

# THE SONS OF GOD IN THE DAYS OF NOAH

*("...and also after that")*

A Scriptural and logical attempt to discover the identity of the sons of God in Genesis 6

By *Dr. Paul Fedena*



*"There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that..." Gen. 6:4*

**TEXT:** Genesis 6:1 – 7:16

**INTRO.:** A. Who were the *"sons of God in the days of Noah?"* Were they simply "believers" in the line of godly Seth or were they fallen angels who *"kept not their first estate"* and went after *"strange flesh"*?

B. There are good and godly men on both sides of this controversy. I have decided on the basis of what follows, to side with those who teach that they were fallen angels. Please at least give your attention to the Scripture and study this subject with an open Bible and an open mind.

C. It is interesting, regardless of who you think these *"sons of God"* were, that their offspring were *"giants..."* and that God decided to destroy the earth by a worldwide flood as a result of whatever took place at that time. If they were simply believers cohabiting with unbelievers why doesn't God respond in the same way in other ages when believers marry unbelievers?

## **I. THE GIANTS OF GENESIS:**

**Gen. 6:1-4** *And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose. And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years. There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.*

A. The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia (ISBE) :

1. This resource takes the position that "they are the fruit of intermarriage between the descendants of Seth and the *'daughters of men'*."
2. Nevertheless ISBE states that the word "Nephilim" (translated *"giants"* in a King James Bible) means "giants in wickedness" which could also support our position that these offspring were the result of angelic and human integration.

B. Unger's\* Bible Dictionary:

1. This respected resource says that these "**giants**" were the "unnatural offspring (of the sons of God and the daughters of men) which were in the earth in the years before the Flood.
2. Unger\* further notes that the "real idea of the word nephilim (giants) must have been fallen ones of monsters of mixed human and angelic birth..."

C. Science, Scripture & Salvation by Dr. Henry Morris:

1. Dr. Morris states "Giants: Hebrew Nephilim – means persons of gigantic stature, (who were) defiant and aggressive"
2. He further writes "The word Nephilim literally means the fallen or those who fall upon or violently attack others. In fact Aquila translates the word 'attackers'."
3. Then he goes on and says "The Septuagint (the Old Testament translated in Greek) and the Latin Vulgate read 'giants'.

## II. THE SUPPORT OF SCRIPTURE:

A. The Context of Genesis 6:1-4:

1. Morris again states regarding this passage: "Men were now rapidly multiplying on earth and by implanting their own seed in men (the angels) could enlist in only one generation a vast multitude as allies against God. So these '**sons of God**' saw the '**daughters of men...and took them wives of all which they chose...**'"
2. He goes on and notes "...God had preserved the true Seed through Seth...Satan and his angels must have feared that their opportunities for victory in the cosmic conflict were in imminent danger...thus they resorted to this drastic measure of corrupting the seed of men through angelic mongrelization."

B. The Comparison of Other Scriptures:

1. Job 1:6; 2:1 and 38:7: In all these passages the term "**sons of God**" is used of angelic beings, not of men.
2. Daniel 3:25: The term "**son of God**" is used and refers either to an angel or to the Lord Jesus Christ, but not to a mere man.
3. Jude 6: This passage tells us that some angels "**left their first estate**" and the next verse begins with the words "**even as Sodom and Gomorrah...**" and proceeds to speak of "**fornication, and going after strange flesh**". This seems to link the sins of fallen angels, as to the nature of those sins.
4. 1 Peter 3:19,20: Peter speaks of spirits or angelic beings who were disobedient just prior to the Flood. This gives us the time element of the angelic sin and connects it to the days of Noah.
5. 2 Peter 2:4,5: Here the Holy Spirit tells of the angelic sin and punishment and again relates it to the Flood of Noah's day.

## III. THE OBJECTIONS TO THESE OBSERVATIONS:

A. Objection #1: Spirit Beings & Human Beings Could Not Cohabit:

**Refutation:**

1. In Hebrews 13:2 God states that angels can and sometimes do take human form. There are Numerous Old Testament and New Testament instances of this.

2. In Genesis 19:1-13 God's Word presents the story of the wicked men of Sodom and their attempt to sexually assault the two angels sent to warn Lot of the impending doom of the cities of the plain.

**QUOTE:** Morris, in dealing with the means of angelic cohabitation with the "*daughters of men*" suggests: "Most likely this stratagem was carried out by means of a technique akin to the demon possession common in the times of Christ. The men whose bodies were possessed were evidently thereby made so attractive to women that they could take any they chose as wives."

B. Objection #2: Angels Are Sexless Beings and Could Not Cohabit with Humans:

**NOTE:** This view has been promoted by the notes in the Scofield Reference Bible.

**Refutation:**

1. The passage used for support in Matt. 22:30 deals only with the state of angels "*in heaven*" and does not touch upon the activities of angels on the earth which often took up the bodies of men.
2. This passage does not state that angels are sexless, only that they do not marry in heaven. Angels, when they appear in Scripture nearly always appear as **men**.
3. The Bible always refers to angels in the masculine gender which would fit the designation "*sons of God*" in Genesis. Angels always have masculine names, e.g. Lucifer, Michael, Gabriel.

**NOTE:** It seems that all "spiritual" or supernatural beings are masculine: The Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit, Satan, Cherubim, Seraphim, Archangels, angels, devils (demons) as well as those hideous creatures that arise from the depths of the earth as "locusts" in Revelation 9!

C. Objection #3: The Giants or Nephilim in Gen. 6 are Merely "Bullies" or "Tyrants" and Not Physical Monstrosities:

**Refutation:**

1. In Numbers 13:33 the same word (Nephilim) is used and v.32 says that they were "*men of great stature*" and that the spies were as grasshoppers in the sight of these giants.

**NOTE & QUOTE:** There is fossil evidence of giant footprints and bones in several parts of the earth. Morris states: "One of the most amazing facts revealed by paleontology is that nearly all modern animals were once represented by larger ancestors. One thinks of the mammoths and cave bears, giant cockroaches and dragonflies and huge reptiles like dinosaurs. Along with these are occasionally found fossilized giant human footprints, suggesting indeed that *'there were giants in the earth in those days'*. Ancient traditions seem to recall a day when giants were known on the earth, and it is only a superficial sophistication which ignores the possibility that these may contain primitive reflections of the real events and characters described historically in the Genesis record."

2. Since when would a marriage between believers and unbelievers produce a race of giants? This must indeed be an unusual union in Genesis 6!
3. Why would God destroy the whole earth if these were simply believers ("*sons of God*") and unbelievers ("*daughters of men*")? *In the New Testament, Paul indicates that the offspring of such a union are "holy" or sanctified by the believing partner!* I Cor. 7:14
4. Are we to believe that at the time of this amalgamation took place that God's people were limited to the male sex, for the "*sons of God*" were the ones who married the "*daughters of men*".
5. There is no hint in the Divine Record that God had yet given any specific command forbidding His people to marry unbelievers. In view of this silence, it seems exceedingly strange that this sin should have been visited with such

severe judgment as Noah's worldwide (!) Flood. And, if these "*sons of God*" were believers, then they perished in the Flood, but 2 Peter 2:5 states otherwise: "*bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly*".

**ILLUS.:** In Genesis 6 when the "*sons of God*" cohabited with the "*daughters of men*" the product was "*giants*." The Bible clearly says there were giants "*after that*" (the Flood) and if they had been the "godly (!) line of Seth" as some say, they could not show up again after the flood, since *they all drowned*. (Some suggest that the ungodly DNA of the giants were transmitted through Ham and his son Caanan (as a result of Caanan's curse after Ham's sin with Noah! Thus we find giants once again appearing after the flood.)

#### **IV. THE PRACTICALITY OF THIS POSITION:**

A. The Conflict of the Ages is Portrayed:

1. The seed of the serpent (Satan) vs. the Seed of the woman (Christ) is played out.
2. The pollution of the human seed was another Satanic plot to keep Christ from fulfilling the prophecy in Gen. 3:15

B. Established Principles of Bible Study are Employed:

1. Word studies, cross references, contextual comparisons and exposition are all used to establish this view.
2. The lack of evidence of a "godly line of Seth" is not substantiated in any other passage of Scripture.

C. Severe Divine Judgment is Established for Human History:

1. God is seen punishing those who go beyond His established order in humanity.
2. The Flood of Noah's day is a picture of the coming worldwide judgment of God on men of the last days who will pervert the "natural order" of things in God's creation as in homosexuality, bestiality, incest and fornication.

D. It Provides an Insight of Today's Immorality and Ungodliness:

**Luke 17:26** *And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. 27 They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. 28 Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; 29 But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. 30 Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.*

1. The Scriptures declare that the last days will parallel the days of Noah in wickedness.
2. The demonic activity rampant today is seen as a graphic parallel to the activity of fallen angels in Noah's day.

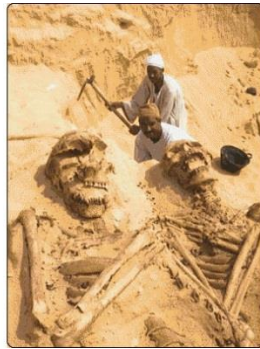
**CONCLUSION:** Could it be that the outrageous activity in our depraved society is a repeat of what took place in Noah's day? Could it even be possible that angelic beings are cohabiting with humans as it was in that day of extreme wickedness and licentiousness? How else can we explain the open sexual activity, Hollywood and internet pornography, teenage sexting, promotion of same-sex marriage and the homosexual agenda, along with God's explicit statements that in the last days things will "*wax worse and worse*"? At the very least we can see the parallels between Noah's day and our day. We know from Scripture that demonic activity will increase just before Christ's comes back for His blood washed Bride.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:** The author freely gives credit to the many godly men on both sides of this somewhat controversial issue who have provided the basis for this brief study. It is urged that all who read and research this subject that they be not bogged down here, but to proceed to more practical areas, e.g., soul-winning, prayer, giving to the poor, supporting the local church, etc.

At the same time the Bible demands that believers ***"Study to shew themselves approved unto God...rightly dividing the word of truth."*** (Note: The King James Bible is the only translation in English where this command exists!)

P.S. After reading several books on this subject I strongly recommend the book **"Judgment of the Nephilim"** by Ryan Pitterson.

- *Dr. Merrill Unger was a member Calvary Baptist Church, Glen Burnie, Maryland where I pastored for nearly 8 years. He was not only a Bible scholar, but a humble and gracious man who never 'second guessed' or criticized my teaching and preaching as a young pastor.*



**Evolutionists have hidden the skeletons and fossils of many giants and have done their best to ridicule Bible believers and wipe all evidence from the historical records because it conflicts with their "history" of the evolution of mankind from apes to homo sapiens.**

**It is interesting that they readily admit that dinosaurs, etc. of the past were much larger than most species on earth living today.**