

The Letter to the
Hebrews



Introduction

- Hebrews 7 returns to one of the themes that Jesus is a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.
- Once again, the readers see that Jesus is superior to anything they may have experienced (OT law, priesthood, etc.)

**God Was Not Limited
by the Levitical
Tradition**

Hebrews 7:1-3

Levitical Tradition

- In this passage a scene between Abraham and Melchizedek is outlined.
- The Jewish people knew that, according to the Law given by Moses, priests could only come from one tribe (tribe of Levi).
- Numbers 18:6 - "I have taken your brothers the Levites" for priestly service.

Levitical Tradition

- Jesus ushers in a new priesthood because He is from the tribe of Judah.
- The tribe of Judah was not known for producing priests. That is why the author now focuses on Melchizedek.
- Melchizedek is a king of Salem and also a priest of the Most High God.

Levitical Tradition

- It also says that Melchizedek is without mother, father, or genealogy.
- He is without beginning or end, but resembling the Son of God (7:3).
- Many consider him to be a divine being or a pre-incarnate Christ. Certainly, he represents a “type” of Christ.

Levitical Tradition

- He may not be the pre-incarnate Christ for a few reasons:
 - He is described as a king of a local city, not as an angel of the Lord.
 - Christ is described as being after the “order” of Melchizedek, which differentiates the two individuals.

Levitical Tradition

- On the other hand, we have to address the claim that he is without mother, father or genealogy. Also, that he is without beginning or end.
- The purpose of the author is to emphasize the differences between the Levitical and Melchizedek priesthoods.

Levitical Tradition

- Levitical priesthood had everything to do with mother, father, and genealogy.
- Levitical priesthood has distinct beginnings and endings with the birth and death of every priest.
- So this is talking about an eternal priesthood through Melchizedek.

Levitical Tradition

- There is no record or genealogy of Melchizedek. That is why he resembles or is like the Son of God (7:3).
- And he is not only a priest, but he is also a king - this unifies the two roles together.
- Abraham's meeting with Melchizedek is an historical precedent for the priesthood.

Levitical Tradition

- The writer of Hebrews likes to see Jesus in the Old Testament.
- One commentator put it this way: “he likes to harvest Jesus fruit from Old Testament trees.”
- He connects Jesus to the enigmatic king and priest Melchizedek.

Jesus and the Priesthood

Hebrews 7:4-10

Priesthood

- The author now begins to describe how Melchizedek is superior to the Levitical priests.
- First, Melchizedek is genealogically different than the Levitical priests.
- He stands on his own as a priest and king distinct from Levitical priests.

Priesthood

- Second, the blessing of Abraham by Melchizedek shows his superiority to Abraham.
- That Abraham would receive a blessing from Melchizedek shows Abraham's willingness to humble himself and receive a blessing from a superior leader.

Priesthood

- Notice the contrast in Genesis 14 where Abraham refuses the offer from the King of Sodom.
- Third, the Levites by association tithed to Melchizedek.
- That is because these priests were in the loins of Abraham (7:10).

Tithe

- “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.”
- “Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce”

Proverbs 3:5-6, 9

**The Sexual Revolution
and Homosexuality**

Introduction



Sexual Revolution

- The sexual revolution turned the tables on Christianity. The Christian church was understood to be the guardian of what is right and righteous.
- Now the culture identifies Christians as being on the wrong side of morality. We no longer hold the moral high ground.

Sexual Revolution

- Harvard professor Pitirim Sorokin wrote about the “American Sex Revolution” back in 1956.
- Since he grew up in Russia, he understood how revolutions take place.
- Alfred Kinsey, Masters and Johnson, Hugh Hefner and *Playboy*.

Sexual Revolution

- Birth control and contraception -
Christians generally opposed various methods for various reasons.
- Once the pill became a reliable form of birth control, the sexual revolution exploded into society.
- *Griswold v. Connecticut* (1965)

Sexual Revolution

- Divorce was inconceivable for most Christians but that changed in the 1960s.
- Attitudes toward divorce changed, and then laws regarding divorce changed.
- No fault divorce laws were quickly passed from 1969-1980.

Sexual Revolution

- Advanced reproductive technologies also changed our view of marriage and family.
- Until then, having a baby required a man and a woman in the act of sex.
- Everything changed. Now you could have sex without babies, and you could have babies without sex.

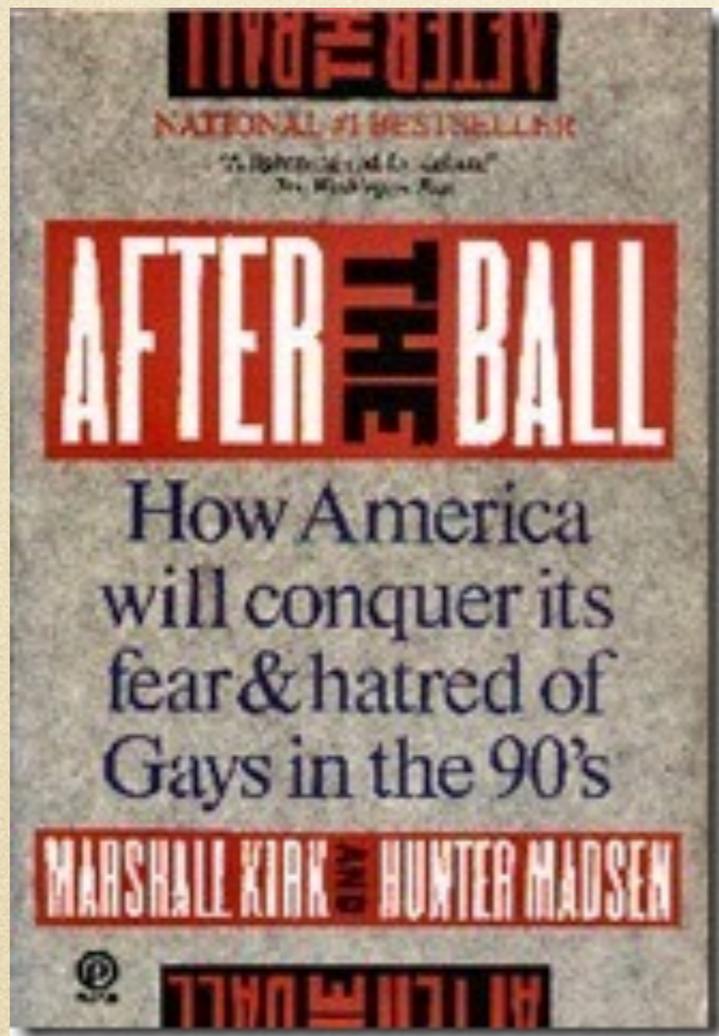
Sexual Revolution

- Cohabitation also changed our view of marriage and family.
- In the past, society believed that you were to save sex until marriage. Now that was considered old fashioned and repressive.
- Born out of wedlock (71% to black women 29% to white women).

Homosexual Movement

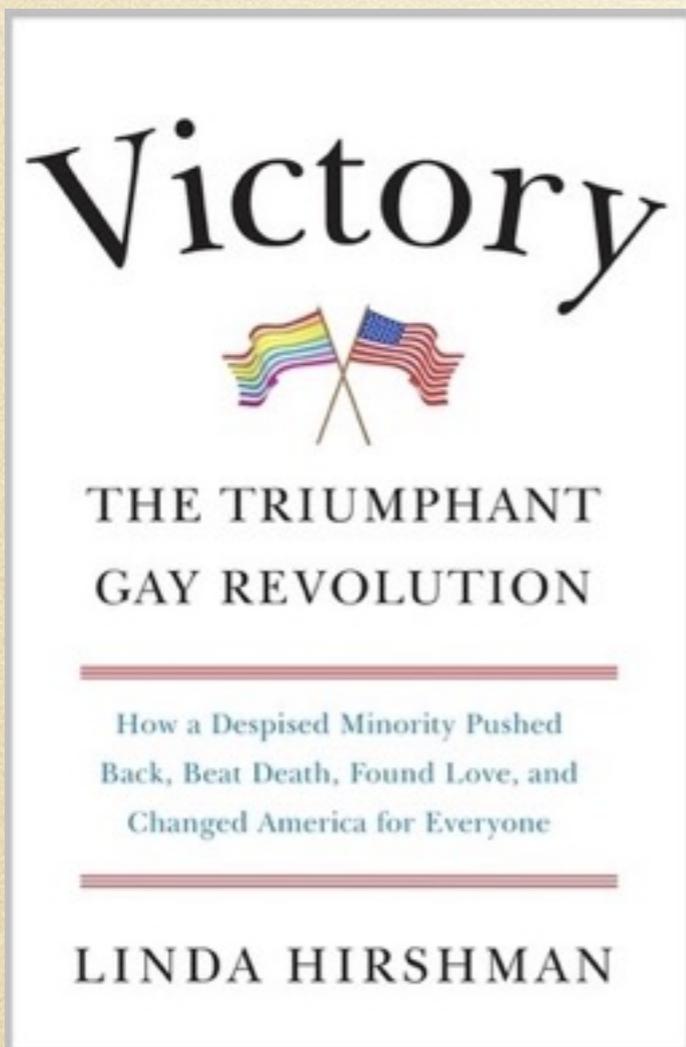
- How did the homosexual movement change it from a vice to a virtue?
- The moral revolution was an organized strategy.
- There is indeed a gay agenda, and leaders actually wrote out it.

Homosexual Movement



- Marshall Kirk and Hunter Madsen set out not just to get legal recognition but to change the culture.
- They used the AIDS crisis to achieve victim status in society.

Homosexual Movement



- Homosexuals were successful in beating back the “four horsemen” of moral judgment:
- Crazy, Sinful, Criminal, and Subversive.

Homosexual Movement

- Overcoming crazy - American Psychiatric Association and the DSM
- Overcoming sinful - mainline churches
- Overcoming criminal - *Romer v. Evans*, *Lawrence v. Texas*
- Overcoming subversive - TV programs: "Will and Grace" and "Modern Family"

Same-Sex Marriage

- The path to same-sex marriage involved two different homosexual groups:
- Liberationists - liberation of human sexuality - “We’re here! We’re queer! Get used to it!”
- Assimilationists - less confrontational, “We’re here, but we’re just like you.”

Same-Sex Marriage

- Redefining marriage quickly became a big issue for gay activists.
- Most people define marriage according to the nation's legal standards.
- That is why activists concluded that this legal victory would accomplish 90% of their stated goals.

Same-Sex Marriage

- Although there has been a shift in position concerning same-sex marriage, there is also a stiff wind of resistance.
- Natural law and general revelation remind us what real marriage is.
- Recent cases and elections illustrate concerns many people still have.

Transgender Revolution

- “Today’s generation often encounters material that no previous generation could possibly have comprehended.”
- Transgender is now considered to be the next civil right movement.
- At its core is a desire to eliminate the binary definition of gender.

Transgender Revolution

- The transgender movement would allow each person to determine their gender.
- It also includes the right to transform yourself through “gender reassignment surgery.”
- Undermines an understanding of human identity from a Christian perspective.

Transgender Revolution

- Already in European countries, preschools now prohibit the use of gendered pronouns. This has also been attempted in Canada and the United States.
- Also notice the use of the word “gender” rather than the word “sex.” This is intentional for the transgender revolution to be successful.

Biblical View

- Genesis 1 tells us that human beings were created in the image of God.
- These human beings are gendered and were given dominion over the Creation.
- Genesis 2 gives deeper insight into what it means to be human and what God intended for marriage.

Biblical View

- Genesis 3 explain why brokenness exists in the created order.
- In this fallen world, biblical marriage is even more important as a defense against the effects of sin in the world.
- Notice the relationship of the church to Jesus is depicted like marriage.

Religious Liberty

- Christians are asking whether they can even work in some occupations (baker, florist, photographer).
- The Supreme Court ruled 5-4 in favor of Hobby Lobby, and will now consider the other remaining cases.
- Next election will determine the future.

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**WE
CANNOT
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Speaking truth to a culture redefining sex,
marriage, & the very meaning of right & wrong

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