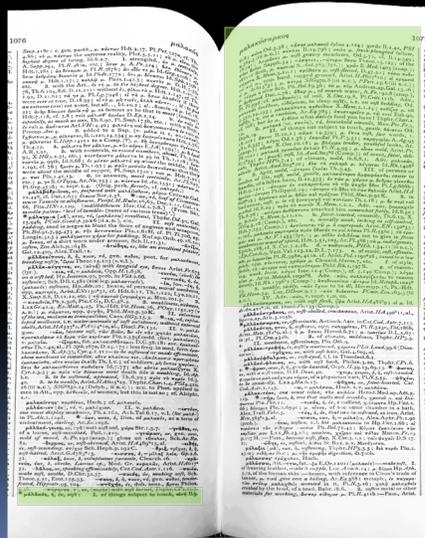
1 Corinthians 6:9 What do the Greek terms mean?

Translation	<i>μαλακος</i>	<i>αρσενοκοιται</i>
Rheims		liers with mankind
RSV	homosexuals	
Jerusalem Bible		sodomites
Good News	homosexual perverts	
NAB		sodomites
NRSV		sodomites
New Jerusalem		sodomites
Christian Community		sodomites
NIV		homosexual offenders
NAS		homosexuals
NLT		practice homosexuality
KJV		abusers of themselves with mankind

1 Corinthians 6:9 What do the Greek terms mean?

μαλακος

A very common word



1 Corinthians 6:9

What do the Greek terms mean?

Translation	<i>μαλακος</i>	<i>αρσενοκοιται</i>
Rheims	effeminate	liers with mankind
RSV		homosexuals
Jerusalem Bible	catamites	sodomites
Good News		homosexual perverts
NAB	boy prostitutes	sodomites
NRSV	male prostitutes	sodomites
New Jerusalem	self-indulgent	sodomites
Christian Community	perverts	sodomites
NIV	male prostitutes	homosexual offenders
NAS	effeminate	homosexuals
NLT	male prostitutes	practice homosexuality
KJV	effeminate	abusers of themselves with mankind

Romans 1:26-27

What does Paul condemn, and why?

²⁴ Διὸ παρέδωκεν αὐτοὺς ὁ θεὸς ἐν ταῖς ἐπιθυμίαις τῶν καρδιῶν αὐτῶν εἰς ἀκαθαρσίαν τοῦ ἀτιμάζεσθαι τὰ σώματα αὐτῶν ἐν αὐτοῖς ²⁵ ὅτινες μετέλλαξαν τὴν ἀλήθειαν τοῦ θεοῦ ἐν τῷ ψεύδει καὶ ἐσεβάσθησαν καὶ ἐλάτρευσαν τῇ κτίσει παρά τὸν κτίσαντα, ὅς ἐστιν εὐλογητὸς εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας, ἀμήν.

²⁶ Διὰ τοῦτο παρέδωκεν αὐτοὺς ὁ θεὸς εἰς πάθη ἀτιμίας, αἵ τε γὰρ θήλειαι αὐτῶν μετέλλαξαν τὴν φυσικὴν χρῆσιν εἰς τὴν παρά φύσιν.

²⁷ ὁμοίως τε καὶ οἱ ἄρσενες ἀφέντες τὴν φυσικὴν χρῆσιν τῆς θηλείας ἐξεκαύθησαν ἐν τῇ ὀρέξει αὐτῶν εἰς ἀλλήλους, ἄρσενες ἐν ἄρσεσιν τὴν ἀσχημοσύνην καταργαζόμενοι καὶ τὴν ἀντιμισθίαν ἣν ἔδει τῆς πλάνης αὐτῶν ἐν ἐαυτοῖς ἀπολαμβάνοντες.

Rom. 1:24 Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the degrading of their bodies among themselves, ²⁵ because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

Rom. 1:26 For this reason God gave them up to degrading passions. Their women exchanged natural intercourse for unnatural, ²⁷ and in the same way also the men, giving up natural intercourse with women, were consumed with passion for one another. Men committed shameless acts with men and received in their own persons the due penalty for their error.

Romans 1:26-27

Why does it condemn same-sex behavior?

¹⁹ For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰ Ever since the creation of the world his eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things he has made. So they are without excuse; ²¹ for though they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their senseless minds were darkened. ²² Claiming to be wise, they became fools; ²³ and they exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling a mortal human being or birds or four-footed animals or reptiles.

- Romans 1:19-24

Romans 1:26-28

What does it group same-sex acts with?

- females exchanging natural for unnatural Rom 1:26
- males exchanging natural for unnatural Rom 1:27
- filled with every form of wickedness
 - evil, greed, malice, envy, murder, rivalry, treachery and spite Rom 1:29
 - gossips, scandalmongers, hate god Rom 1:29-30
 - insolent, haughty, boastful, ingenious in their wickedness, rebellious toward their parents
 - senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless Rom 1:31

Romans 1:26-27

What is the punishment?

They know God's decree, that those who practice such things deserve to die—yet they not only do them but even applaud others who practice them.

- Romans 1:32

Final Question

Is the disgust with male gay sex fundamentally a disgust with the female?