

I wrote my term paper, "Wrestling with Leviticus 18.22 and 20.13," for a cross-registered class called Texts of Terror at the Candler School of Theology. This class discussed texts from the Hebrew Bible that are particularly painful or theologically problematic due to their violence. People have used Leviticus 18.22 and 20.13 violently against GLBTQ people in such a way that GLBTQ people experience these biblical passages as "texts of terror." Dr. Jacob Wright and I agreed that this paper should be preparatory work for future research. During my research process, I gained more than an in-depth understanding of the scholarship on Leviticus 18.22 and 20.13. I was able to add to scholarly discussion by arguing that one best understands these proscriptions when read within their literary frame. My professor encouraged me to modify my paper as a journalistic piece for publication, so my work may have a broader impact than the academic community at a future date.

All sources for this paper came through the Monroe F. Swilley, Jr. Library. I searched for peer-reviewed journal articles through the EBSCOhost philosophy/religion and gender/sexuality databases. Some of these articles came from the databases directly, and others came from online journal websites. I used the library's catalog to search for books on my topic. Initially I used key word searches with "Leviticus AND homosexuality," "Leviticus 18," and "Leviticus 20." Once I found several good books and articles, I found specific sources in citations and bibliographies. I also searched for articles by using the Scripture search on EBSCOhost. Books came directly from Swilley's collection or through interlibrary loan.

Because my target audience was the academy, my criterion for research was to find the best academic research on my subject. I excluded authors who intended their literature for "lay" audiences due, usually because they referenced the same sources you will see in my bibliography. In exception to this criteria, I used two news articles from the Huffington Post's website in order to illustrate a point in my introduction. In addition to the lexicons and grammars in the references section, I used BibleWorks to translate the biblical text from Hebrew to English. This research project was very rewarding and provided me with a strong foundation for future work in the area of Leviticus and homosexuality.