

God and Men View Pride Differently
(Malachi 3:15; 4:1)

Introduction:

1. These verses show that "God and men view pride differently."
 - a. We read about man's view in Malachi 3:15.
 - 1) *"We call the proud happy."*
 - 2) *"They that work wickedness are set up."*
 - 3) *"They that tempt God are even delivered."*
 - b. We read about God's view in Malachi 4:1.
 - 1) *"All the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble."*
 - 2) *"The day that cometh shall burn them up."*
 - 3) *"It shall leave them neither root nor branch."*
2. Additional passages that relate to pride include:
 - a. Proverbs 16:18
 - b. 1 John 2:16
 - c. James 4:6b.
3. On the basis of these principles, let us determine God's view of "gay pride" that is receiving a great amount of attention this month.

Discussion:

- I. FIRST, LET US DETERMINE GOD'S VIEW OF GAY PRIDE DURING THE TIME OF THE PATRIARCHS
 - A. We learn from Genesis 12:1-3 that God selected Abraham to be the father of His chosen people [the Israelites].
 - B. The Gentiles had become so wicked that God gave them up (Romans 1:18-32).
 - C. Homosexuality was one of the sins practiced by the Gentiles (Romans 1:26-27).
 - D. The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah illustrates the wickedness of the Gentiles.
 1. The people of Sodom were wicked when Lot moved there (Genesis 13:13).
 2. Later, the Lord inspected the wickedness of Sodom (Genesis 18:20-21).
 3. Two angels discovered how wicked Sodom was (Genesis 19:1-14).
 4. The Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19:24-25).
 5. This horrible event is also mentioned in Jude 7 for our benefit.
- II. SECOND, LET US DETERMINE GOD'S VIEW OF GAY PRIDE WHEN THE LAW OF MOSES WAS IN EFFECT
 - A. The law prohibited homosexuality (Leviticus 20:13; Deuteronomy 23:17).
 - B. Even though the law was very clear, Judah's kings responded to it differently.
 1. Rehoboam disobeyed by allowing sodomites to exist (1 Kings 14:21-24).
 2. The sodomites were expelled by Judah's good kings, including:
 - a. Asa (1 Kings 15:11-12)
 - b. Jehoshaphat (1 Kings 22:45-46)
 - c. Josiah (2 Kings 23:7).
 3. The presence of sodomites was an indication of Judah's moral condition.
- III. THIRD, LET US DETERMINE GOD'S VIEW OF GAY PRIDE IN THE CHRISTIAN AGE
 - A. Jesus included *"fornications"* with other activities that will cause a person to be defiled (Mark 7:20-23).
 - B. "Fornication" [illicit sexual activity, including homosexuality] is a work of the flesh that will prevent a person from inheriting God's kingdom (Galatians 5:19-21).
 - C. Homosexuals will not inherit God's kingdom (1 Corinthians 6:9-10).
 - D. Thankfully, forgiveness is available (1 Corinthians 6:11; Acts 18:8).

Conclusion:

1. Advocates and sympathizers of gay pride would probably consider this lesson to be "hate speech."
2. We are responsible for *"speaking the truth in love"* (Ephesians 4:16).
3. For a closing thought, would the people who lived in Sodom and Gomorrah have some advice for us? (Jude 7)