

Gay Couples In The Bible

*Gay couples in the Bible raises questions
and ignites some interesting discussions.*





David by Michelangelo, 1501 - 1504

Gay couples in the Bible? When many gay people read the Bible they see gay couples that heterosexuals miss.

Here are four of the most famous gay couples in the Bible, at least, many people believe they were gay or bisexual. And for your edification, we include another gay guy - the first individual in the New Testament recorded as getting saved by grace through faith - the Ethiopian eunuch.

In my opinion there is not enough factual information about Naomi and Ruth or Daniel and Ashpenaz, to thoughtfully conclude that they were gay couples. I list them here because some people believe they were gay. The Link for Ruth and Naomi does present some interesting material which thinking Christians should consider.

- 1: [David and Jonathan](#) in 1 Samuel 18.
- 2: Daniel and Ashpenaz in Daniel.
- 3: The [Centurion and his beloved servant](#) in Matthew 8.

And here's a very likely gay man in the New Testament, the [Ethiopian Eunuch](#).

Non-gay Christians dispute that any of these Bible celebrities were gay. However, it seems unlikely that in a book like the Bible, which covers four thousand years of human history, there would be absolutely no gay people. Even the most vocal anti-gay Christians cannot prove that assertion. In any case, let's look at what some view as the most famous gay couple in scripture and see if the Bible gives additional insight.

Gay Couples In The Bible - David's Intense Sorrow At Jonathan's Death Indicates They Were More Than Platonic Friends

*"And the Philistines followed hard upon Saul and upon his sons; and **the Philistines slew Jonathan**, and Abinadab, and Malchishua, Saul's sons." 1 Samuel 31:2.*

"Then David took hold on his clothes, and rent them; and likewise all the men that were with him: And they mourned, and wept, and fasted until even, for Saul, and for Jonathan his son, and for the people of the LORD, and for the house of Israel; because they were fallen by the sword." 2 Samuel 1:11-12.



It is impossible for every love story to have a happy ending.

Many non-gay Christians insist there are no gay couples in the Bible. They read the story of David and Jonathan and conclude they were just platonic friends. Given the fervent pathos with which the Bible describes their relationship and the fact that this is the longest and best-described human love story in the Bible, the non-gay Christian conclusion seems strangely lacking in spiritual discernment.

As seen on the previous page... The Hermitage titles this painting,

"David's Farewell From Jonathan."

Rembrandt painted this around 1660. The painting is in St. Petersburg, Russia, at the Hermitage Museum. Some art historians believe this painting depicts King David and his son Absalom being reconciled, not Jonathan and David.

When Jonathan and David parted company for the last recorded time in 1 Samuel 23:16-18, they undoubtedly believed they would be together again. It is possible they had numerous meetings between their last recorded meeting and Jonathan's untimely death in battle against the Philistines, 1 Samuel 31:2. Yet scripture records no further meetings. Jonathan disappears from the narrative until his death in battle.

David has just returned from a military campaign against the Amalekites when he learns, from an Amalekite, of Jonathan's death, 2 Samuel 1:1-5, 1:13. By this time, the bodies of Saul and his three sons, have been defiled and hung from the city wall of Bethshan, 1 Samuel 31:8-13.

Did the Philistines behead Saul as payback because David beheaded Goliath in 1 Samuel 17:51-54?



JONATHAN LOVINGLY TAKETH HIS LEAVE OF DAVID. (1. SAMUEL. XX., 41.) FROM AN ORIGINAL WOODCUT PUBLISHED IN 1869 BY GEORG WIGAND, LEIPZIG

Julius Schnorr, German School
Died in 1872

David's grief over the death of Saul and Jonathan is voiced in lamentation as David writes and sings his first Psalm recorded in scripture,

2 Samuel 1:19-27.

Is It Really Possible There Are Gay Couples In The Bible? Here Is David's Emotional Public Eulogy - You Be The Judge

"Saul and Jonathan were lovely and pleasant in their lives, and in their death they were not divided: they were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions. Ye daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, who clothed you in scarlet, with other delights, who put on ornaments of gold upon your apparel.

How are the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle! O Jonathan, thou wast slain in thine high places.

*I am distressed for thee my brother **Jonathan**: very pleasant hast thou been unto me: **thy love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women.***

How are the mighty fallen, and the weapons of war perished!"

God Knew That Homosexuality Would Be Controversial



God has a wise purpose for everything He allows. Knowing the controversy homosexuality would cause in the modern church, God inspired Samuel to record David's [unambiguous statement about his loving partnership with Jonathan.](#)

Jonathan Greeting David,

after David killed Goliath, Gottfried Bernhard Goz, 1708-1774.

Do David's unambiguous words about Jonathan support or deny the view that there are no gay couples in the Bible?

David's words are so startlingly clear that many non-gay Christians say to themselves,

"Gay couples in the Bible? He couldn't possibly mean that, could he?" To which gay Christians reply, "Well, since David said it, he must have meant it. And since God quoted David in scripture it is definitely true!"

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David's character shines in his eulogy for Saul and Jonathan

Although Samuel anointed David King in 1 Samuel 16:13, some fifteen years earlier, David was content to wait for many years as God orchestrated circumstances to actually put him on the throne. Have you ever experienced how difficult it is to wait upon God and keep to His timetable instead of yours? Two times David could have killed Saul and seized the Kingdom. Both times David refused to harm the LORD's anointed.

Now, with King Saul dead, David sorrows because for all his faults, Saul was Israel's first King, anointed by God. David also sorrows because Israel has been defeated by enemies who should have been driven from the land hundreds of years earlier, in the original conquest, Joshua 13:2-3. And most of all, David sorrows because the great love of his life is gone, killed in battle. For David, there will never be another love like Jonathan.

Gay couples in the Bible? David's public mourning for Jonathan indicates his soldiers and all Israel knew the intensity of their intimate relationship.

David and Jonathan's loving intimate relationship was public from beginning to end. If someone was objectively looking for gay couples in the Bible, it seems like David and Jonathan would leap off the page.

Think about it. Jonathan could not have maintained a fifteen year, intimate relationship or visited David in his wilderness stronghold without willing cooperation from his and Saul's soldiers, who covered for him, and from David's soldiers, who insured Jonathan's access to David.

David's acknowledgment of his enormous loss is as public as their partnership.

Jonathan and David were the celebrity superstars of their day. Every action in battle, every word uttered in public, was subject matter for discussion. At the time David writes and sings this Psalm for Jonathan, he is married to at least three wives.

Yet scripture does not tell us David's wives felt bitter jealousy when David publicly proclaimed Jonathan's love more important, more fulfilling, surpassing the love of his wives. They felt David's loss and grieved with him for Jonathan. David's loving polygamous family shared his unfathomable loss and his broken heart.

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Gay Couples In The Bible? David's Startling Comparison Only Makes Sense If Jonathan And David Were Intimate Partners.

"my brother [ach] Jonathan [given by Jehovah]: very [meod] pleasant [na'em] hast thou been unto me: thy love [ahabah] to me was wonderful [pala'], passing the love [ahabah] of women [ishshah]." II Samuel 1:26.

We gain fascinating insight into David's love for Jonathan from the words used in the Hebrew text.

David och Saul,

by Julius Kronberg, 1850-1921.

Some gays believe Kronberg intended this painting to represent David and Jonathan, rather than David and Saul, as the title suggests. David's public eulogy in front of his soldiers, pays loving tribute to Jonathan, the partner given to him by Jehovah, 1 Samuel 20:8.

In the context of David's statement, that Jonathan's love surpassed the love of women, the Hebrew word *ach* emphasizes the reciprocal love Jonathan and David shared. If it ...

looks like gay couples in the Bible,
walks like gay couples in the Bible,
talks like gay couples in the Bible,
acts like gay couples in the Bible,
loves like gay couples in the Bible,
then it probably **is** gay couples in the Bible!

That Hebrew word *ach* meaning "brother" reminded David's testosterone fueled army of the fifteen year partnership they facilitated between two men who planned to rule Israel together, 1 Samuel 23:17. Because there was nothing shameful or dishonorable about Jonathan and David's intimate love, David feels free to memorialize their love in front of his army. When David remembers Jonathan, he is still entranced by their timeless love.



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David emphasizes the pleasantness of their mutual love

by using the Hebrew word *meod*, meaning, exceeding abundantly. The Holy Spirit described Jonathan's delight in David as *hapes meod*. David describes his love for Jonathan with the word *meod*. The Hebrew word translated pleasant is *na'em*, meaning pleasant, beautiful, sweet, delightful, lovely.

The Hebrew word for love is *ahabah*. It conveys the idea of romantic sexual desire. The Hebrew word for wonderful is *pala'* which conveys a sense of the wondrous, surpassing, beyond one's power to express, extraordinary. The love Jonathan demonstrated for David was so powerful, David the artistic poet-warrior of Israel has difficulty adequately describing it.

No Gay Couples In The Bible? Are You Absolutely Sure Of That?



If Jonathan and David were not a gay couple, why did David use the same word to describe Jonathan's love as he used to describe the love of his wives?

David preparing to fight Goliath.

The Hebrew word, *ahabah*, occurs twice in this passage, both times translated *love*. David uses the [same Hebrew word to describe Jonathan's love](#) as he used to describe the love of his wives.

Think about that! It is important because it goes to the whole point of the Jonathan and David relationship. David was an eyewitness, a participant. He was personally involved in this intimate romantic 15 year long sexual relationship.

The same word that describes Jonathan's love for David also describes the love of David's wives for David.

How could God and David and the human authors of scripture make it any more clear? David and Jonathan were committed romantic intimate long-term sexual partners.

David speaks of Jonathan's *ahabah* for him and compares it with the *ahabah* of his wives. The Hebrew word for women is *ishshah*, meaning wife, married to a man, translated *wife* 425 times in the KJV or meaning *woman*, in contrast to a man, translated *woman* 324 times in the KJV.

Gay Couples In The Bible? David is memorializing far more than nonsexual friendship when he sings of Jonathan's incredible love for him.

Are you gay or lesbian? Do you have a friend or family member who is gay or lesbian? Did it ever occur to you that God placed this story in the Bible to affirm His blessing on committed faithful non-cultic gay and lesbian relationships and on gay marriage? Pray about that for a while.

God loves His gay and lesbian children and He did NOT leave us without affirmation of our relationships. David, the greatest hero of the Old Testament and a wonderful type of Christ is presented in scripture as a bisexual and/or a same sex attracted man who intimately loved another man. And David sings his eulogy in public, accompanying himself on his harp, in front of his hard-charging, testosterone-laden, Philistine-fighting, army of mighty men!

[He is comparing the romantic emotional sexual love he experienced with Jonathan to the romantic emotional sexual love he experienced with his wives.](#)

And according to the Bible and King David, Jonathan won that contest hands down! Have you considered that David's army does not desert him? No one trots out Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13, divorces them from their context of shrine prostitution and insists to the grieving King that gay relationships are wrong and his covenant partnership with Crown Prince Jonathan was sinfully wrong. In the ancient near Eastern cultural context, men did not enjoy intimate nonsexual friendships with women to whom they were not related by consanguinity (blood relationship) or affinity (marriage relationship).



David's analogy, comparing Jonathan's love

for him to the love of his wives, is a strong public statement of the intimate romantic emotional sexual nature of David and Jonathan's relationship.

And in case you missed it, please reread 1 Samuel 20:30. King Saul, who knew David and Jonathan as well as anyone could know them, believed they were sexually intimate and blasts Jonathan with a crude Hebrew vulgarity in furious argument with his son.

After reading the Jonathan and David story as God the Holy Spirit presents it in scripture, it is difficult for any honest Christian to conclude that there are no gay couples in the Bible.

Non-gay Christians, Complementarians and most traditionalists utterly reject the possibility that David's eulogy for Jonathan has any sexual implications. When we consider David's words, there are seven possible meanings.



There are many other wonderful love stories in the Bible between Same Sex couples of male to male & women to women, which we haven't touched on in this eBooklet....

But you can discover them for yourself and found in our OUTREACH MINISTRIES AUSTRALIA HQ web site at

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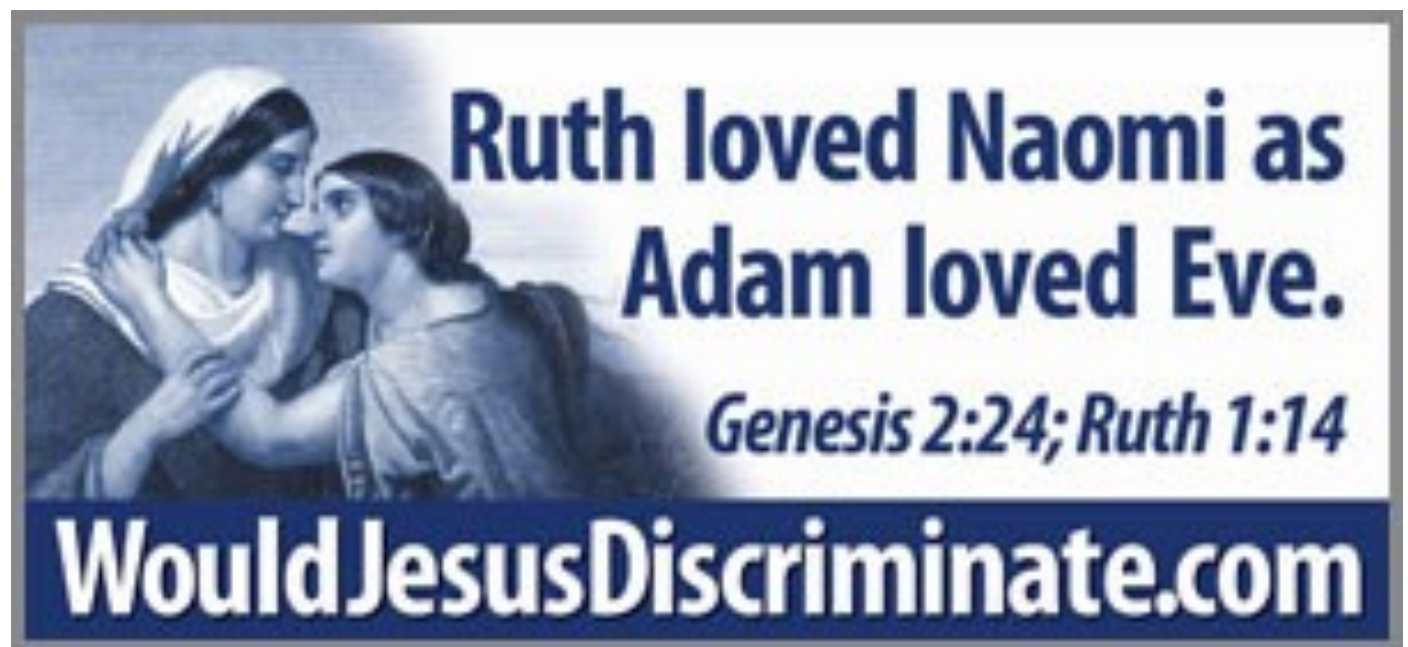
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Chapter 1: verses 9 & 10, and 12 to 17 and

Ruth loved Naomi as Adam loved Eve

The same Hebrew word that is used in Genesis 2:24 to describe how Adam felt about Eve (and how spouses are supposed to feel toward each other) is used in Ruth 1:14 to describe how Ruth felt about Naomi. Her feelings are celebrated, not condemned.

And throughout Christian history, Ruth's vow to Naomi has been used to illustrate the nature of the marriage covenant. These words are often read at Christian wedding ceremonies and used in sermons to illustrate the ideal love that spouses should have for one another. The fact that these words were originally spoken by one woman to another tells us a lot about how God feels about same-gender relationships.



Your NOTES:

