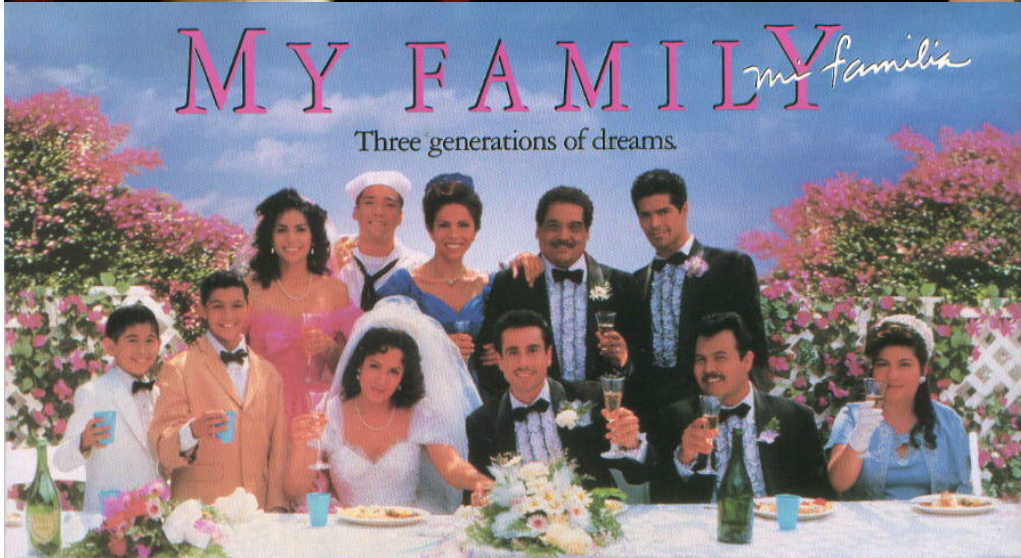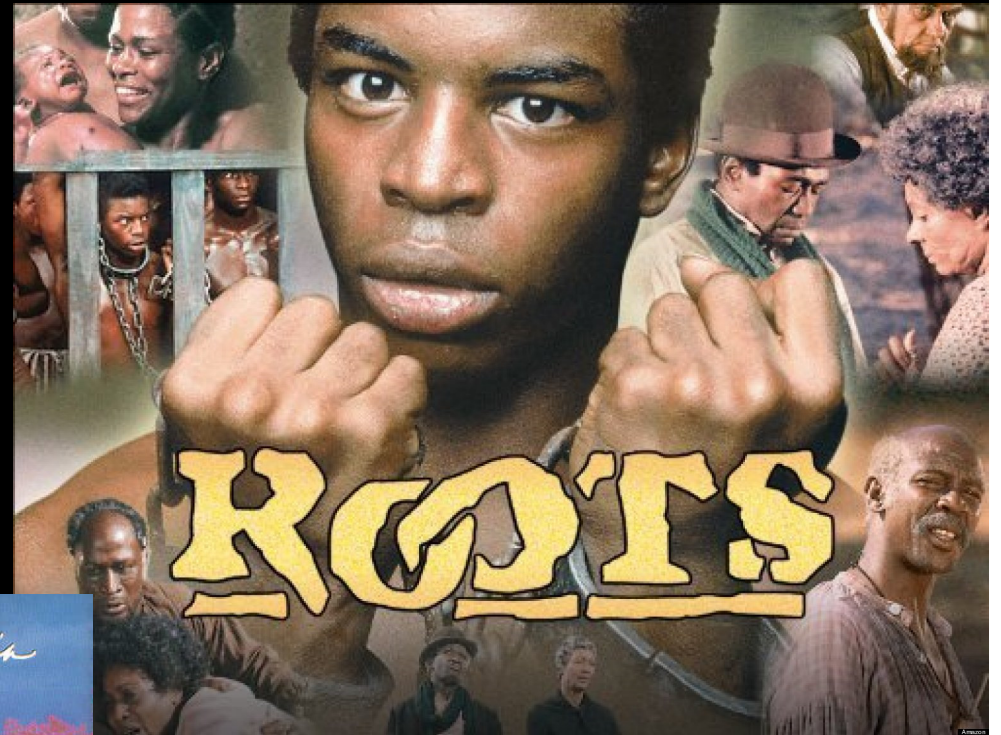# Jesus
and the
LGBTQ Community:
Part 2

Mako A. Nagasawa

What story do you live in?

What story do you live in?

Atheist Story

Origin: Big Bang, unknown origin of universe, earth, life

Human beings: physical, chemical beings

Relationships: social constructs; make other people fit your needs

Sex: pleasurable but ultimately functional, for the survival of the species; whatever works for you

Goal of Life: the survival of species

Future: coldness, darkness, death

Other People = Interchangeable Parts?

Christian Story

Origin: God created universe, earth, life

Human beings: image of God, body and soul, earth and heaven

Relationships: given and ordered by God

Sex: sacred act located in God's original ideal for human marriage: monogamous, heterosexual, loving, with no pre-marital sex, adultery, desertion, or divorce

Goal of Life: imaging and honoring God

Future: new heavens, new earth

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Goal of Life: the survival of species	Goal of Life: imaging and honoring God
Future: coldness, darkness, death	Future: new heavens, new earth

What Story?

Topics Related to LGBTQ Community

- Politics
- Science
- Scripture
- Personal
- Interpersonal
- Organizational

Scripture: God, Humanity, and the Physical World

- So what did God intend?
- How is God healing humanity and creation, in and through Jesus?
- How do we interpret each of our desires? Why do we always desire *more*?

What Did God Intend?

- [3] Some Pharisees came to Jesus, testing him and asking, 'Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any reason at all?' (Matthew 19:3)

What Did God Intend?

- [3] Some Pharisees came to Jesus, testing him and asking, 'Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any reason at all?' (Matthew 19:3)

- Jewish Law
  - [1] When a man takes a wife and marries her, and it happens that she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some indecency in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her out from his house... (Dt.24:1; cf. Mark 10:12 to see Jesus apply this to wives divorcing their husbands)

What Did God Intend?

- [4] And he answered them and said, 'Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning...' (Matthew 19:4) '... from the beginning...' (Matthew 19:8)

- What story do you live in?

What Did God Intend? Origin

What Did God Intend? Destiny

What Did God Intend?

- [4] And he answered them and said, 'Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female, [5] and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? [6] So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.' (Matthew 19:4 – 6)

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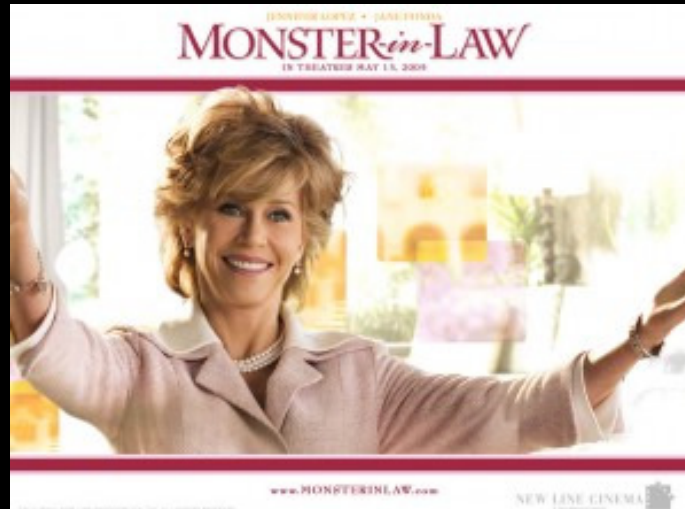
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Jesus' Definition of Marriage

- 'Male and Female': Heterosexual
- 'Leave Parents': Spouse Over Parents
- 'Two Become One': Monogamous
- 'Let No Man Separate': No Divorce

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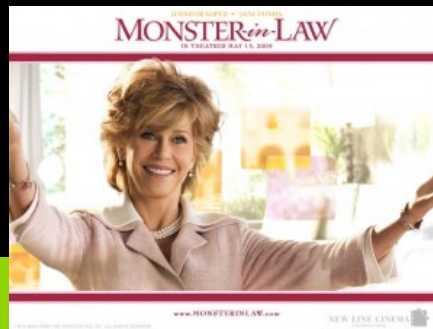
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Jesus' Definition of Marriage – Why?

- To image God (Gen.1:26 – 28)

  Life-bearing God   = Life-bearing humanity

Jesus' Definition of Marriage – Why?

- To image God (Gen.1:26 – 28)

  Life-bearing God   = Life-bearing humanity

  Life-bearing Love   = Life-bearing marriages

Jesus' Definition of Marriage – Why?

- To image God (Gen.1:26 – 28)

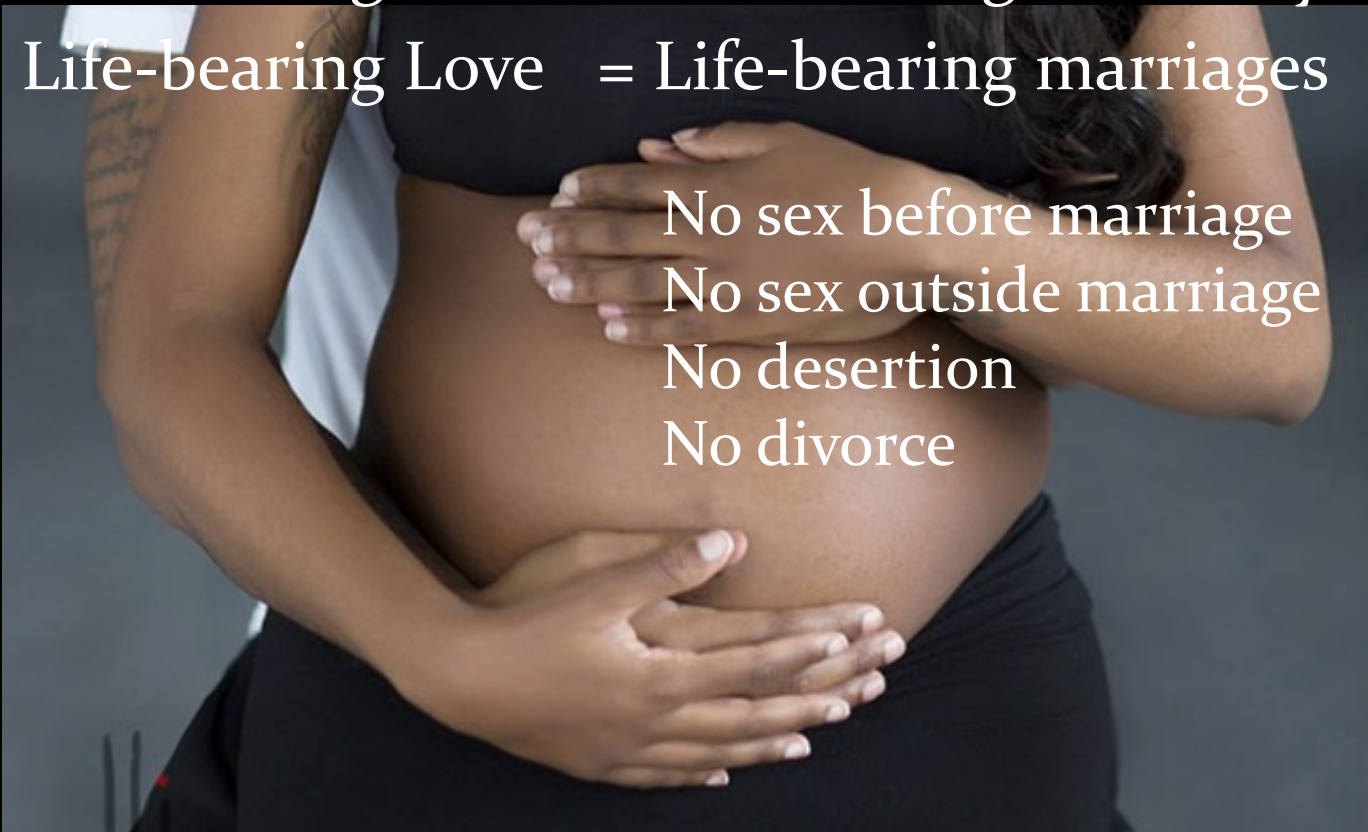<u>Life-bearing God</u> = Life-bearing humanity

<u>Life-bearing Love</u> = Life-bearing marriages

No sex before marriage
No sex outside marriage
No desertion
No divorce

What do these couples have in common?

OP-ED CONTRIBUTOR
The Conservative Case for Solar Subsidies

EDITORIAL
The Hear-Nothing Gun Crowd

FRANK BRUNI
The Clintons' Secret Language

DAVID BROOKS
The Age of Smal

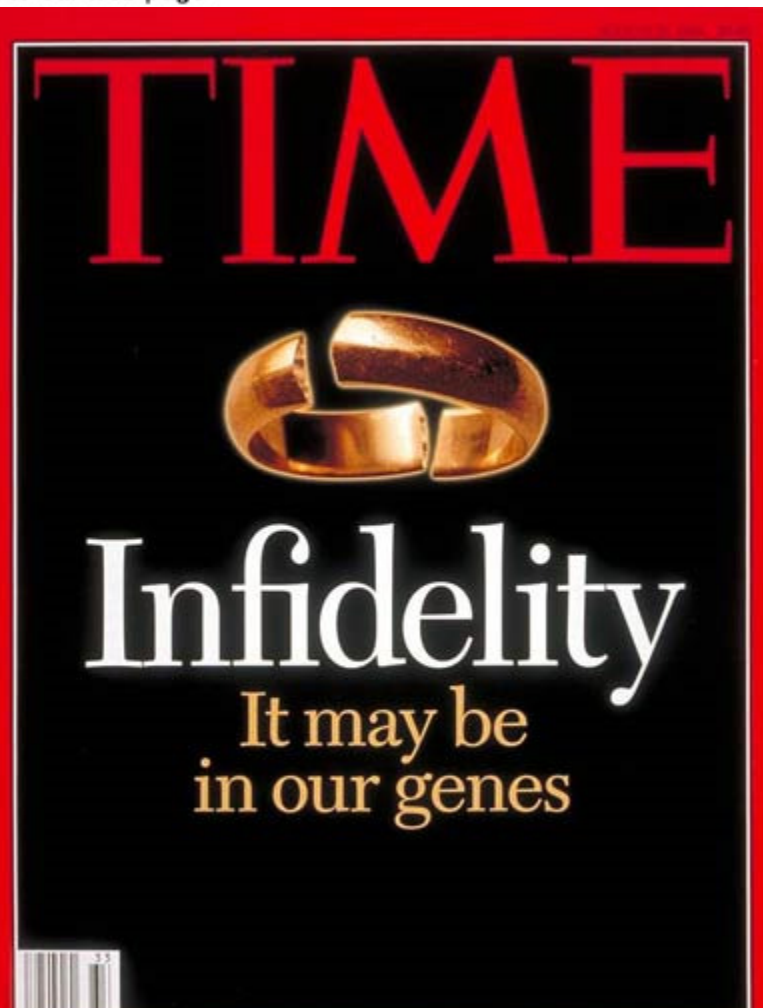**SundayReview** | CONTRIBUTING OP-ED WRITER

Infidelity Lurks in Your Genes

Richard A. Friedman MAY 22, 2015

AMERI
infidelit
find it n
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cloning
Gallup

Yet the
actually
rather s

Jesus' Definition of Marriage

- 'Male and Female': Heterosexual
- 'Leave Parents': Spouse Over Parents
- 'Two Become One': Monogamous
- 'Let No Man Separate': No Divorce

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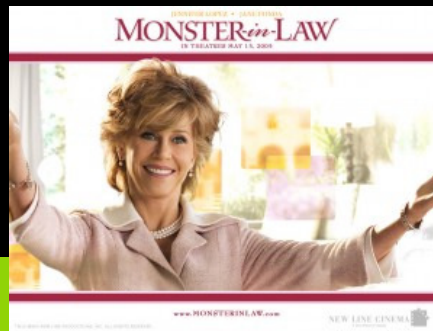
divorce

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One Pro-Gay Marriage Argument

- Genesis 2 says it is "not good" for Adam to be alone
- Marriage is God's solution for loneliness
- Gay marriage is God's solution for gay loneliness

The Lord said "It is not good for man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

A Closer Look at Genesis

- Was marriage God's solution for Adam's loneliness?
- Can we read Genesis this way?

The Lord said "It is not good for man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

Ancient Near East Creation Stories

- Introduction
- First Threat
- Second Threat
- Third Threat
- Resolution

Stasinos' Cypria (European)	Atrahasis (Babylonian/Akkadian)	Zoroastrian Avesta (Old Iranian)	Genesis 1 – 11 (Hebrew)

Problem: **Overpopulation**, wickedness, earth burdened

First Threat: Zeus sends the Theban War; many destroyed

Second Threat: Zeus plans to destroy all by thunderbolts; Momos dissuades Zeus

Stasinos' Cypria (European)	Atrahasis (Babylonian/Akkadian)	Zoroastrian Avesta (Old Iranian)	Genesis 1 – 11 (Hebrew)

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Resolution: Many destroyed by Trojan War, earth lightened of her burden

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First Threat: Zeus sends the Theban War; many destroyed	First Threat (1.352-415): Humans numerically increase; plague from the gods to limit **overcrowding**; Enki's help		
Second Threat: Zeus plans to destroy all by thunderbolts; Momos dissuades Zeus	Second Threat (II.i.1-II.v.21) Humanity's numerical increase; drought from the gods; Enki's help		

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Resolution: Many destroyed by Trojan War, earth lightened of her burden	Resolution (III.vi.5-viii.18): Numerical increase; compromise between Enlil and Enki; humans cursed with natural barrenness, high infant mortality rate, cult prostitution (to separate sex and procreation)		

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Problem: **Overpopulation**, wickedness, earth burdened	Creation (1.1-351): the work of the gods and the creation of humans	Creation: Ahura Mazda tells Yima (human) to be king over creation	Creation (1:1-2:3): God creates the world and humans and **blesses them to multiply**
First Threat: Zeus sends the Theban War; many destroyed	First Threat (1.352-415): Humans numerically increase; plague from the gods to limit **overcrowding**; Enki's help	First Threat: **Overpopulation**; Yima asks the earth goddess Armaiti to expand herself	First Threat (2:4-4:26): Genealogy of heavens and earth; the Fall; God promises victory to the seed of the woman; Cain kills Abel and settles in a city; God preserves Seth
Second Threat: Zeus plans to destroy all by thunderbolts; Momos dissuades Zeus	Second Threat (II.i.1-II.v.21) Humanity's numerical increase; drought from the gods; Enki's help	Second Threat: Overpopulation; Yima asks the earth goddess Armaiti to expand herself	Second Threat (5:1-9:29): Genealogy of Adam to Noah; God protects Noah and family and floods the world because of **human violence**

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Resolution: Many destroyed by Trojan War, earth lightened of her burden	Resolution (III.vi.5-viii.18): Numerical increase; compromise between Enlil and Enki; humans cursed with natural barrenness, high infant mortality rate, cult prostitution (to separate sex and procreation)	Resolution: Ahura Mazda sends a deadly winter with heavy snowfall to punish overcrowding; Yima told to build a three storied enclosure to survive; humanity destroyed outside while a boy and girl born in enclosure every 40 years	Resolution (11:10-26): Genealogy of Shem; introduction of Abram and Sarai who will have a child (In 11:27ff., God calls Abram out of Ur to begin Israel.)

Ancient Near East Creation Stories

- 'Christianity asserts that every individual human being is going to live for ever, and this must be either true or false...And immortality makes this other difference, which, by the by, has a connection with the difference between totalitarianism and democracy. If individuals live only seventy years, then a state, or a nation, or a civilisation, which may last for a thousand years, is more important than an individual. But if Christianity is true, then the individual is not only more important but incomparably more important, for he is everlasting and the life of the state or civilisation, compared with his, is only a moment.'

  - C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, p.73

Ancient Near East Creation Stories

- 'Genesis 1 – 11 then constitutes a rejection of Babel and Babylon – of civilization itself, if its continuance requires human existence to be treated as a contingent [or secondary] good. For Genesis the existence of a new human was always good.'
  - Isaac Kikawada and Arthur Quinn, *Before Abraham Was* (Ignatius Press: San Francisco, 1989)
  - See also Tikva Frymer-Kensky, 'The Atrahasis Epic and its Significance for Understanding Genesis 1-9,' *Biblical Archaeologist* 40 (1977):152; B.S. Yegerlehner, *Be Fruitful and Multiply* (Dissertation, Boston University, 1975); and David Daube's *The Duty of Procreation* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh Univerity Press, 1982)

A Closer Look at Genesis

- Genesis 1 – 11 is the biblical foundation of human rights and social justice
  - How we treat any new human being, especially someone else's child

- Children were meant to come from marriages
  - Genesis 2 cannot be pulled apart from Genesis 1

- Genesis 1 – 11 is one story, one literary unit
  - Lose the unity of the story =
  - Lose the critique of other stories =
  - Lose the basis for human rights and social justice

A Closer Look at Genesis

- Genesis 1:1 – 2:3
  - Introductory hymn
  - God made all life to multiply 'after its kind'
    - Plants and animals (Gen.1:21 – 25)
    - Human beings (Gen.1:26 – 28)
- Genesis 2:4 – 4:26
  - Genealogy of 'heaven and earth'
  - *Sources* of life and why 'heaven and earth' are separated
- Genesis 5:1 – 6:8
  - Genealogy of 'Adam'
  - *Source* of fallen but faithful humanity

One Pro-Gay Marriage Argument

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- Marriage is God's solution for loneliness?

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- Marriage is God's solution for ~~loneliness?~~ individual barrenness
- Could God have created just two men? Or just two women?
- Marriage of male and female is an image of God as the Trinity
- Gay marriage is not in the image of the life-bearing God, and is not marriage as God defines it

Jesus on Scripture's Interpretation

- 4 And he answered them and said, 'Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female, 5 and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? 6 So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.' (Matthew 19:4 – 6)

Genesis 1:27

Genesis 2:24

Genesis 2:4 – 4:26 ("not good" for Adam to be alone)
cannot be pulled apart from
Genesis 1:1 – 2:3 ("be fruitful and multiply")

Jesus on Scripture's Inspiration

- [4] And he answered them and said, 'Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female, [5] and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? [6] So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.' (Matthew 19:4 – 6)

Why is the Jewish Law More Lenient on Divorce?

- 7 They said to him, 'Why then did Moses command to give her a certificate of divorce and send her away?' (Matthew 19:7)

Why is the Jewish Law More Lenient on Divorce?

- [8] He said to them, 'Because of your hardness of heart Moses *permitted* you to divorce your wives; but from the beginning it has not been this way. [9] And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery.' (Matthew 19:8 – 9)

What Did God Intend?

Jesus:
New heart
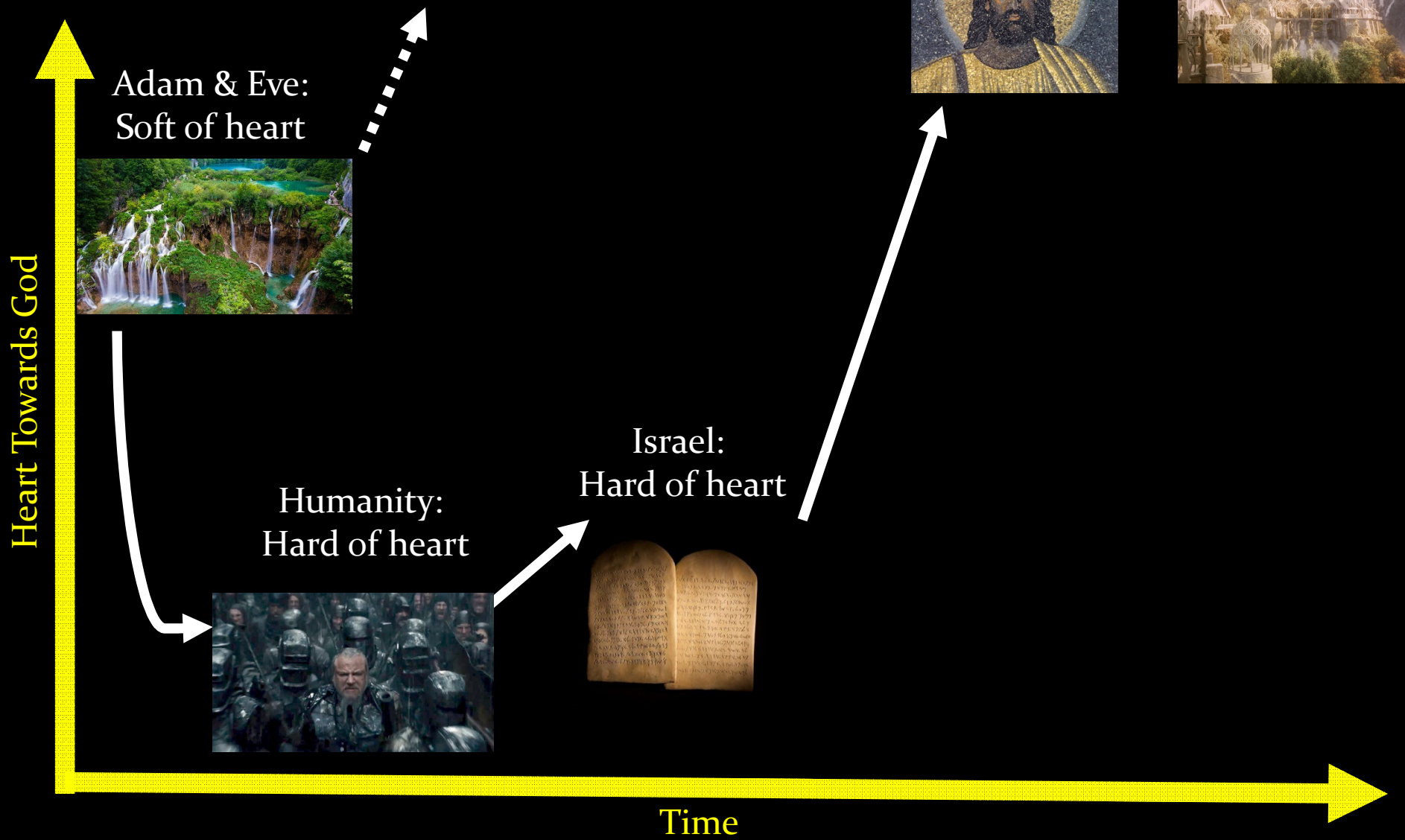
Perfected
heart

Adam & Eve:
Soft of heart

Heart Towards God

Humanity:
Hard of heart

Israel:
Hard of heart

Time

What If I'm Not Married?

- [10] The disciples said to him, 'If the relationship of the man with his wife is like this, it is better not to marry.' [11] But he said to them, 'Not all men can accept this statement, but only those to whom it has been given.

- [12] For there are eunuchs <u>who were born that way from their mother's womb</u>;

- and there are eunuchs <u>who were made eunuchs by men</u>;

- and there are also eunuchs <u>who made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven</u>.

- He who is able to accept this, let him accept it.' (Matthew 19:10 – 12)

For the Sake of the Kingdom

- For instance, there was the time when my friend Jono called me and asked me to be a godfather to his and his wife Megan's daughter Callie. Jono and Megan wanted to seal, with the sacrament of baptism, my relationship to Callie and to themselves. In an email I wrote to him afterward, I said, "I take comfort from this—that, in Jesus' economy, leaving the prospect of being a husband and father myself does not mean being without a family."

For the Sake of the Kingdom

- Or there was the time when my married friends Aidan and Melanie and I, recognizing how much we'd come to mean to each other, asked our minister friend Amy to come and pray a blessing over our friendship, solemnizing it and reminding us of the sort of commitment we'd embraced. In our living room, Amy set up an icon of Aelred of Rievaulx, the unofficial patron saint of friendship. She preached a brief homily from Psalm 121 on the theme of pilgrimage. "You three are companions on a pilgrimage to the heavenly city," she said. And then she consecrated bread and wine on our coffee table, pointing us to the ultimate Friend who gave his body and blood to make our love for each other possible.

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Christian Story

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