

**In The Beginning: Session 09: Approaching Judgment**

בְּרֵאשִׁית

Catch classes you missed at [www.htchurch.com/genesis](http://www.htchurch.com/genesis) - see you in September!

**The Descent of the Sons of God (Genesis 6:1-4)**

*1 Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, 2 that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose.*

*3 And the Lord said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years." 4 There were giants [Hebrew = "nephilim"] on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown....*

*9b Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations.*

- Genesis 6 is a very important chapter, vital to understanding human history.
- God says Man’s days will be 120 years, then judgment will come.
- There is still a limit to God’s is wonderful patience. And we need to re-learn that!
- The flesh is something God must restrain and ultimately judge. When sin is not checked, society deteriorates.
- Some say God was also reducing the human lifespan here to 120 years, down from the thousand years we have seen.

**Two Theories About the Origin of the Nephilim**

Is Moses is saying that fallen angels had relations with human women?

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- The *Sethite theory* says the *Sons of God* were godly men from the line of Seth who sinned by intermarrying with ungodly people.
- The *angel theory* says these Sons of God were fallen angels who somehow could take human women as wives.

### **How strong is the Sethite view?**

This view does have a strong point, but it also has some weak points.

1. *Both lines were sinners.* Let's remember that there were sinners in *both* lines: *nobody* escaped the Flood except for Noah's family. Was there even a godly line?

2. *Why is this such a severe sin?* Is marrying an unbeliever so bad it would provoke God to destroy the entire world?

3. *Why would this sin produce giants?* After all, if you marry an unsaved person today, you don't give birth to giants.

4. *Didn't Jesus say the angels do not marry?* Jesus said the angels in Heaven do not marry. (Matthew 22:30) However:

- For one thing, Christ was speaking about *holy* angels. Perhaps *wicked* angels could choose to violate the restrictions God had given them.
- Also, we know that angels can become visible *and* tangible to us. So, the fact that we don't know *how* they could procreate doesn't mean they *could* not procreate.

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## How strong is the angel theory?

1. *In context, the “Sons of God” are probably angels.* Moses seems to speak of something shocking. Also, Job reveals that the *Sons of God* were angels. No group of men were called “Sons of God” in the Old Testament.

2. *Fallen angels broke into our realm twice.* This happened both *before* the Flood and *afterwards*. This has important implications. If pre-Flood giants came from religiously mixed marriages, where did giants come from in Joshua’s day, or the time of David?

3. *The New Testament indicates some angels left their place.* 2 Peter 2:4 says ...*God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell [Tartarus] and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment...*

- Apparently some angels sinned and are already confined in Hell, awaiting judgment. The Greeks considered Tartarus the lowest place in Hell, a dark place.
- Jude says ...*the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day...* (Jude, v.6)
- Notice: they **left** the place God assigned them.

## Understanding the Nephilim and Their Appearances

Many cultures have stories of great heroes who were half-man, half-god, such as Hercules. Were they Genesis 6 giants? Who were they and their descendants?

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- The word *nephilim* is related to the Hebrew word for “fallen;” and many claim it means “*fallen ones*.”
- Also virtually identical to the Aramaic word for *giants*.
- Translated into Greek using the Greek word for *giants*.
- Jewish tradition also saw them as giants. The Book of Enoch says that their fathers were 200 “watcher” angels who descended in the days of Jared, and taught Man all kinds of evil. This is uncertain.
- Their true purpose may be revealed in what Moses says about the second outbreak.

We see the word *nephilim* again in the story of the twelve spies sent to spy out the Promised Land: “*There we saw the [nephilim] giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.*” (Numbers 13:33)

Fallen angels produced the *nephilim*, but Moses speaks of other tribes of giants apparently descended from *nephilim*: *Anakim* [“long-necked ones”], *Avim* [“those who inhabit desert places”], *Emim* [“terrors”], *Rephaim* [“mighty ones”], *Zamzummim* [“buzzers, people whose speech sounds like buzzing”], *Zuzim* [“roving creatures”].

### **Why this Satanic “Inbreaking?”**

Why did fallen angels break into our world in this way? One answer, of course, is *lust*, but I think Satan wanted to *defile* the human genetic code.

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- What if all our DNA became mixed, or what if we all became hybrids over time?
- Later on, Moses says that Noah was "perfect in his generations."
- In the *second* outbreak, I think Satan's purpose was clear: to defile the Promised Land. Satan filled the land with giants to *intimidate* Israel and make it hard for Israel to *take its inheritance*.

### Why does this matter today?

- Understanding Israel's wars against the Canaanites.
- People are being seduced by society's obsession with **aliens**. Mysterious, advanced, ancient structures were not built by beings from Andromeda!
- Some today are saying that we were genetically manufactured by aliens. Nobel Prize Winner Francis Crick (co-discoverer of DNA):
  - *...[W]e have considered Directed Panspermia, the theory that organisms were deliberately transmitted to the Earth by intelligent beings on another planet. We conclude that it is possible that life reached the Earth in this way, but that the scientific evidence is inadequate at the present time to say anything about the probability.*

Where is "evolution" headed? *Ye shall be as gods* was the lie of the serpent in the Garden of Eden. And it's still a lie. But powerful delusion awaits those who embrace lies: *9 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, 10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this reason God will send them **strong delusion**, that they should believe **the lie**, 12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.* (2 Thessalonians 2:9-12)

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**The Regret of God: Genesis 6:5-6**

*5 Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.*

Moses has listed for us the wicked characteristics of the world before the Flood:

- Destruction of family life;
- Bloodshed;
- Idolatry; and, finally,
- Extreme occult manifestations.

Two others which likely belong in this list: perversion of true religion, and acceptance of homosexuality. Apostle Jude connects the fallen angels of Genesis 6 with false teachers of the Gospel, and open homosexuality. All three violate God-given boundaries.

**Noah Found Grace (Genesis 6:7-8)**

*7 So the Lord said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them." 8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.*

We serve a holy God. And we serve a merciful God. Here, in the midst of one of the most terrifying stories of judgment, we see the grace of God! God will always have a remnant of people who will serve Him. He always finds a man whose heart is toward Him, someone in whose heart are the ways of grace, someone He can use.

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