

Taboo Topics in the Bible: Marijuana



Taboo Topics In The Bible: Marijuana by Dante Fortson

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Marijuana is one of the most controversial plants in the world. It has been used for centuries for medicinal and recreational purposes, but it is also illegal in many countries. The Bible does not explicitly mention marijuana, but there are several passages that can be interpreted to refer to it.

In this article, we will explore the evidence for and against the use of marijuana in the Bible. We will also discuss the ethical and legal implications of marijuana use.

Evidence for Marijuana Use in the Bible

There are several passages in the Bible that can be interpreted to refer to marijuana. One of the most famous is Genesis 1:29, which states that God gave humans "every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food."

Some scholars believe that this verse includes marijuana, as it is a plant that yields seed. Others argue that the verse only refers to plants that are used for food, and that marijuana is not included in this category.

Another passage that is often cited as evidence for marijuana use in the Bible is Exodus 30:23-25. This passage describes the recipe for the holy anointing oil that was used to anoint the tabernacle and its furnishings. The recipe includes several ingredients, including myrrh, cinnamon, and kaneh-bosem.

Kaneh-bosem is a Hebrew word that can be translated as "sweet cane" or "fragrant reed." Some scholars believe that it refers to marijuana, as it is a plant that is known for its sweet smell. Others argue that it refers to a different plant, such as calamus or cinnamon.

There is also evidence for marijuana use in the Bible from the New Testament. In Matthew 26:15, Jesus tells his disciples that he will not drink wine again until the kingdom of God comes. Some scholars believe that Jesus was referring to marijuana when he said "wine," as it was a common drink in the Middle East at the time.

Others argue that Jesus was referring to fermented wine, as this was the type of wine that was typically used for religious ceremonies. However, it is worth noting that the Greek word for "wine" (oinos) can refer to both fermented and unfermented wine.

Evidence Against Marijuana Use in the Bible

There are also several passages in the Bible that can be interpreted to prohibit the use of marijuana. One of the most famous is Leviticus 10:9,

which states that "you shall not drink wine or strong drink, you or your sons with you, when you go into the tent of meeting, lest you die; it is a statute forever throughout your generations."

Some scholars believe that this verse prohibits the use of all intoxicants, including marijuana. Others argue that it only prohibits the use of alcohol, as this was the most common intoxicant in the Middle East at the time.

Another passage that is often cited as evidence against marijuana use in the Bible is Ephesians 5:18, which states that "do not be drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit."

Some scholars believe that this verse prohibits the use of all intoxicants, including marijuana. Others argue that it only prohibits the excessive use of alcohol. However, it is worth noting that the Greek word for "drunk" (methuo) can refer to both drunkenness from alcohol and intoxication from other drugs.

Ethical and Legal Implications of Marijuana Use

The ethical and legal implications of marijuana use are complex and controversial. There are strong arguments both for and against the legalization of marijuana.

Those who support the legalization of marijuana argue that it is a relatively harmless drug that has many potential benefits. They also argue that the prohibition of marijuana has led to a number of social problems, such as crime and violence.

Those who oppose the legalization of marijuana argue that it is a gateway drug that can lead to the use of more dangerous drugs. They also argue that marijuana use can have negative consequences for health, such as respiratory problems and mental illness.

The legal status of marijuana varies from country to country. In some countries, marijuana is legal for both medicinal and recreational use. In other countries, it is illegal for both purposes. In the United States, marijuana is illegal at the federal level, but it has been legalized for medicinal use in many states and for recreational use in a few states.

The evidence for and against the use of marijuana in the Bible is complex and inconclusive. There are strong arguments both for and against the legalization of marijuana. Ultimately, the decision of whether or not to use marijuana is a personal one.

If you are considering using marijuana, it is important to do your research and be aware of the potential risks and benefits. You should also talk to your doctor to make sure that marijuana is right for you.



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