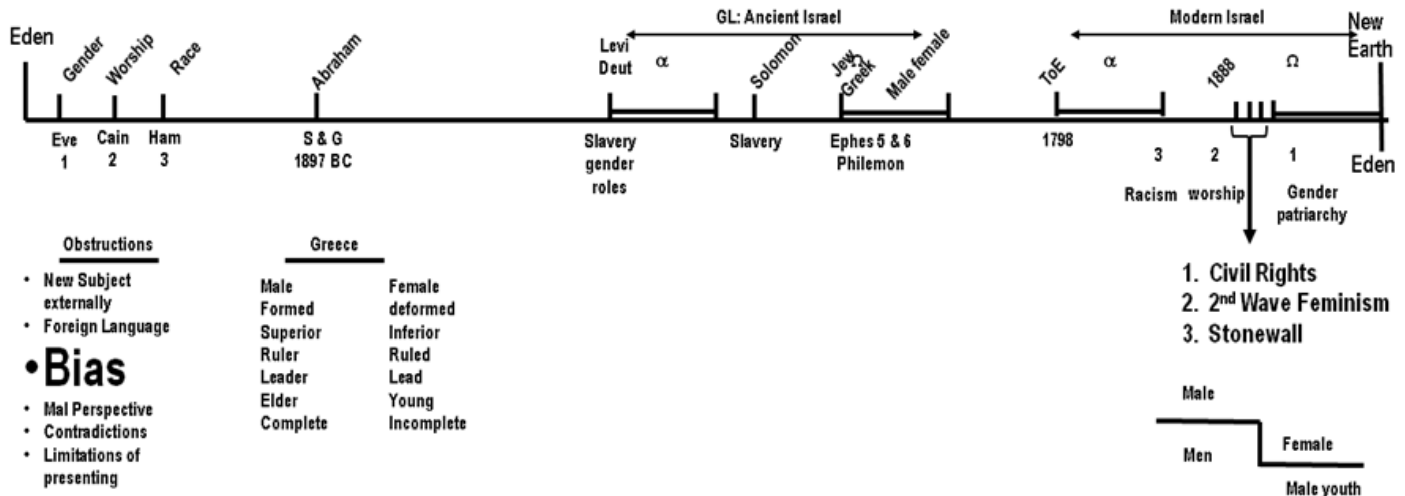


## #6 Is the Glorious Land Pagan Elder Tess Aug 28, 2021



The biggest obstacle to understanding pagan history and sexuality is the issue of bias. People with differing views go back to this history to try and demonstrate evidence for their worldview. Someone will say, see homosexuality has been around forever. Proof: look at all this male-male sex in Greece. Another side will say, modern America is so pagan, look at the immorality of Pagan Rome illustrated in the west today.

Both arguments are equally incorrect and are manipulating ancient history to defend their preferred worldview. They're distorting history to fit the present-day argument.

Question, (speaking about men, not women, because it's so much easier to see in paganism, because women were so trapped in these societies, but the arguments equally apply to women.)

If a man has sexual encounters with other men does that make him a homosexual?  
Does that mean he must be gay?

Were these Greek men gay? In the 1950s is it culturally acceptable to be homosexual?

No, they would lose their jobs, they would lose their families, and it was like just being a leper cast out of society. So those gay men in the 1950s, they fit into what society expected of them. They married women, started families and had children. So they had a woman fall in love with them, proposed to her, stood at the altar and married her, had an erection, had sex with her, raised children with her.

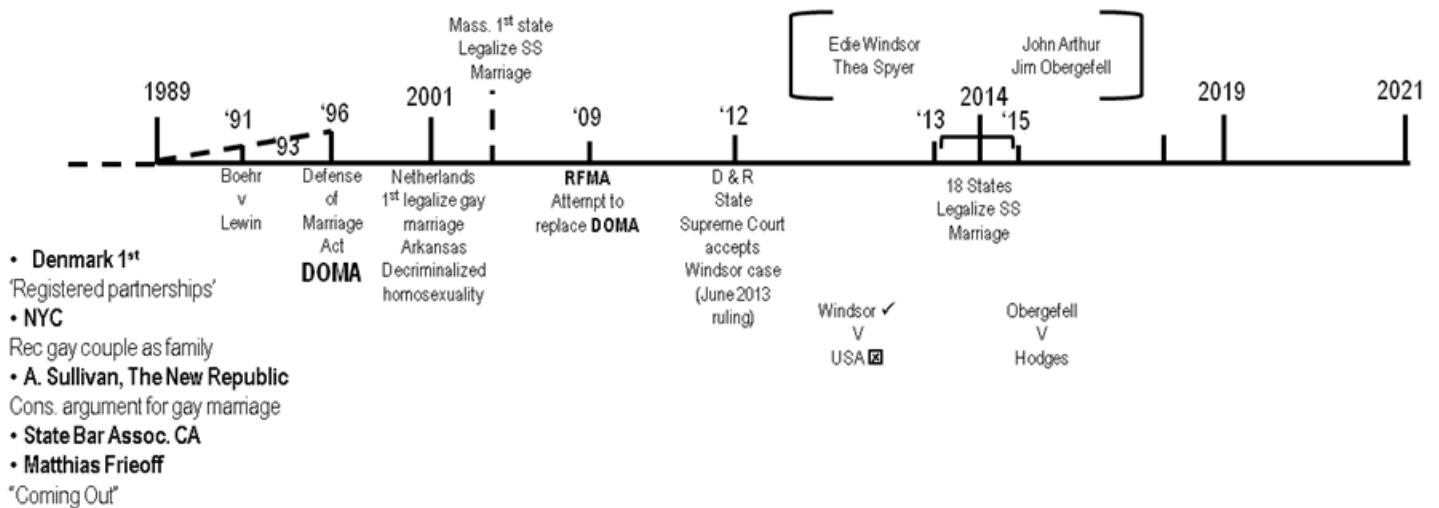
In any of that timeline did those gay men become heterosexual?

No, that's what is so sad about those marriages in that history. You look back at when they did that and there was always something missing from those marriages. So if it is possible for a gay man to act as a heterosexual to fit into society, to have sex with a woman and still be gay, it is possible for a Greek heterosexual man when society tells him it is normal, expected, to do sexual acts with a young boy he'll

just go along with that. The gay man could become sexually aroused. The heterosexual man can also, that's just how sex works for a lot of people.

There is something missing, those 1950s marriages were never complete, there was a deep soul need in the heart of those men that was never met, and it wasn't all about sex. The attractions and connections we form with people run so much deeper.

The point is, is these Greek and Roman societies were not composed of all these homosexuals by anything approaching the definition of what it means to be gay or lesbian today. The Roman man could dominate about anyone or anything that he saw, be confident in his status of masculinity because he dominated, and then go home to his wife. And in a cultural context a set of rules a Greek man could do the same, just make sure you get married at 30 so you can continue that process of raising new little teachers, students to become new teachers.



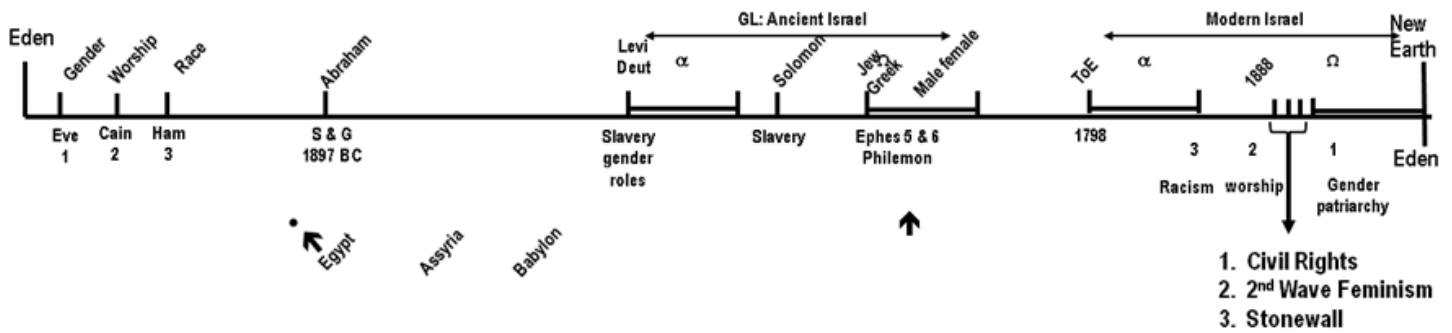
## DOMA

- 1) Name
- 2) No state recognizes SS marriage from other states
- 3) Federal Gov does not recognize gay marriage

My argument is not that homosexuality did not exist, there is abundant evidence that it did. There were gay men and lesbian women through all of these histories. **The question I wanted answered is if they're so progressive could anyone in those societies be an Edie Windsor and a Thea Spyer? Or John Arthur and a Jim Obergefell?**

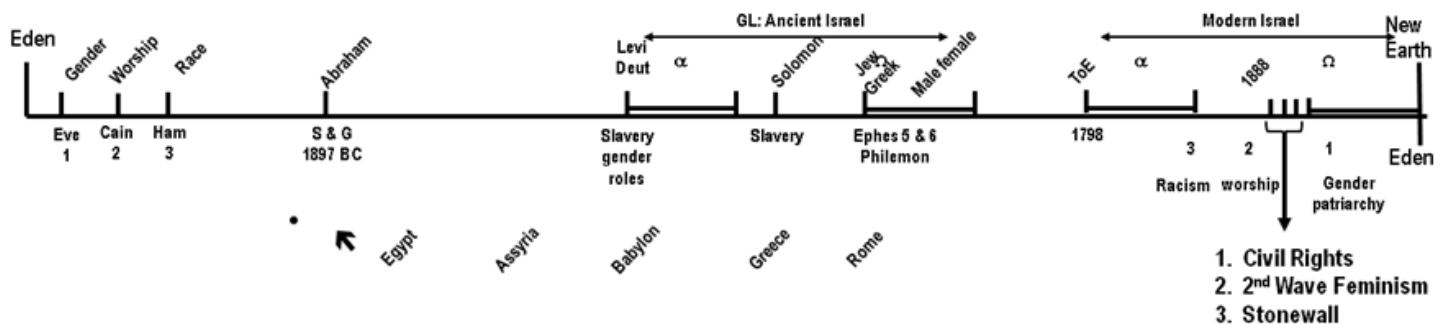
No, because these societies were deeply homophobic and patriarchal.

But despite their same sex relationships in that precise cultural context, they were not progressive societies. Because if you fell in love with another person of the same gender, if you're a woman you don't have many options, if you're a man you better hope they're a slave or a prostitute. And if they're a slave you can go to his owner and say, can I borrow him, and the owner would say sure. But that is not a relationship. **Everything is built upon the idea of power and status not relationship.** You had to have the power as a man because the minute you slipped you became female and that was seen as an extreme degradation.



We've illustrated that through a number of societies, and what we wanted to do was go back to early history where we talked about the Kahun Papyri, the Summa Alu, so we could go back and stretch that mindset beyond the history of Greece. We were able to go back as far as the same generation of Sodom and Gomorrah to see that the evidence of the mindset in the Omega of Ancient Israel, it was not just a unique unpopular mindset. But of all of the things historians disagreed on almost all of them agree on this one thing, that **the dominant mindset around sexuality for the ancient world was centered around power: the dominant and the submissive.**

We went to the middle kingdom of Egypt to see the time of Sodom and Gomorrah. The uncle of a nephew, Seth and Horace, they were not in love, there wasn't some type of spark or attraction between them, the acts were culturally common as enacting the ideas of **dominance and power**. It takes the idea of toxic masculinity to a whole new level. I would suggest if we can trace it from **the Omega of Ancient to Egypt** the idea that the world before the flood was full of practicing gay and lesbian men and women, and that that is why the flood came is absolute insanity.



Then we went to the time period of Assyria, *"like other Roman collections the Summa Alu developed over the course of several hundreds of years around the middle of the 7th century BC."*

So what we read about the Summa Alu was around 700 BC and that's when we read that the concept of pederasty was first beginning, maybe in Crete. We didn't go into Babylon I just made a claim that it was the same. But the little that I did review it sounded worse.

Then we have Greece, Rome and we continued with Rome all the way to Constantine. I think the last law we looked at was 438 AD.

So we've covered a time span from around 800-900 BC to almost 438 - 550 ad. You know for **the dominant thought for that time period, almost two and a half thousand years, is that the sex act is a ritual, a re-enactment of domination and submission.** It doesn't matter who you have it with as long as you are dominant, as long as no one can question your masculinity. And of course, there are many variations through that. The Greek lower classes for example would ridicule both. But note none of these societies are considering gay marriage, it's not even questioned. Some people will say *no there's lots of evidence that they considered gay marriage*, and when you ask for the evidence, they always start with Nero. I would argue that to prove something was tolerated culturally, Nero forcefully castrating a man to try and turn him into a woman and then marrying him is not a good example. They'll go to another emperor who referred to one of his slaves as his husband. When they look at what writings or responses they have of the common people to these things, society always responded with ridicule. **It's not examples of the need or desire for a same-sex committed marriage.**

I want to suggest we have a continuation of a similar mindset today; that **that thread of connecting sex with domination and submission is still here in our mindset.** You can thread it all the way through paganism right through Constantine.

When you've done something wrong while you're driving and you upset someone, **have you ever had someone raise their middle finger to you? Why is that an insult? What's with the middle finger?** The middle finger is the finger people would expect to use with penetration. But if sex is meant to be pleasurable what's the big deal?

Has anyone ever said to you the following slur: *f- you?* Why is it an insult to tell someone to go have sex? The issue with the f- word and the middle finger is that it's essentially telling a person to be penetrated. Even if people don't think about what they are doing, and most don't, under the layers of the ignorance of society the same mindset and stigma is very much alive; the stigma around penetration and the idea that that will put you in your proper place. The men of Sodom and Gomorrah didn't want to rape a woman not because these men were gay, but because women already knew their place.

It was these new men, these strangers waltzing into their city that needed to know their place, and we have the same mindset. And whether people realize that or not, when they raise the middle finger or they say f-you, every action has a reaction. And even with ignorance everyone knows what that middle finger means, everyone knows that you would expect a woman to be the penetrated, so whether they connect the dots or not they are continuing the same sexism; that Greek thought of women as incomplete, their view of women is so degrading. I grew up in conservative Adventism; they would often say modern society is so Greek, I would suggest it is, but not because of immorality but because of the views of women and sexism.

I want to read a quote by Lisa Miller, this is from **Inquiries Journal** titled **Gay Marriage in Antiquity How Far Have We Come?** "*So the question still remains can modern America learn from the same sex behavior and attitudes of ancient Greece and Rome? The short answer no we can't. Though these ancient cultures were far more accepting of same-sex interaction than our modern American culture is. The fact remains that they both share similar ideas about how marriage should be and there is no room in any of these cultures for the concept of gay marriage as anything more than a joke. As in ancient Rome*

*witnessed by the reactions to the emperor Nero or a corruption of the sanctity of marriage as witnessed in modern America."*

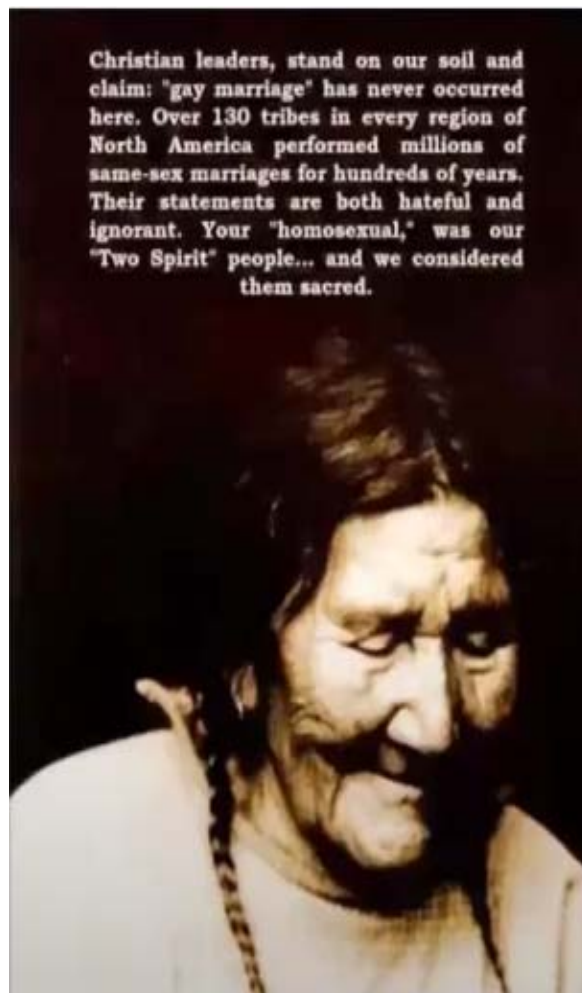
The nutshell of their argument is that it is the fight against gay marriage in the United States, that it's that mindset you find typified in pagan cultures, which is the argument we've been developing all along.

I didn't want to distract from this thing by going into other cultures such as Thailand pre-colonialism. I do want to say if you're a woman then unfortunate enough to be in one of their harems you would not want to be lesbian. If you were, you were dragged out and publicly lashed. In a culture that recognizes trans women, people who are born with the biological sex of male and transition to the gender identity female, what about all the people born with the biological sex of female?

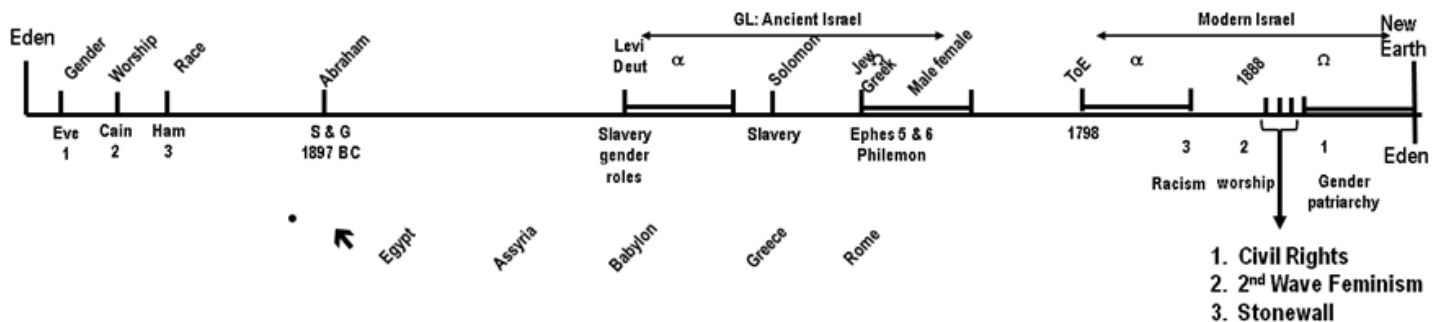
The other culture that we would discuss would be the North American Indians. I'm not suggesting that some tribes, some portions didn't have a level of freedom. But when we had the message of understanding two streams of information, we can't use the same fast brain we took to conservative arguments and take them to liberal arguments. **And memes are fast brain arguments.** One meme you will see shared is this photo of an indigenous Native American and it says the following, "*Christian leaders stand on our soil and claim gay marriage has never occurred here. Over 130 tribes in every region of North America performed millions of same-sex marriages for hundreds of years. Their statements are both hateful and ignorant. Your "homosexual," was our "two-spirit" people and we considered them sacred.*"

There is so much wrong with this picture and statement. Please do not take the mistakes of past dispensations regarding two streams of information and how we process external knowledge and use them to support liberal causes. People who do that with Greece damage their own argument and they're wrong. And there is a lot wrong with this meme. Just like the Greeks they did not even conceptualize homosexual people or gay marriage. The two-spirit person was seen as a spiritual role and people do not get to choose freely for themselves. It was a tribal understanding and in most cases patriarchal. I'm not ignoring the pockets where there are matriarchal tribes. But you couldn't just be in today's definition a John Arthur. This ends up being nothing more than just a nicer looking cultural appropriation.

The people who were two-spirited were chosen by the elders; they didn't reach an age and make a decision for themselves. If you are a member of the Sioux tribe and you are a woman and you were raped, your rapist would be expected to give your husband some money. However they organized that, you would pay him off, and then he could take you. I'm not meaning to denigrate indigenous cultures, but I'm



not willing to culturally appropriate with our modern Western mindset. And also whether it's politically correct or incorrect, I'm unwilling to justify sexism and abuse. I do not care whether it's modern Australia or indigenous Australia, not ignoring that the abuses perpetuated by the invaders of this country, **we do not excuse the sexism, patriarchy and abuse of any culture. You would be hard-pressed to find any culture that didn't operate off a deeply misogynistic patriarchal mindset.**



So these ancient cultures are not even considering gay marriage.

### What changed in 1989?

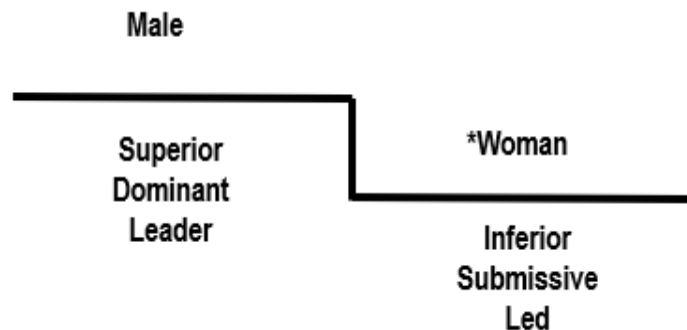
There's two arguments now in our reform line, people have two views. Someone will say you're *American Western society is so much like pagan Rome: Jerry Falwell crying out like Jeremiah. A hail of judgments are coming upon this country because it's immoral just like all these pagan countries that God swept away. And the sexual revolution and the movement for gay rights are two key instigators for this moral fall; the sexual revolution and the movement for gay rights. This is why America is falling morally and will come under the judgment of God; Walter Veith and Jerry Falwell agree.*

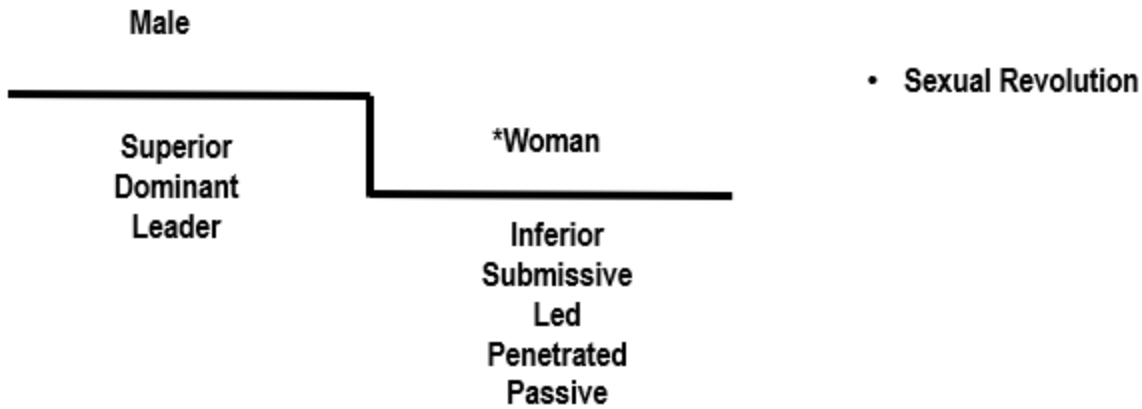
Or the following argument, I'm not addressing the movement or Adventism, **my question is how has this secular world changed between Middle Kingdom Egypt and modern America?** (Because we always focus on the glorious land.) I agree with the second argument and that is that all of these societies operated on the following construct:

Male: Superior, dominant, leader

Woman (*\*because it's not just women, it's not just female, remember it's anything womanized.*)

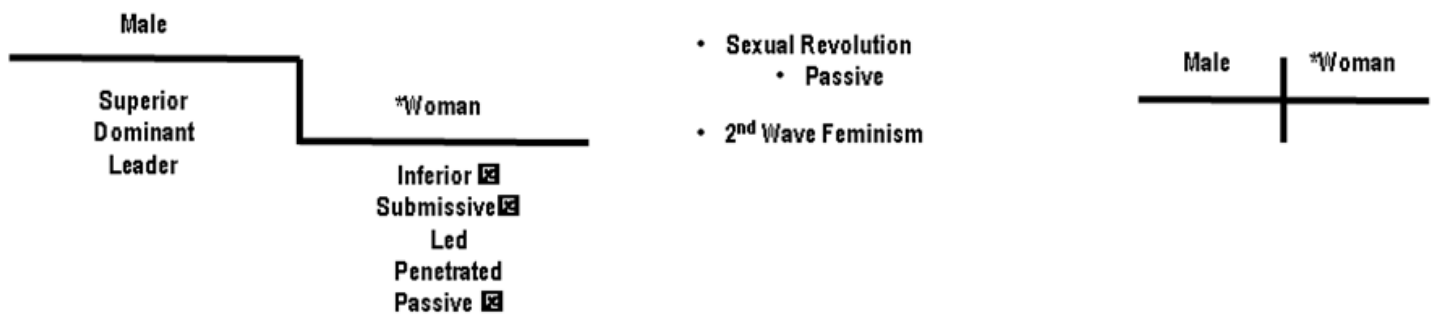
They will put men under women if they play the part or act like a lonely woman, Inferior, submissive, led.





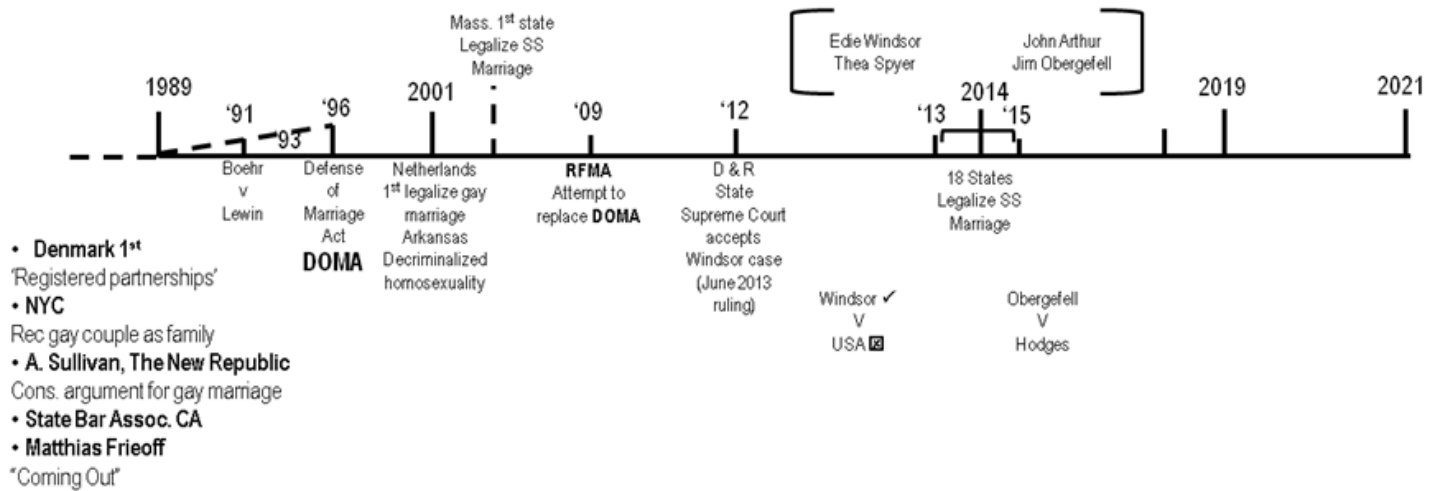
What changed between Middle Kingdom Egypt and modern America is **second wave feminism and the sexual revolution**. The sexual revolution said, *you know what, we don't care if we're the ones that get penetrated, we are not passive sex objects. We have the ability to be active. We like sex too; it's not something that you do to us, it's something that we do to you too.* And they attacked this idea of the passive. This was the crux of the sexual revolution and they physically violently fought to take down this idea of the passive because it wasn't an argument just about sex. The sexual revolution was not all about sex because as we've seen when you're passive it has a lot of connotations and expectations. It affects the way that you are perceived as an entire person. It was not all these sexually active women just wanting to have sex. **They wanted this thousands of years old idea of being penetrated, submissive, inferior, passive done away.**

The second thing that dismantled this particularly second wave feminism but feminism from the beginning. They just attacked the construct itself, the entire way society constructed the ideas of power and leadership and dominance. **The scale of the war regarding the sexual revolution and second wave feminism it's something that's never been seen ever in world history.** And when you destroyed the idea of passive linked to submission and inferior and society did this



The masculine and anything like a woman feminine, it dismantled the fundamental argument that all of these societies had. **Until you dismantled this power imbalance true homosexuality, equal rights, gay marriage could never have been tolerated.** And I want to make the point this isn't an argument over Christianity, this is all just secular societies. But you can do the following, say from Paganism → Papalism → Protestantism, if you wanted to link it with Christianity that would be the way to do it. But rather than blame God and Christianity (Protestantism), and think that pagan societies had equality figured out you should trace it to its source and it's not Seth, it was Cain.

The minute you dismantle this social construct for the first time in world history, as soon as external society did that, 2013, 2014 and 2015 became inevitable. It was just a matter of time.



Quoting from the same author who wrote the 1989 article, **Andrew Sullivan in *The New Republic*, A Conservative Argument for Gay Marriage**; we'll read an article that he put out in 2015 after this Supreme Court case (Obergefell and Hodges.) And in this article he's going to remind us and then quote from an article he wrote in 1996. He wrote this article in 1996 because of the attacks that were coming from the states on interracial marriage and gay rights. So if you want to read this 2015 article it's titled **It Is Accomplished**. (The source does require a subscription but they give you a few free articles.)

Quoting him, *"We are not disordered or sick or defective or evil, at least no more than our fellow humans in this veil of tears. We are born into family, we love, we marry, we take care of our children, we die. No civil institution is related to these deep human experiences more than civil marriage and the exclusion of gay people from this institution was a statement of our core inferiority, not just a citizens but as human beings. It took courage to embrace this fact the way the Supreme Court did today. In that 1996 essay I analogized to the slow end to the state bans on interracial marriage."*

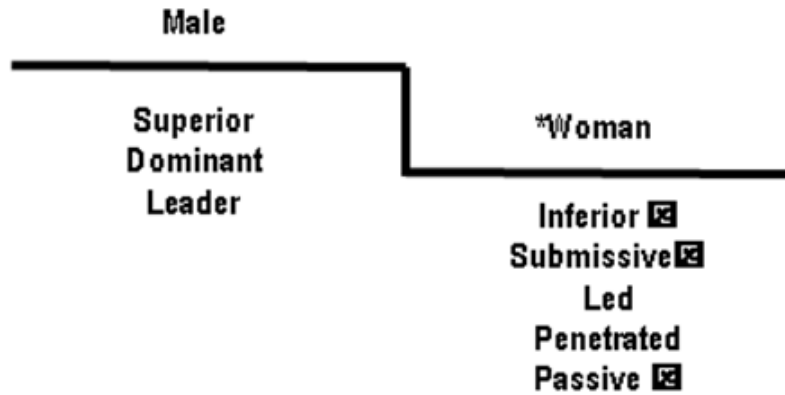
*"The process of integration," (this was the Civil Rights movement,) "like today's process of coming out introduced the minority to the majority and humanized them. Slowly white people came to look at interracial couples and see love rather than sex, stability rather than breakdown. And black people came to see interracial couples not as a threat to their identity but as a symbol of their humanity behind the falsifying characters of race. It could happen again but it's not inevitable and it won't happen by itself, it may be sooner rather than later. The people who insist upon this centrality of gay marriage to every American's equality will come to see less marginal or troublemaking or cultural or bent on ghettoizing themselves. They will seem merely like people who have been allowed to see the possibility of a larger human dignity and who cannot wait to achieve it."*

*"I think of the gay kids in the future who when they figure out they are different will never know the deep psychic wound my generation and everyone before mine lived through. The pain of knowing they could never be fully part of their own family, never be fully a citizen of their own country."*



*"I think more acutely of the decades and centuries (I want to add millennia) of human shame and darkness and waste and terror that defined gay people's lives for so long, and I think of all those who supported this movement who never lived to see this day, who died in the ashes from which this Phoenix of the movement emerged, this momentous achievement is their victory too; for marriage as Kennedy argued, endures past death."*

I wanted to add millennia because it's not something Christianity brought, it runs much deeper. 2015 was not a western society following pagan ideas; it was something unprecedented, a rejection of a pagan construct.



Dear Lord, thank you for how you have led your people through thousands of years, through crisis after crisis, surrounded by so many issues, so many fights. We know you're still leading. I pray that in the craziness of the current world we might hear your still small voice, showing us right from wrong, restoring your people. I pray this in Jesus' name, amen