

## Eunuchs

Eunuchs include LGBTQIA people in the Bible. They have body modification and become a third gender. But that doesn't matter to Jesus. He still accepts them.

Matthew 19:12

<sup>12</sup>For there are eunuchs who have been so from birth, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by others, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Let anyone accept this who can.”

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+19%3A12&version=NRSVUE>

Eunuchs are defined by Jesus here in 3 different ways.

1. Who have been so from birth
2. Who have been made eunuchs by others
3. Who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven.

Unfortunately in English we only deal with #2 definition. The Church typically deals with definition #3. But definition #1 is the mystery. Who was Jesus talking about?

Paul says that gender doesn't matter to be accepted as a child of God.

Galatians 3:28

28 There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians+3%3A28&version=NRSVUE>

This means that God accepts all genders.

Here's an article about living eunuchs in India and Pakistan.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3354843/>

Per the article:

"Eunuchs are given a homogenous social identity, irrespective of their physical or endocrine status. The Sanskrit term "tritiya prakriti," or third nature, is used to classify them.[3] They are considered infertile persons, with a female gender identity, with masculine secondary sexual characteristics, with or without male external genitalia, with feminine gender role, with predominantly homosexual identity. While the sexual identity of eunuchs is considered

homosexual by the general public, no work has been done to assess their sexual orientation or endocrine status.

"The eunuchs can therefore be termed as male-to-female (MTF) transsexuals. The etiology of transsexualism or gender identity disorder is controversial. MTF transsexual persons may have abnormal hormonal imprinting, genetic makeup, or psychological attitude toward gender. They constitute a heterogeneous group of people, rather than conforming to a single genotypic or sexual stereotype."

The hijras or eunuchs communities of India and Pakistan stand as historical witnesses of the ancient eunuch truth, that they were LGBTQIA. Their communities have been around for over 2000 years. The LGBTQIA who were with the eunuchs were the eunuchs Jesus was talking about when he said "who have been so from birth". Of course we can't rule out also the intersex people doing the same.

Eunuchs served the elite in several ancient civilizations: Judea, Babylon, Rome, Persia, India, and even Ethiopia. They were always treated the same, as outsiders to society.

But some may say that India is too far away from Judea and Jerusalem. That they have no cultural ties with Israel. Yet in Esther we find that that's not the case.

Esther 1:1-2

This happened in the days of Ahasuerus, the same Ahasuerus who ruled over one hundred twenty-seven provinces from India to Cush. <sup>2</sup>In those days when King Ahasuerus sat on his royal throne in the citadel of Susa,

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Esther%201%3A1-2&version=NRSVUE>

As it so happens, in the days of the story of Esther, Persia spanned from India, which is part of today's Pakistan, to the Mediterranean Sea engulfing Judea and Israel. There had to be an interaction between cultures.

And then in Esther 2 we have something more. We have an actual eunuch interacting with Esther. The eunuch is named Hagai and is said to be the King's eunuch. The King who is over a part of India who has a eunuch. And today in India are eunuchs who claim to be trans and who also claim their community goes this far back. Now, of course, Esther is just a story, fiction. Yet, it had to be believable. So, eunuchs must have been a thing in Persia at the time. And in fact, Xerxes 1, which is the historical name of King Ahasuerus, did indeed rule part of India.

Here is the thing about eunuchs who were made. I think it's important to put them into context.

The following article details how eunuchs were made in the Middle Ages.

<https://medievalslavery.org/africa/source-eunuchs-in-ethiopia-hadiya-in-al-%CA%BFumaris-geography/>

The process involves castrating boys before puberty so that they retain the feminine look. They were considered the third gender. In a very bizarre way, the eunuchs who were made eunuchs were transsexuals but not by choice but by force. And it wasn't just removal of genitals, it was for the purpose that hormones would not take effect in the body. So Jesus' meaning when he says eunuchs takes on a whole different dimension. Unfortunately the English language is more rigid than the ancient Greek. In the Greek the term for eunuch has a meaning that is broad, more broad than the English one. Perhaps that's why we ended up with words like transsexual and transgender. We just needed more words.

Love God, Love others, don't hate

1 John 4:7-20

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+John+4%3A7-20&version=NRSVUE>

1 Corinthians 13

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+13+&version=NRSVUE>